

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:350  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF SAXENA COMMITTEE  
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the socio-economic status of the poor communities was one of the terms of reference of the Saxena committee;
- (b) if so, the recommendations made by the committee, in brief, in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government for implementation of those recommendations?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(DR. C.P. JOSHI)

- (a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.350 due for answer on 14th December 2009

(a) The socio-economic status of the poor communities was not one of the terms of reference of the Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development under the chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena to advise the Ministry of Rural Development on the methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census for 11th Five Year Plan. However, the Expert Group recommended the methodology for identification of Below Poverty Line families based on some socio- economic indicators.

(b) The recommendation includes automatic exclusion of rural household from the BPL list, automatic inclusion in the BPL list and grading of the remaining households. For automatic exclusion of rural households from the BPL list,the Expert Group recommended indicators such as ownership of land, ownership of motorized vehicles, ownership of mechanized farm equipment, regular employment and Income tax payers. The Expert Group recommended automatic inclusion of rural households from certain groups in the BPL list such as designated `Primitive Tribal Groups`, designated `Maha Dalit Groups`, single women headed households, households with disabled person as bread-earner, households headed by a minor, households dependent on alms for survival, homeless households and households with bonded labourers. The Expert Group recommended that remaining households may be ranked on a scale of ten based on caste community, religion, occupation, educational status and age of head of Household. The Expert Group submitted its report to the Ministry of Rural Development on 21st August 2009.

(c) The report of the Expert Group has been circulated among the State Governments/UT administrations and the concerned Central Ministries for their comments. It has been posted on Ministry's website at [www.rural.nic.in](http://www.rural.nic.in). The Ministry is in the process of finalizing the methodology for identification of persons below the Poverty Line in rural areas, taking into account the suggestions/comments received.