

large sample surveys on households consumers expenditure conducted by NSSO at the interval of approximately five years. Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) provides financial & technical support to the States/UTs for conducting BPL Census to identify rural households living below the poverty line. The technical component of MoRD's role include finalization of methodology for identifying BPL families and implementation modalities. The BPL Census is thus conducted by the States/UTs and the BPL lists are prepared and maintained by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b) Currently, Census has commenced in one State and four UTs under the stewardship of Ministry of Rural Development. This will be followed in other States/UTs. The Census will capture the number of people in the BPL lists in the States and Union Territories.

(c) Caste-wise number of such families in each State is not available as the earlier BPL Census was not caste based. The figures will emerge after the Socio-Economic & Caste Census of 2011.

(d) This figure is not available. Even the present Socio-Economic Census is based on automatic exclusions, automatic inclusions & the inclusion of others based on deprivation scores depending on the number of deprivation indicators they satisfy. This Census does not elicit information on any financial assistance received from the Central and State Governments and employment they have received during the year.

Special status to Bihar

†551. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister's Office has received a memorandum on 14 July, 2011 with signatures of one crore people for giving Bihar the status of special state; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Office has received a memorandum on 14 July, 2011 for granting Special Category Status to Bihar. An Inter-Ministerial Group would be constituted to look into the matter.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.