

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:102

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2003

BPL CENSUS

BISHNU PADA RAY;UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

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

- (a) whether all the States have completed the BPL Census;
- (b) if so, the details and the results thereof;
- (c) if not, the time by which the BPL Census is likely to be completed by the remaining States;
- (d) the scoring point established to qualify for BPL identity;
- (e) whether still a large number of rural people are living below the poverty line and the Union Government have asked the State Governments to furnish list of such people;
- (f) if so, the details of the States which have submitted list about people living below the poverty line; and
- (g) the funds allocated to States and steps taken to uplift the people living below poverty line?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (d)A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in Reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question Number 102 due for Answer on 09.12.2003.

During each Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Rural Development conducts a Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census with a view to identifying households living below the poverty line who could be assisted under various anti-poverty Programmes implemented by the Ministry. Accordingly the States/UTs were advised to identify the BPL households for assistance during the Tenth Plan and to complete the BPL Census, 2002 by June 2003. However, due to the ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 5th May, 2003, in People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) Writ Petition No.196 of 2001, the State Governments have been advised not to finalise the BPL list until the next hearing of the case. The results of BPL Census (2002) are to be finalized after obtaining the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard.

2. The identification of the poor in BPL Census 2002 is to be done through door-to-door survey with hundred percent coverage in each village. A `Score Based Ranking` of each household indicating their quality of life, based on both economic and social indicators, has been adopted for the BPL Census, 2002, in contrast to the `income` approach / the `expenditure` approach involving `exclusion criteria` adopted in the previous BPL Censuses.

3. No scoring point has been prescribed to qualify the households for BPL identity. The States/UTs are given the flexibility to decide the cut-off scores for identifying and sub-categorizing of the households into `Poor` and `Non-poor`. The cut-off scores may be uniform or could be varying from district to district, block to block and village to village within a State keeping in view ground realities. The cut-off scores may be decided after tabulating the data for the entire State.

4. The estimate of poverty is done by the Planning Commission based on the Quinquennial Consumer Expenditure Surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) According to the estimation of the Planning Commission for the year 1999-2000, 27.09% of rural population was living below the poverty line. However, the State Governments have been advised to finalize the list of BPL households in conformity with the estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94.

5. A total Central allocation of Rs.18376.00 crores (RE) and Rs.14070.00crores (BE) for all the rural development programmes have been made for the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 respectively. This Ministry is implementing a number of programmes such as wage employment, self-employment, area development programmes, sanitation and drinking water supply to uplift the rural people living below the poverty line.