

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1831
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011
CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING BPL PEOPLE
Biju Shri P. K.;M.Thambidurai Dr.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) The criteria adopted to identify the people below poverty line for urban and rural areas;
- (b) whether the said criteria is uniform for all the States;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of parameters in different States?

Answer

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

(a): The BPL Census 2011 is underway to identify the people Below Poverty line (BPL) based on a self-declaration of respondents in response to the criteria finalized for the survey by the Ministry of Rural Development. In rural areas the classification of households is to be done in three steps. The first stage is to apply the exclusion criteria. When any household satisfies any of the 13 criteria, the household will be excluded – (list of criteria enclosed as Annexure-I). Subject to exclusion criteria, five categories of families will be compulsorily included (List of categories enclosed).

Remaining (subject to automatic inclusion & exclusion) will be assigned deprivation scores depending on the numbers of deprivation indicators they satisfy (which are 7 in number and their list is enclosed).

Inclusion priority – Households eligible under compulsory inclusion will have highest priority. For the households eligible for ranking under deprivation indicators as above, a deprivation score would be derived for each household by adding up the number of deprivations satisfied by the household. This score will vary from a minimum 0 to maximum 7. The order of priority for inclusion of households in the BPL list would be from largest number of deprivations to smallest number of deprivations. For the purpose of coverage under welfare schemes of the Government, households eligible for compulsory inclusion will have highest priority, followed by households with higher deprivation scores. For such welfare programme where universal coverage is not permissible, the system would be capable of generating a ranking of priority household till poverty caps prescribed by the Planning Commission are attained. The deprivation cut-off will be chosen in such a manner that the total percentage of households will be less than or equal to the cut-off poverty ratio prescribed by the Planning Commission. The difference in the number of households prescribed by Planning Commission and arrived at by deprivation cut-off method, if any, will be identified by permitting households with one less deprivation than deprivation cut-off from Panchayats which have highest percentage of SC/ST population in the State arranged serially in decreasing order of percentage of SC/ST population. This method can be used to arrive at any cut-off as required.

In urban areas, poverty is to be identified through identification of specific vulnerabilities covering three broad categories namely, residential, occupational and social. Annexure -II gives the details.

(b): Yes, Madam.

(c) & (d): Does not arise.

Annexure – I

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1831 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2011 on 'CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING BPL PEOPLE' IN RURAL AREAS BASED UPON RECOMMENDATIONS OF N.C. SAXENA COMMITTEE REPORT, AUGUST 2009 AS FINALISED WITH MODIFICATIONS BY THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. List of Automatic Exclusions: The following are the criteria for automatic exclusions:-

- (i) Households owning Motorized Two/Three/Four Wheelers/Fishing boats (which require registration);
- (ii) Households owning mechanized Three/Four wheeler agricultural equipments such as tractors, harvesters etc;
- (iii) Households having Kisan Credit Card with the credit limit of Rs.50,000 and above;

(iv) Households with any member as Government Employee: gazetted and non-gazetted employees of Central government, State government, Public Sector Undertakings, Government-aided autonomous bodies and local bodies. This will exclude incentive and other honorarium based workers;

(v) Households with Enterprises registered with the Government for any purpose: any non agricultural enterprise registered with the Central or State Governments;

(vi) Households with any member in the family earning more than Rs. 10,000 p.m.;

(vii) Households paying income tax or professional tax;

(viii) Households with three or more rooms with pucca walls and pucca roof;

(ix) Households owning Refrigerator;

(x) Households owning landline phones;

(xi) Households owning 2.5 acres or more irrigated land with at least one irrigation equipment such as diesel/ electric operated bore well/ tubewell;

(xii) 5 acres or more land irrigated for two or more crop seasons;

(xiii) Households owning 7.5 acres or more land with at least one irrigation equipment such as diesel/ electric operated borewell / tubewell;

2. List of Automatic Inclusions: Following categories of households would be compulsorily included subject to exclusion criteria.

(i) Households without shelter;

(ii) Destitutes/living on alms;

(iii) Manual scavengers;

(iv) Primitive Tribal Groups;

(v) Legally released bonded labourers;

3. Deprivation Indicators: The following are the deprivation indicators used for inclusion:-

(i) Households with only one room with kucha walls and kucha roof;

(ii) Households with no adult member between age 16 to 59;

(iii) Female headed households with no adult male member between age 16 to 59;

(iv) Households with any disabled member and no able bodied adult member;

(v) SC/ST households;

(vi) Households with no literate adult above 25 years;

(vii) Landless households deriving the major part of their income from manual casual

Annexure – II

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1831 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2011 on 'CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING BPL PEOPLE' IN URBAN AREAS AS BASED ON INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS OF HASHIM COMMITTEE TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN MAY, 2011

Categories of vulnerabilities:

1. Residential Vulnerability: The following categories of households are defined as 'residentially vulnerable' i.e. houseless population, persons living in Kuchha/temporary houses, where usage of dwelling space (whether ownership-based or rented accommodation) is susceptible to insecurity of tenure, and households are affected by the deprivation of access to basic civic services.

2. Occupational Vulnerability: The following categories of households could be classified as occupationally vulnerable: persons unemployed for a significant proportion of time and/or the duration of his/her employment is uncertain or irregular; persons engaged in informal/casual, low-end occupations with low and uncertain wages/earnings; persons whose employment is subject to unsanitary, unhealthy and hazardous work conditions, oftentimes bounded/semi-bounded in nature or undignified and oppressive in the conditions of labour, etc., and finally, persons occupationally vulnerable on the basis of stability/nature/periodicity of payment.

3. Social Vulnerability: The following categories of households could be classified as occupationally vulnerable: female-headed households, minor-headed households, old age in terms of dependency on the head of household, and education in terms of level of literacy, health in terms of disabilities and/or chronic illnesses.