

- (d) Rent corresponding to the minimum area provided for under Government's Industrial Housing Scheme.
- (e) Fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items of expenditure to constitute 20% of the total Minimum Wages.
- (f) Children education, medical requirement, minimum recreation including festivals/ceremonies and provision for old age, marriage etc. should further constitute 25% of the total minimum wage.

The norms at (a) to (e) above have been recommended by the Indian Labour Conference in its session held in 1957 and at (f) by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Reptakos Brett and Co. Ltd case in 1991. However, in order to have a uniform wage structure and to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, the Central Government prescribes National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW). While this is not statutory, the appropriate Governments are requested to fix the minimum wages at least at par with NFLMW. The NFLMW presently stands at Rs. 115/- per day with effect from 1st April, 2011.

(e) The criteria for defining poverty line and fixation of minimum wages are different.

(f) The Government has introduced the National Food Security Bill in Lok Sabha in December 2011 and the Bill is currently under examination by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. The Bill, *inter alia*, provides legal entitlements for free or affordable meals for certain categories *viz.* pregnant/lactating women, children or other special groups such as destitutes, homeless, disaster and emergency affected persons and persons living in starvation. The Bill also contains provision for payment of food security allowance to eligible persons, in case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of foodgrains or meals, within the time and manner prescribed by the Central Government.

#### **BPL list by March, 2012**

†3014. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States have been asked to prepare the Below Poverty Line (BPL) list by March, 2012 so that benefits for them may be started in the Twelfth Plan;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether it is also a fact that the States tend to inflate the BPL figures in order to get maximum funds from the Centre;
- (c) if so, the manner in which the Ministry would address this issue;
- (d) whether the Planning Commission has formulated any criterion to be followed by the States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) The Planning Commission as the Nodal agency in the Government of India for estimation of poverty has been estimating the number and percentage of poor at national and State levels. The Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census is conducted every five years at the beginning of the Five Year Plans by the States/Union Territories (UTs) to identify poor households in the rural areas to be targeted under various government schemes and programmes. The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), with the approval of the Union Cabinet, launched a combined Census namely "Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011" (SECC-2011) on 29.06.2011 to generate a large number of social and economic indicators relating to households across the country for their ranking. The SECC-2011 is being carried out by the State Governments/UT Administrations in a phased manner taking into consideration their preparedness and other relevant aspects with the financial and technical support of the Ministry of Rural Development. The completion of SECC-2011 is likely to extend beyond July, 2012.

In their Joint Statement issued on 3rd October, 2011 Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Union Minister for Rural Development have clarified that Government of India will take into account multiple dimensions of deprivation based on the indicators that are being collected through the SECC, 2011 for arriving a specific entitlements that rural households will receive under various central government programmes and schemes. The present state-wise poverty estimates using the Planning Commission methodology will not be used to impose any ceilings on the number of households to be included in different government programmes and schemes.

The eligibility and entitlements of rural households in the country for different central government programmes and schemes will be determined after the SECC, 2011 survey results are available and have been analysed. The Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Planning Commission will consult with

states, experts and civil society organizations to arrive at a consensus on the methodology by the time the SECC, 2011 is completed. This methodology will seek to ensure that no poor or deprived household will be excluded from coverage under different government programmes and schemes.

Government has since decided to set up a Technical Group to revisit the methodology for estimation of poverty and identification of poor taking into account multiple dimensions and indicators of poverty so that the poor and deprived households can obtain the benefit of different government programmes and schemes. The composition of the Technical Group and its terms of reference are being finalized.

#### **Failure of welfare development schemes**

†3015. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three-member committee constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Mihir Shah had declared the implementation of certain Central Government financed welfare development schemes as failure;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the names of such Government schemes;

(c) the recommendations of said committee for their successful functioning; and

(d) the plan formulated by Government to implement the suggestions of this committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The Planning Commission had not constituted such a committee under the chairmanship of Mihir Shah.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **Funds spent in Uttar Pradesh**

3016. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds/amounts given/spent in Uttar Pradesh by the Ministry and its various organisations during the last year and the current year, so far;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.