

***Population of BPL families***

2157. SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total population of BPL families in the country; and
- (b) what are the prescribed norms to identify the BPL families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) 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 (BPL) in the rural areas who could be targeted under its programmes. The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002 using the methodology of score based ranking of rural households for which 13 socio-economic parameters were used on the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development. States/UTs were asked to limit the number of BPL households to be identified in such a manner that the total number of BPL households should not be more than the Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 or the Adjusted Share computed by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. In addition, the States/UTs were given the flexibility of including 10% to account for the transient poor. States/UTs have identified 550.821 lakhs rural families as BPL under BPL Census 2002.

***Expenditure on rural sector***

†2158. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on an average more than Rs. 84,000 crore is spent annually on the schemes being run for rural development in the country;
- (b) if not, the estimates of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that even after spending such a huge amount, satisfactory results are not coming forth;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (e) the fresh steps required to be taken for getting satisfactory result in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Annual Plan Allocation of the Ministry of Rural Development

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to implement various Rural Development Schemes/Programmes is more than Rs. 84,000 crore for the year 2010-11.

(c) As per the performance reports received from various States/UTs, the overall performances of Rural Development schemes have been found satisfactory.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Ministry of Rural Development has advised the State to adopt a five- pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's partnership, (iv) accountability, social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all level. With a view to strengthen the monitoring mechanism of programmes, the Ministry has been effectively using web based Management Information System (MIS).

***Special commission for selecting BPL families in Bihar***

†2159. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Bihar has submitted a proposal for constituting a special commission to identify Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the action being taken on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) In response to a letter from the Ministry of Rural Development regarding finalization of methodology for the forthcoming BPL Census and preparatory steps to be taken by States/UTs, Government of Bihar has *vide* its communication dated 1st February, 2011 recommended for setting up an independent BPL commission under the leadership of a person of eminence and assisted by a team of experts. However, prior to the receipt of the letter, the Ministry of Rural Development has already based on the suggestions/recommendations of States/UTs and experts as well as the findings of the pilot socio-economic survey formulated a draft methodology for conducting the forthcoming BPL Census and has decided to seek approval of Cabinet for the same.

***Funds for safe drinking water in rural and tribal areas***

2160. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds were allocated for safe drinking water in rural and tribal areas of the country, particularly in Gujarat;

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