

## **Sub: Survey for BPL Families**

This brief note explains the modalities followed for various BPL surveys.

**1. BPL survey for 9<sup>th</sup> Plan (1997-2002) (Rural)** – Annual family income to be less than Rs. 20,000 and the families should not have more than 2 hectares of land or TV or Fridge. The number of rural BPL families was 6.5 lakh during the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan. The survey based on this criteria was again carried out in 2002 and the total number of 3.87 lakh families were identified. This figure was in force till September, 2006.

**2. BPL for 10<sup>th</sup> Plan (2002-07) (Rural)** – This survey is based on the degree of deprivation in respect of 13 para-meters (with scores from 0-4) – land holding, type of house, clothing, food security, sanitation, consumer durables, literacy status, labour force, means of livelihood, status of children, type of indebtedness, reasons for migrations etc. The Planning Commission fixed an upper limit of 3.26 lakh for rural BPL families on the basis of simple survey. Accordingly families having less than 15 marks out of maximum 52 marks have been classified as BPL and their number works out to 3.18 lakh. The survey was carried out in 2002 and thereafter but could not be finalised due to stay by the SC. The stay was vacated in February, 2006 and this survey was finalised and adopted in September, 2006. This survey would form the basis for benefits under GoI schemes. The state government is free to adopt any criteria/survey for the state level schemes.

**3. 10<sup>th</sup> Plan BPL Survey for Urban Families** – This survey was based on degree of deprivation in respect of 7 para meters – roof, floor, water, sanitation, education level, type of employment & status of children in a house. A total of 1.25 lakh upper families were identified as BPL in urban area in 2004. It is under implementation since then.

**4. Kerala Government** – Most of the state governments followed the 13 and 7 para meters definition for identifying the BPL families during the current 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. Kerala Government is one of the few state government which has formulated its own criteria. There are 9 para meters and if the family does not have access to 4 or more para meters than it is classified as BPL. The 9 para meters for urban areas are – No land/Less than 5 cents of land, No house/dilapidated house, No sanitation latrine, Family without colour TV,

No regular employed person in the family, No access to safe drinking water, Women headed house hold/Presence of widow divorcee, Socially disadvantaged groups SC/ST & Mentally retarded/disabled member in the family. The 9 para meters for rural are - No land/Less than 5 cents of land, No house/dilapidated house, No sanitation latrine, Family with an illiterate adult member, No regular employed person in the family, No access to safe drinking water, Women headed house hold/Presence of widow divorcee, Socially disadvantaged groups SC/ST & Mentally retarded/disabled member in the family.

**5. Haryana Government** – The BPL survey was carried out as per the Gol guidelines in Haryana and it was based on 13 para meters. The Government has recently dis-carded it and adopted new 5 para-meters based survey. The 5 points are – land, house, household goods, literacy level and means of livelihood /standard of living. The survey is to be carried out by Ex-serviceman who would be paid Rs. 4 per family.

**6. Maharashtra Government** – The Maharashtra Government has also decided to conduct fresh BPL survey. About 46 lakh BPL families were identified on the basis of 13 point criteria. There was lot of resentment and a total of 10.56 lakh appeals were filed against the survey. In view of this they have decided to discard the survey and conduct fresh survey.

**7. International Scene** – Income of less than \$ 1 per day per head (purchasing power parity) is defined as extreme poverty. As per these estimates about 45% of Indian Population is extremely poor. If the daily income per head is \$ 2 then the family is described as poor and about 80% of Indian Population is poor by this criteria.

The poverty line in United States is fixed in terms of annual family income. Originally in 1969 the requirements of family in terms of food were worked out with reference to 1963 prices. It was found that a family of 4 would require \$ 1033 per annum for meeting the food requirement. The study revealed that families in that income spent nearly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> income on food and therefore the poverty line for family of 4 was fixed as \$ 3099 per annum. The poverty line is revised annually after taking inflation into account. For the year 2006 it was \$ 20650 per annum per family (comprising 4 members).

**8. Income based poverty line in India/Punjab** – The poverty line was originally fixed in terms of income/food requirements in 1978. It was stipulated that the calorie standard for a typical individual in rural areas were 2400 calorie and was 2100 calorie in urban areas. Then the cost of the grains (about 650 gms) that fulfill this normative standard was calculated. This cost was the poverty line. In 1978, it was Rs. 61.80 per person per month for rural areas and Rs. 71.30 for urban areas. Since then the Planning Commission calculates the poverty line every year adjusting for inflation. The poverty line in recent years is as follows -

(Rs. per month per head)

Year	India		Punjab	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
2000-01	328	454	371.25	400.18
2005-06	368	560	415.80	492.22

These figures are per month per head. This income is bare minimum to support the food requirements and does not provide much for the other basic essential items like health, education etc. That is why some times the poverty lines have been described as starvation lines.

**9. Fixing Annual Family Income for poverty line in Punjab** - The state government was considering fixing poverty line in terms of annual family income during the last 2-3 years. The reason was that the 13 para meters survey was started in 2002 but it could not be finalized due to Supreme Court stay. The Supreme Court vacated the stay on 14/2/2006 and it was decided thereafter that BPL survey based on 13 para meters be finalized. It has accordingly been finalized and details are enclosed herewith.

**9.1 Basic Figures – Population and SC Families**

(in lakh)

	Total		SC Families	
	Population	Families(Average Family Size)	Population	Families
Rural	160.96	26.59 (6.05)	53.18	8.77 (33%)

Urban	82.62	15.52 (5.32)	17.10	3.10 (20%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>243.58</b>	<b>42.11 (5.78)</b>	<b>70.28</b>	<b>11.87 (28%)</b>

### Poverty Line for the State -

- In 2005-06 the poverty line for the state as mentioned above was Rs. 415 per month per head and Rs. 493 per month per head in rural and urban areas respectively. This works out to Rs. 30,129 and Rs. 31,473 per year per family for rural and urban areas.
- The previous Vice Chairman, Punjab State Planning Board, Dr. SS Johl recommended annual family income for BPL families as Rs. 45,000. It was worked out on the basis of minimum wages i.e. Rs. 101 (fixed by Punjab Government for unskilled labour) for 25 days employment in a month for 1.5 earning member per family.
- Guru Nanak Dev University has recommended annual family income of Rs. 50,000 in rural and Rs. 60,000 in urban areas.
- Jaya Mehta in Alternative Economic Survey recommended Rs. 775 in rural areas and Rs. 717 in urban areas per month per head for the Punjab State. These figures would give annual family income of Rs. 56,000 in rural areas and Rs. 45773 in urban areas.
- The Centre for Policy Alternative has worked out some detailed and scientific calculation for the poverty line. As per their calculation a person would require on an average every month : Food – Rs. 573, Health – Rs. 30, Clothing – Rs. 17, Energy Conservation – Rs. 55 and Misc – Rs. 164 = Total – Rs. 840. The poverty line should not be less than Rs. 840 per month per head. The average family size is Rs. 5.78 in the state and the annual family income thereafter works out to Rs. 58,262.
- Director Agriculture recommends that one acre of land does not fetch more than Rs. 8,000 annual income. We have earlier fixed a cut off of 5 acres of land for BPL families. This would work out to Rs. 40,000 per annum.

Existing annual family income for BPL families after adjusting for inflation works out to Rs. 30,000 in the year 2006. The recommendations vary from Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 60,000 as explained above. It would therefore be proper if the annual family income for BPL families is fixed around Rs. 40,000.