

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3168

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014

. SOCIO ECONOMIC AND CASTE CENSUS

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

- (a) the current status of the socio-economic and Caste Census enumeration project that has been undertaken by the Government to identify Below Poverty Line (BPL) people in the country and probable time of its completion;
- (b) the details of BPL persons living in the country at present, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the criteria adopted by the Government for identification of BPL families/individuals;
- (d) the details of funds allocated, released and expenditure incurred on the census till date;
- (e) whether additional funds have been sought by the States for completion of census, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to expand the BPL list?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) The Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 was launched on 29th June, 2011 in the country which is being conducted in a phased manner throughout the country by the respective State Governments and Union Territory administrations with the financial and technical support of the Ministry of Rural Development. The SECC 2011 is being conducted in six stages viz. enumeration, supervision, verifications & corrections, draft list publication, claims and objections and final list publication. The first three stages have been completed in most of the States/UTs. As on 30.11.2014, draft list has been published in 412 districts in 30 States/UTs and final lists have been published in 91 districts of 10 States/UTs. Taking into consideration the progress made so far by the States/UTs, it is expected that the Census operation would take at least 3-4 months.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States/UTs for conducting the BPL Census to identify the families living below the poverty line (BPL) in the rural areas who could be targeted under its programmes. The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. The detail BPL lists are maintained by the respective State/UT and the same is not available with the Ministry. However, statement showing the number of rural families identified by the States/UTs under BPL Census, 2002 may be seen at Annexure.

(c) The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002 using the methodology of score based ranking of rural households for which 13 socio-economic parameters were used in the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development. These 13 socio-economic parameters are: (i) size of land holding, (ii) type of houses, (iii) clothing (iv) food security (v) sanitation (vi) ownership of consumer durables (vii) literacy status (viii) status of household labour force (ix) means of livelihood (x) status of children (xi) indebtedness (xii) migration and (xiii) preference of assistance etc.

(d) For the combined Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved an amount of Rs.3543.29 crore against which Rs.3543 crore had been released and incurred by the States/UTs, Ministry of Rural Development and other Agencies.

(e) Few states have requested for additional funds and the Ministry have prepared Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) based on such demands and other requirements.

(f) The Ministry of Rural Development has no such proposal.