

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2133
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
CAP ON BPL FAMILY
Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has maintain any State-wise cap on the number of BPL families;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the total number of BPL families in Punjab have been determined on the basis of score of 15;
- (d) if so, whether the total number of BPL families is fixed once and for all; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission is the nodal institution for estimation of the number of poor in the country. Presently Details of State wise number of BPL households to be identified by states/UTs are given in Annexure-I. 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 of which the rural poverty ratio is 41.8 per cent and urban poverty ratio is 25.7 per cent. As per Tendulkar Committee estimates, the Statewise number of people below poverty line is given in Annexure-II.

(c) : 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. The BPL Census is conducted by the respective States/UTs and the BPL lists are prepared and maintained by the respective State Governments/UT administrations. The existing criteria/methodology for identification of BPL households i.e. criteria/methodology for BPL Census 2002 was adopted on the recommendation of an Expert Group. The methodology is based on Score Based Ranking (SBR) of each household on socio-economic indicators taken as proxy indicators of poverty. In this method, 13 socio-economic parameters reflecting the levels of living and quality of life of the rural population were used to identify the poor households. The thirteen indicators are Land Holdings, Type of House, Availability of Clothing, Food Security, Sanitation, Ownership of consumer durables viz. TV, Electric Fan, Kitchen appliances, Cooker, Radio etc., Literacy status of highest literate, Status of Household Labour, Means of livelihood, Status of Children, Type of Indebtedness, Reason for migration and Preference for Assistance.

Recently the Ministry of Rural Development has conducted a Pilot survey to field test methodology suggested by the Expert Group under the chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena and alternative options and to arrive on methodology for conducting forthcoming BPL Census. The Pilot survey has been conducted in two stages.

Stage I: Household Survey has been conducted through Questionnaire Method in 254 villages across the rural areas of the country.

Stage II: Participatory Socio-Economic Study (PSES) has been conducted based on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) technique. PSES has been conducted in the same 254 villages where household survey has been conducted. The results of the PRA are expected to be used for corroborating the findings of the survey. As per guidelines issued for BPL census 2002 there was a ceiling on the number of BPL households to be identified in conformity with the poverty estimates of Planning Commission. The States were asked to identify the number of BPL families in such a manner that it should be equal to the Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 or the Adjusted Share computed by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. In addition, the States were given the flexibility of another 10% to account for the transient poor. States/UTs were given flexibility to decide State/District/Block level cut off score considering overall state level cap and variation of poverty situation within the State/UT.

(d) & (e): The planning Commission has already decided that identification of beneficiaries for the schemes targeting for the BPL population would be done using the new poverty estimates for 2004-05 recommended by the Expert Group headed by Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar.