

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5445  
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011  
BPL FAMILIES  
Ju Dev Shri Dilip Singh

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has accepted the figures of Below Poverty Line(BPL) families provided by the N.C. Saxena and Suresh Tendulkar Committee for allocation of subsidised foodgrains to them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the increased number of families, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has made allocation of foodgrains to the States as per the increased number of families; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at national and state levels. Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group to review the methodology of estimation of poverty under the Chairmanship of Prof Suresh D. Tendulkar. The Expert Group submitted its report in December 2009. As per Planning Commission, the Expert Group has, inter-alia, estimated all-India rural poverty headcount ratio for 2004-05 at 41.8%, urban poverty headcount ratio at 25.7% and All India level at 37.2%. The details of poverty estimates of Planning Commission for 1993-94 and the revised poverty headcount ratio recommended by the Tendulkar Committee for 2004-05 are at Annexure. The poverty ratios for the year 2004-05 recommended by the Tendulkar Committee have been accepted by the Planning Commission.

For formulating guidelines for Below Poverty Line (BPL) census in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group in August 2008. Expert Group under the chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena submitted its report in August 2009. Based on the report of Expert Group, Ministry of Rural Development has finalized guidelines for Socio-Economic and Caste Census in rural areas. Government has launched the conduct of combined rural-urban Socio-Economic and Caste Census in the country in June 2011. The Census would be carried out by the respective State Governments with the financial and technical support of the Central Government. The Census is targeted to be completed by December 2011.

In pursuance of the announcement made by the President of India in her address to the Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009, to enact a new law – the National Food Security Act – the Government prepared a Concept Note and had consultations with the Central Ministries/Departments, Planning Commission, States/Union Territories, experts and other stakeholders. Based on their comments/suggestions and recommendations of National Advisory Council (NAC) and Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, the Government have prepared a draft National Food Security Bill, covering various aspects of the proposed legislation. The Draft Bill provides for food and nutritional security in a human life cycle approach. It contains provisions, inter-alia, for coverage, identification and entitlement of beneficiaries.