

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3318
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012
COMPLETION OF BPL SURVEY
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints about non-inclusion of the actually needy persons under the below poverty line (BPL) category or depriving the BPL category people on the basis of political discrimination from several States including Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether the Government felt the need to complete the B.P.L. survey again in each State and make new lists in public interest;
- (c) if so the action plan formulated by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. Some of the States raised the issue of non-inclusion of poor in the BPL lists. The Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group which could advise the Ministry on the methodology for conducting the BPL census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena. The Expert Group submitted its report in August, 2009.

Based on the suggestions/ recommendations of the Expert Group and consultations with the State Governments/ UT Administration and other stakeholders, the Government decided to collect information on socio economic indicators for identification of poor. A Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC 2011) based on the recommendations of the Saxena Committee for rural and Hashim Committee for urban areas has been launched on 29th June, 2011 in the country which is being carried out by the State/ Union Territory Administrations.

(c) & (d): In their Joint Statement issued on 3rd October, 2011, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Union Minister of Rural Development clarified that the Government of India will take into account multiple dimensions of deprivation based on the indicators that are being collected through the SECC, 2011 for arriving a specific entitlements that rural households will receive under various central government programmes and schemes.

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. The eligibility and entitlements of households in the country for different central government programmes and schemes will be determined after the SECC, 2011 survey results are available and have been analysed. The Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Planning Commission will consult with states, experts and civil society organizations to arrive at a consensus on the methodology by the time the SECC, 2011 is completed. This methodology will seek to ensure that no poor or deprived household will be excluded from coverage under different government programmes and schemes.

Government has since decided to set up a Technical Group to revisit the methodology for estimation of poverty and identification of poor taking into account multiple dimensions and indicators of poverty so that the poor and deprived households can obtain the benefit of different government programmes and schemes.

The composition of the Technical Group and its terms of reference are being finalized.