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Title: Need to finalise the parameters to determine people living below the poverty line in Orissa in order to provide benefits of various schemes.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government on a very important matter. Fortunately, the hon. Minister of Rural Development is here. We are also more fortunate that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development belongs to the State of Orissa. This matter is regarding the finalization of BPL list, which has not been finalized so far.

The estimation of poverty in a State is the mainstay for framing the Welfare Policy for the eradication of poverty, especially the people living below the poverty line. The first such BPL Census was conducted during the Eighth Five Year Plan, in 1992. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Rural Development had issued detailed guidelines to the States and the Union Territories for conducting the BPL Census 2002. However, it was stayed by the Apex court, and it was vacated in February, 2006.

During the first BPL Census conducted in 1992, the Government of Orissa had identified 41.104 lakh BPL rural households and 44.457 lakh BPL rural households during the BPL Census 1997. In fact, for BPL Census 1992 and BPL Census 1997, the formal limit was not prescribed in the guidelines which had resulted in a situation that many States resorted to deviate from the figures of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission. Hence, the issue of adjusted share and the number of BPL household in Orissa has not yet settled by the Planning Commission, although there was a direction by the Supreme Court to finalize the next BPL Census by the beginning of the Eleventh Plan. Now, we are in the second year of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot make such a long statement.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, the meetings which took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 and on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 between the Member, Planning Commission and the Chief Secretary of Orissa along with the officials of the Ministry of Rural Development, could not resolve this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time for making such a long statement. You have to mention the subject. I think, this Hour has to be abolished. There is no provision in the rules.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, as per the poverty ratio of the Planning Commission done in the year 1999-2000, 48.1 of the total rural households belongs to the BPL category. As per 2002 BPL Census, 48 per cent of the 78,73,056 households of Orissa should be 37.79 lakh households. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow such a long statement. Everything is there but there are some rules and procedures.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, if 10 per cent more is allowed as per the decision of the Planning Commission for transient poor households, the total BPL households in the State of Orissa should be 41.56 lakh households. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There are some rules and procedures. [\[H5\]](#)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: As per the latest *Economic Survey* of 2008, 57 per cent people in Orissa lead a life with a daily expenditure of less than Rs. 12, which shows that the incidence of poverty in Orissa is the highest in the country...

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry. Please conclude now.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It construes that the number of BPL households would be 41.56 lakh.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, in future, I will have to ask for statement of a specific nature. It has to be like this.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Now, the Government is just fixing 34, 63,240 rural households of Orissa categorized as BPL, which is not acceptable.

Sir, I would like to request the Government of India to intervene immediately. The Ministry of Rural Development should intervene in the matter. Otherwise, Orissa would be deprived of the benefits...

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. It is very unfair.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, otherwise, Orissa would be deprived.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have allowed you to raise an important issue. It does not mean that you would go on speaking for five minutes, 10 minutes.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, Orissa is the poorest State of the country...( *Interruptions*) As per the *Economic Survey* of 2008, 57 per cent people in Orissa are below poverty line.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Manoj.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, the Government should intervene and decide on it. Otherwise, these people of Orissa would be deprived of all the benefits...( *Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned it.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, what more can be done? There is no scope for immediate response.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, I am requesting the Government of India. Hon. Minister of Rural Development is present here.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tripathy, please take your seat.

...( *Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Sir, I may be associated on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a method of association.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, the Government of India should settle this issue

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Otherwise, people would not get any benefit.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already mentioned it very strongly and appropriately.

Hon. Members, your matter should be very brief and pointed. Otherwise, I would not allow it to be raised. It cannot be a matter of long speeches.

Yes, Dr. Manoj.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, the Planning Commission has formulated some guidelines for the identification of BPL families in the country. Not only this, the Planning Commission has given a stipulation and a cut-off limit to be imposed on the number BPL households to be identified by various State Governments. This has created problems in many of the States. Only 12 State Governments have conducted the BPL survey and the rest of the State Governments have not conducted or finalized their BPL list.

The guidelines and criteria laid down by the Planning Commission are not related to the social and economic situations prevailing in the country. How can the Planning Commission suggest a cut-off limit that this much should be the BPL families in a particular State?

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that the guidelines and the criteria should be such that the identification of the BPL families should be reviewed, and the cut-off limit laid down by the Planning Commission as also by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India should be removed.

MR. SPEAKER: You want them to be abolished.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Yes, Sir.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, the Minister of Rural Development is present here. He may respond.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, both the Ministers are present here.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry.

All the Ministers should be here. Everybody cannot go on reacting to the points.