

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2150
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013
MINORITIES LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE
Das Shri Ram Sundar;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has the data on the number of people belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Minority Communities living below the poverty line in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for their identification and upliftment?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission estimates poverty using the consumption distribution available from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its Household Consumer Expenditure surveys. In the process of collection of consumption expenditure data from households, NSSO records the social group and religious affiliation of the household. In the case of social groups there is sufficient number of observations available for all the social groups at all India level and major States in both rural and urban areas to provide reliable estimates. Accordingly, based on the latest Consumer Expenditure Survey data of NSSO conducted during 2011-12, the Planning Commission has estimated percentage of persons living below the poverty line for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) as 22.6 percent in rural areas and 15.4 percent in urban areas.

However, in case of religious groups the number of observations even at all-India level for some of the religious groups is not sufficient to yield statistically reliable estimates. Hence, Planning Commission has not estimated the poverty ratios for all minority communities.

(c): The Ministry of Rural Development, through the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) has commenced a door-to-door census in rural and urban areas of the country in June 2011 to gather household level data for identification of BPL households. The SECC-2011 also consists of Caste Census throughout the country.

For the upliftment of OBCs, Government is implementing various schemes such as National Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation, Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for OBCs, Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs, Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs, Hostel for OBC Boys and Girls, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for OBCs and National Overseas Scholarships for OBCs.

Similarly, for socio-economic development of Minorities, programmes such as Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme, Multi-sectoral Development Programme, Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum-Means Based Scholarship Scheme, Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students, Grant-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for Minorities, Grant-in-aid for Equity contribution to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) are being implemented. Moreover, a number of schemes have been identified for implementation during the Twelfth Plan such as Pilot Scheme for Leadership Training for Young Leaders among Minorities, Support for students clearing Prelims under Civil Services Examination, Scheme for Promotion of Education in 100 Minority Concentration Towns/Cities, Pilot Scheme for Urban Youth Support Lines, Scheme for Protection and Projection of Minority Culture & Heritage.

Besides, Government has also initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to reduce poverty in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes such as: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), etc. These programmes/schemes are expected to help all groups of population in raising their living standards over time.