

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:231  
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011  
FORMULA FOR ASSESSMENT OF POOR  
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken a decision and approved a formula for selecting /assessing the poor on the basis of social categories rather than mere economic criteria;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to adopt Tendulkar Committee report on poverty assessment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES(DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States/UTs for conducting the BPL Census to identify the households living below the poverty line in the rural areas who could be targeted for getting the benefits under its programmes. The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. Methodology for identification of BPL households for BPL Census 2002 was adopted on the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development. The methodology is based on Score Based Ranking of each rural household on 13 socio-economic parameters reflecting the levels of living and quality of life and which are considered as proxy indicators of poverty.

For conducting the next BPL Census an Expert Group to advise the Ministry on the methodology was constituted on 12th August, 2008. The Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.C Saxena submitted its report on 21st August 2009. The recommendations of the Expert Group and other alternative options have been tested through a pilot socio-economic survey and a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise in order to finalize the methodology for the BPL Census. The Ministry is now engaged in an exercise to analyze the results of the pilot survey/PRA based on which the methodology for conducting the BPL Census 2011 will be finalized. At present there is no uniform criteria for identification of persons below poverty line in urban areas. Planning Commission has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.R.Hashim, to recommend suitable methodology for identifying BPL families in urban areas. The report of the Expert Group is expected to be submitted by May, 2011.

(c) & (d) : The Planning Commission is the nodal institution for estimation of the number of poor in the country. The Tendulkar Committee appointed by the Planning Commission in 2005, reviewed the methodology for estimation of poverty and submitted its report in 2009. The report has placed the poverty head count ratio for 2004-05 at 37.2 per cent which includes the rural poverty ratio (41.8 per cent) and urban poverty ratio (25.7 per cent). The revised poverty lines recommended by the Tendulkar Committee have been accepted by the Planning Commission. The report of the Committee is available at the website: [www.planningcommission.gov.in](http://www.planningcommission.gov.in). The Committee has recommended that the urban poverty line need not be changed, but the rural poverty line should be raised to reflect the basket of commodities that can be purchased at the urban poverty line after allowing for the difference in urban and rural prices. The State-wise poverty line and poverty head count ratio for rural and urban areas is given in Annexure-I. The Statewise number of people below poverty line is given in Annexure-II. The Planning Commission does not estimate the number of families.