

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1726
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009
CONSTITUTIONS OF COMMITTEES ON BPL
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives and terms of reference of the N.C. Saxena Committee constituted in 2009 and Arjansen Gupta Committee constituted in 2007;
- (b) whether both the Committees have found that more than half of the population of the country is living below poverty line; and
- (c) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a): Report of the Expert Group under chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena is posted on Ministry's web www.rural.nic.in. Terms of References of the Expert Group are:-

- (i) To recommend more suitable methodology to conduct the next BPL Census with simple, transparent and objectively measurable indicators for identification of BPL for providing assistance under the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- (ii) To recommend institutional system for conducting survey, processing of data validation and approval of BPL List at various levels.
- (iii) To recommend institutional mechanism to address grievances of public on exclusion/inclusion in the BPL List
- (iv) To briefly look at the relationship between estimation and identification of poor and the issue of putting a limit on the total number of BPL families to be identified.
- (v) Any other recommendation to make the exercise of BPL Census simple and acceptable.

The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) under the chairmanship Dr. Arjansen Gupta was constituted by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to examine the problems confronting enterprises in the Unorganized Sector and make appropriate recommendation to provide technical, marketing and credit support to the enterprises. The terms of reference of the Commission are:-

- i. Review the status of unorganized/informal sector in India including the nature of enterprises, their size, spread and scope, and magnitude of employment;
- ii. Identify constraints faced by small enterprises with regard to freedom of carrying out the enterprise, access to raw materials, finance, skills, entrepreneurship development, infrastructure, technology and markets and suggest measures to provide institutional support and linkages to facilitate easy access to them;
- iii. Suggest the legal and policy environment that should govern the informal/unorganized sector for growth, employment, exports and promotion;
- iv. Examine the range of existing programmes that relate to employment generation in the informal/unorganized sector and suggest improvement for their redesign;
- v. Identify innovative legal and financing instruments to promote the growth of the informal sector;
- vi. Review the existing arrangements for estimating employment and unemployment in the informal sector, and examine why the rate of growth in employment has stagnated in the 1990s;
- vii. Suggest elements of an employment strategy focussing on the informal sector;
- viii. Review Indian labour laws, consistent with labour rights, and with the requirements of expanding growth of industry and services, particularly in the informal sector, and improving productivity and competitiveness; and

ix. Review the social security system available for labour in the informal sector, and make recommendations for expanding their coverage.

(b)&(c): The terms of reference of the Expert Group under the chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena to advise the Ministry of Rural Development on the methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census for the 11th Five Year Plan does not include estimation of poverty. However in the Report submitted in August 2009 it is mentioned that the percentage of people entitled to BPL status should be revised upwards to at least 50%. According to the report on 'Conditions of Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganized Sector' submitted by the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) at the end of 2004-05, about 836 million or 77 percent of the population were living below Rs. 20 per day and constituted most of India's informal economy.

The Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government of India for estimation of poverty at National and State level. The Planning Commission has constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in December 2005, to review the methodology for estimation of Poverty.