

F.No. M-11019/10/2010-PP
(Planning Commission)
[Perspective Planning Division]

Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi

Dated: 13th May, 2010

NOTIFICATION

Sub.: Constitution of an Expert Group to recommend the detailed methodology for Identification of Families living Below Poverty Line in the Urban Areas.

The estimation of the poverty in the country at the National and State level separately for rural and urban areas is done by the Planning Commission. The identification of families living Below Poverty Line both in rural and urban areas is very crucial to make the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes effective and to achieve the objective of poverty alleviation in the country. While the Ministry of Rural Development has been conducting 'Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census' since 1992 based on a uniform methodology/parameters to identify the BPL households in the rural areas for providing assistance under its programmes, no such uniform methodology/ criteria has been evolved by the Government of India to identify the BPL households in the urban areas. The States and Union Territories devise their own criteria/ methodology to conduct the BPL surveys on the basis of State specific poverty lines for urban areas as defined by the Planning Commission for poverty estimates from time to time. With the launch of various welfare measures for the poor including the proposed legislation on National Food Security, the need has been felt to put in place a uniform criteria to identify the BPL households in urban areas also so that objectivity and transparency is ensured in delivery of benefits to the target groups.

2. An Expert Group is constituted for this purpose with the following composition:

(i)	Prof. S.R. Hashim, Ex-Member, Planning Commission.	-	Chairman
(ii)	Dr. Pronab Sen, Secretary, Min. of Statistics & Programme Implementation	-	Member
(iii)	Shri R.C. Srinivasan, Pr.Adviser(DPPPD) Planning Commission.	-	Member
(iv)	Shri K.L. Datta, formerly Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development.	-	Member
(v)	Sr.Adviser/ Adviser (HUD) Planning Commission.	-	Member
(vi)	Shri Ramesh Ramanathan, Founder, 'Janagraha', Bangalore.	-	Member
(vii)	Representative from Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.	-	Member
(viii)	Shri B.D. Virdi, Adviser (PP) Planning Commission.	-	Convener

3. The Chairman of the Expert Group may include one or two experts as members of Expert Group if need be. He may also consult the experts to get requisite inputs.

4. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Group would be as under:

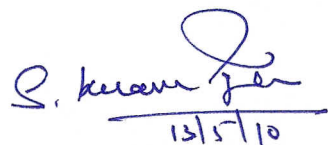
- (i) To recommend appropriate detailed methodology with simple, transparent and objectively measurable indicators, to identify Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in Urban Areas for providing assistance under various schemes targeted at the urban poor;
- (ii) To recommend periodicity for the conduct of BPL Survey in Urban Areas or the mechanisms to review such BPL list;

- (iii) To recommend suitable institutional mechanism for the conduct of BPL survey, survey questionnaire, processing of data, training, validation and approval of urban BPL list at various levels;
- (iv) To recommend suitable institutional mechanism to address grievances of public on exclusion/ inclusion in the urban BPL list.
- (v) Any other suggestions/recommendations to make the exercise of Urban BPL survey simple, transparent and acceptable.

5. The Expert Group will hold its meeting with frequency as per requirement. The secretariat support to the Expert Group will be provided by DPPP Division of the Planning Commission, The Telephone number of the convener in Planning Commission is 011-23096763. The Group will submit its report within four months.

6. The expenditure towards TA/DA in respect of non-official members for attending the meetings of the group, will be borne by the Planning Commission, as per the Rules & Regulations of TA/ DA applicable to Grade-I Officers of the Government of India.

7. This issues with the approval of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.


13/5/10

(S. KESAVA IYER)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Planning Commission

To
The Chairman and Members of the Expert Group.