

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5478
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2010
INCREASE IN BPL PEOPLE
Patle Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Expert Group constituted by the Government has suggested the revision of percentage of families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country from 28 per cent to 50 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the percentage of the families living below poverty line in the States like Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand is likely to be 70 per cent by doing so; and
- (d) if so, the impact thereof on the resources being given to the States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a)to(d): The Ministry of Rural Development, on 12th August, 2008, constituted an Expert Group to advise it on the suitable methodology for conducting the BPL Census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan for identification of BPL households. Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government of India for estimation of poverty at National and State levels. The Report submitted by the Expert Group, inter-alia, has stated that the percentage of people entitled to BPL status should be revised upwards at least 50% from 28.3%. The committee has suggested proportionate increase in the state level poverty estimates also. For States like Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand the committee has suggested more than 70% of rural population below poverty line. The recommendations of the Expert Group has no impact on resources being given to the States as presently allocation of funds under major poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is made to the States on the basis of the Adjusted Share worked out by the Planning Commission on the basis 1993-94 poverty ratios.