

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2292  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011  
PREPARING BPL LISTS  
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

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

- (a) whether the State Governments have been asked to prepare BPL list by March, 2012 for rolling out benefits under Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that States are keen to project higher levels of poverty for higher level of inflow of Central funds;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps that would be taken to address the issue;
- (e) whether any criteria has been prepared by the Planning Commission to be followed by the States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States/ Union Territories (UTs) for conducting the BPL Census to identify the families living below poverty line in the rural areas who could be targeted under its programmes. The BPL census is conducted by the respective States/ UTs and the BPL lists are prepared and maintained /updated by the State Governments/ UT administrations. To facilitate preparation of new BPL list, the Ministry of Rural Development requested all States/UTs to conduct a combined Census namely, Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011 which consist of Census in Rural and Urban areas in connection with identification of BPL households and Caste Census throughout the country. SECC, 2011 is being carried out in all the States/UTs in a phased manner taking into consideration their preparedness and other relevant considerations and expected to be completed by January, 2012.

(c) to (f): Based on criteria recommended by N.C.Saxena Committee & Hashim Committee for identification of families to be assisted under Central Government schemes and programmes in rural and urban areas respectively, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation finalized the criteria for the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011 for collecting information on socio economic indicators.

The Planning Commission as the Nodal agency in the Government of India for estimation of poverty has been estimating the number and percentage of poor at national and State levels only. The State Government/ Union Territories identify the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families to be benefitted under various schemes and programmes. For this purpose, a detailed Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011 is underway to capture information on various deprivations faced by the people. The data collected through this exercise is to be used to identify the prospective beneficiaries under various schemes and programmes based on deprivations. This will be done after consultation with States, experts and civil society organizations to arrive at a consensus on the methodology of targeting beneficiaries by the time SECC, 2011 is completed. The methodology will seek to ensure that no poor or deprived household will be excluded from coverage under different government programmes and schemes.