

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3311  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

**BPL CENSUS**

**3311. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:**

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

- (a) whether there is any provision for preparing census of the poor in the country and the Government only updates data in this regard on the basis of estimates prepared by National Sample Survey Organization;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether norms adopted to differentiate the people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) with middle income groups are quite comprehensive;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) whether there is any provision to identify those people who have crossed the poverty line but still included under the people living below poverty line and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e): 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.

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 in the rural areas who could be targeted under its various programmes. The first BPL Census was conducted in 1992 for the Eighth Five Year Plan. Subsequently, BPL census was conducted in 1997, for the Ninth Five Year Plan and in 2002 for the Tenth Five Year Plan period. In 2011, in place of BPL Survey, a comprehensive Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) was conducted by the States/UTs under technical and financial support from the Government of India. SECC, 2011 provides data of households on various aspects of their socio-economic status viz., housing, land-holding/landlessness, educational status, status of women, the differently abled, occupation, possession of assets, SC/ST households, incomes, etc. SECC data have captured respondent based disclosures on socio economic status of 17.96 crore rural households and allows automatic exclusion of 7.06 crore (39.37 %) households as not poor on the basis of 13 parameters, automatic inclusion of 0.16 crore (0.91 %) households as poorest of the poor on the basis of 5 parameters and grading of deprivation

of 8.70 crore (48.51%) households on the basis of seven criteria. SECC-2011(Rural) allows ranking of households based on their socio-economic status. With the use of SECC data, programme specific customized priority list is being generated to suit programme objective and budget space. SECC-2011 data are being used in the programmes, including Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Use of SECC data obviates possible inclusion and exclusion errors.

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