

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5401

ANSWERED ON:09.05.2012

SOCIO ECONOMIC CENSUS

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a rapid economic progress over the year and the sharp edges of poverty have been substantially blunted as a result of various schemes/policies for empowerment of poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has undertook/decided to undertake the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) to review poverty estimates of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such study is likely to be completed?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission has estimated poverty ratio in 2009-10 as 29.8%. This represents a decline of 7.4% from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 29.8% in 2009-10. Generally higher Gross Domestic product (GDP) accompanied by various anti-poverty programmes lead to increase in income and reduction in poverty. During 2004-05 to 2009-10 the rate of growth in gross domestic product at factor cost at constant prices has been 8.7% per annum and per capita income (per capita net national income) at constant prices has increased by 7.0% per annum. The Government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Antyoday Anna Yojana (AAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission (JNNURM), Swarna Jyanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), etc. All these programmes and Government policies relating to inclusive economic growth aim at reducing the incidence of poverty and improving living condition of poor in the country and have made a substantial contribution in blunting the sharp edges of poverty and deprivation.

(c) to (e): While estimation of poverty is undertaken by the Planning Commission, the identification of BPL families who could be assisted under various programmes of the Government is done by conducting census in rural and urban areas by Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation respectively. The BPL Census to identify the rural households living Below the Poverty Line is generally conducted at the beginning of a Five Year Plan. The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002 based on the methodology of Score Based Ranking of rural households based on 13 socio-economic parameters. The Ministry of Rural Development, in August 2008, constituted Saxena Committee to recommend a suitable methodology for conducting next BPL Census for identification of rural households. Based on the Saxena Committee Report pilot studies were carried out and the new methodology for identification of BPL households in rural areas has been finalised.

The Planning Commission has constituted an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. S.R. Hashim to recommend a suitable methodology for identification of BPL families in the urban areas. The Hashim Committee has submitted interim report recommending a questionnaire to be canvassed along with the caste enumeration to collect relevant information on socio-economic indicators in order to determine BPL status of urban households. Accordingly, A Socio-Economic and Caste Census has been launched on 29th June 2011 in the country which would be carried out by the respective State/UT Governments with the financial and technical support of the Government of India.