

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2423

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011

REMOVAL OF CEILING ON POVERTY ESTIMATION

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted by the Government for providing funds under different Centrally sponsored schemes;
- (b) whether the Union Rural Development Minister has called for removal of ceilings on poverty estimation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Tendulkar Committee report pegged the proportion of BPL people at 37.2 per cent of the country's population, with respective State-wise limits;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has any data regarding the number of families moved from BPL to APL; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a): The Ministry of Rural Development implements various schemes namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) through States/UTs. Out of these schemes, the SGSY/NRLM and IAY are allocation based schemes, whereas other schemes are demand driven and project based hence no funds allocated under these schemes.

Under SGSY/NRLM funds are allocated on the basis of poverty ratio in the respective States/UTs and under IAY, funds are allocated to States/UTs on the basis of pre-determined criteria giving 75% weightage to housing shortage and 25% weightage to poverty ratio.

(b)&(c): In a Joint Statement issued on 3rd October 2011 by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development it is inter alia stated that the present state-wise poverty estimates using the Planning Commission methodology will NOT be used to impose any ceilings on the number of households to be included in different government programmes and schemes.

(d)&(e): Tendulkar Committee has estimated the all-India combined Poverty headcount ratio for 2004-05 at 37.2 per cent. The Planning Commission has accepted recommendations of Tendulkar Committee. Details of State-wise estimates by Tendulkar Committee are given at Annexure-I.

(f)&(g): The Ministry of Rural Development does not monitor and maintain the information /data about the number of people brought above the poverty line during the Eleventh Plan Period. However, the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a major self employment programme namely the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) /National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), in all the rural areas of the country through State Government and Union Territory Administrations, with the objectives to bring the assisted poor rural families above poverty line. The All India Report of Concurrent Evaluation Study of SGSY, conducted through the independent research organizations during 2008, reveals that the percentage of sampled individual swarozgaris crossed the poverty line due to the assistance provided under the SGSY ranged from 17.46% in Chattisgarh to 33.33% in Gujarat. Similarly, members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) who crossed poverty line ranged from 16.28% in Uttaranchal to 33.86% in Meghalaya State.