

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1580

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017

Identification of BPL Persons

Shetty Shri Gopal Chinayya

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

(a) whether there is any provision for conducting census of poor persons in the country and whether the Government updates these figures on the basis of poverty estimates prepared by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO);

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the criteria adopted to differentiate between the persons living below poverty line and those belonging to middle classes are very wide and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any mechanism has been evolved or adopted to identify those Below Poverty Line(BPL) persons who have upgraded to Above Poverty Line(APL)status and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has set any target to alleviate poverty and has made any assessment in this regard; and

(f) if so, the achievements made by the Government in this regard so far?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) to (d): The erstwhile Planning Commission(now NITI Aayog) used monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) data from the Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) as criteria for defining poverty line that separates poor from the non-poor to estimate poverty. The poverty lines for 2011-12 have been computed following the Tendulkar methodology according to which the national poverty line is estimated at Rs. 816 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs.1000 per capita per month in urban areas in 2011-12.

The Ministry of Rural Development conducted a combined Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) in 2011 to generate a large number of socio and economic indicators for ranking of households across the country for both rural & urban areas. SECC 2011 provides data on households regarding various aspects of their socio-economic status – housing, land-holding/landlessness, educational status, status of women, differently abled, occupation, possession of assets, SC/ST households, incomes, etc. Ministry of Rural Development is using SECC 2011 data for selecting beneficiaries for its programmes/schemes. SECC 2011 data captures respondent based disclosures on socio economic status of 17.97 crore rural households which has allowed automatic exclusion of 07.07 crore (39.34 %) of households as not poor on the basis of 13 parameters, automatic inclusion of 0.16 crore (0.89%) households as poorest of the poor on the basis of 5 parameters and grading of deprivation of 8.70 crore (48.41%) of rural households on the basis of seven parameters.

(e) to (f): The Ministry of Rural Development, inter alia, is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana and National Social Assistance Programme in rural areas of the country through State Governments and UT Administrations. The objectives of these programmes are to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life in rural areas through employment generation, development of rural infrastructure and provision of other basic amenities.

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