

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1880  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012  
NEW STANDARD FOR WELFARE SCHEMES FOR POOR  
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to formulate new standards for providing benefits under welfare schemes to the poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA)

(a)&(b):The Government has been implementing various welfare schemes for the poor to address issues like food and nutritional security,employment,housing,healthcare,education, etc. The schemes are operationalised at multiple levels in Government both at Central and State levels. The standards used in the schemes vary from one another and are formulated by the implementing Ministries/Departments.

As regards identification of below poverty line (BPL) households, it has been announced in the Joint Statement of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Union Minister of Rural Development, issued on 3rd October 2011, that the present State-wise poverty estimates based on Planning Commission's methodology will not be used to impose any ceiling on the number of households to be included in different Government programmes and schemes. Multiple dimensions of deprivations based on the indicators that are being collected through the on-going Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011 would be taken into account for arriving at the specific entitlements. Further, for the Twelfth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission has emphasized on using the Aadhaar platform, wherever feasible, for efficient and expeditious transfer of benefits to the ultimate beneficiaries under the various schemes and programmes.