

Title: Need to monitor the process of preparation of BPL lists in Bihar -laid.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): The incidence of poverty estimated through sample surveys of household consumer expenditure and the poverty ratio for the year 2004-05 was approximately 28% or about 22% if the survey includes five of the non-food items like clothing, footwear, durable goods, educational and institutional medical expenses. These surveys on the basis for preparing list of people who are to be treated as below the poverty line and who are thus entitled to benefits of various excellent centrally sponsored schemes of poverty alleviation especially the Indira Awas Yojana or the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana to name just two such schemes.

Both focus on poverty alleviation and BPL lists are crucial for them. They should be prepared on the basis of door-to-door survey and, after being approved by the Gram Sabha, be published and objections invited. The BDO should look into these to the satisfaction of the objector. If the objector remains dissatisfied, his objections are to be got examined by the District Magistrate and only then the final list is to be made public. But, unfortunately, in Bihar, no door-to-door survey was made nor the Gram Sabha's approval obtained. As a result undeserving people have been included in the BPL list and deserving have been excluded. This is serious as it negates the very purpose of the poverty alleviation schemes. Since Centrally Sponsored Schemes are involved, the Central Government should monitor the process of preparation of BPL lists in Bihar. For this it should appoint observers or adopt any other suitable means.