

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2307
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2001
CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF PEOPLE BELOW POVERTY LINE
MADHUSUDAN DEVRAM MISTRY

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether owning a radio, a bicycle and a one-point electricity connection in the house is an accepted norm in deciding that a family is above poverty line;
- (b) if so, whether the Government believe that with Rs. 254 per capita income, a family cannot own a radio, a second hand bicycle and a one-point electricity connection;
- (c) whether the Government have received some representations from the people that the survey for deciding the people living below poverty line (BPL) is not done properly; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct re-survey of BPL census?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAI AH NAIDU)

- (a)&(b) The Expert Group constituted for finalisation of criteria for identifying households Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the rural areas, recommended, inter-alia, that the households owning consumer durables such as T.V., Refrigerator, Ceiling Fan, Motorcycle/Scooter, three wheeler and farm implements such as tractor, power tiller and combined thresher/harvester may not be considered to be Below the Poverty Line. Besides, households having more than two hectares of land, pucca house or annual income more than Rs. 20,000/- from salary/self employment were also not considered to be Below the Poverty Line.
- (c) Some representations have been received for inclusion of some families which have been left out during the last BPL Census, in the BPL list.
- (d) The Government propose to conduct the next BPL Census during 2002.