

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2553

ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012

BPL CAP

Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to impose the new Below Poverty Line (BPL) cap only after proper caste census;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): For allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the accepted number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

A Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 has been launched on 29th June, 2011 in the country which is being carried out by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. State/UT-wise status of SECC 2011, including in the State of Andhra Pradesh, as on 16.08.2012 is at Annexure.

Government will take into account multiple dimensions of deprivation based on the indicators that are being collected through the SECC, 2011 for arriving at 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 rural 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.