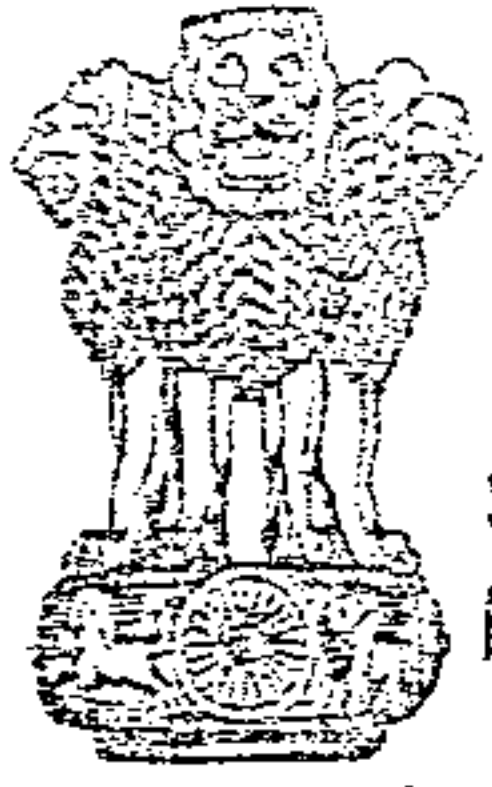
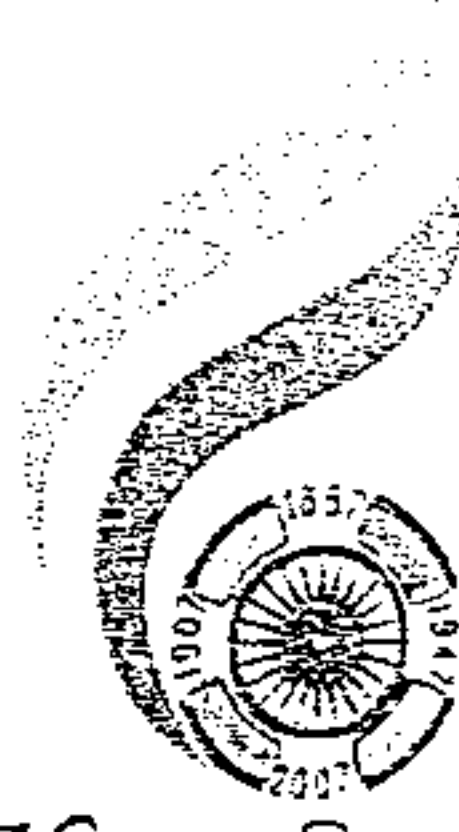




DR. RITA SHARMA
SECRETARY
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

सत्यमेव जयते

D.O. No. 15011/1/2010 (V. III)-1479 जय हिन्द



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8 March 2011

Dear Shri Sinha,

As you are aware Chairperson, NAC vide her letter No. 15011/1/2010-NAC(Vol-3)-1265 dated 2nd February, 2011 communicated to the Union Minister for Rural Development the recommendations of the NAC on the BPL identification process. The NAC recommended mandatory inclusion of 8 highly vulnerable categories. The NAC also recommended that after inclusion of these 8 categories the highest priority should be given to the inclusion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the 'Priority Groups' proposed under the National Food Security Bill.

In your letter dated 24th February 2011, you have explained the proposed methodology for the conduct of BPL survey 2011. It appears that in preparing the methodology the NAC recommendations have not been fully considered. There is no mandatory/ automatic inclusion of the 8 highly vulnerable categories. Indeed, only the first 2 of the 8 stated categories are proposed to be included. The remaining 6 categories are not considered for the mandatory/ automatic inclusion, namely, (i) single-women headed Households (ii) homeless Households (iii) households headed by a Minor (iv) destitute households which are dependent predominantly on alms for survival (v) households with disabled person as bread earner and (vi) any member of the household is bonded labourer. It also seems that the last two categories find neither a place in the mandatory inclusion nor in the deprivation indicators used for inclusion.

On the recommendation of giving highest priority (after the mandatory 8 categories) to the inclusion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes it is not clear how the methodology proposes to ensure this. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes are treated as one of the 8 deprivation parameters for inclusion. They are assigned 3 points when it comes to the limited domain of scoring. It needs to be brought out unambiguously whether the methodology results in SC and ST receiving the highest priority after mandatory inclusion.

Some NAC members have pointed out that the proposed methodology is not in conformity with the NAC recommendation of giving highest priority to the SC and ST, after mandatory inclusion of 8 most vulnerable groups.

The suggestions of the NAC members are enclosed.

I shall be grateful for an early response in this regard after you have brought it to the attention of the Minister of Rural Development, so that the Chairperson can be briefed accordingly. You may, if you consider suitable, hold a discussion with the concerned NAC Members in this regard.

With regards

Yours sincerely

R. Sharma

(Rita Sharma)

Shri B.K. Sinha,
Secretary,
Ministry of Rural Development,
Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi.

Encl: As above

(4)

Suggestions of Members of the National Advisory Council

Shri Harsh Mander, Dr N.C. Saxena and Ms Aruna Roy, members NAC have made the following suggestions.

- 1 All the 8 Groups mentioned in Chairperson's letter may be in the automatic inclusion groups.
2. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) Pilot Study shows that there is not much co-relation between poverty and vulnerability criteria like bondage (which can only be a research error), disability and female headed households. But there is a great deal of empirical research showing the correlations between these 2 vulnerabilities and poverty. If the Ministry insists, it can place female headed households among the vulnerability parameters instead of the automatic inclusion, although I would prefer that it is retained. But disability must be included in the automatic inclusion groups, along with all 6 other Groups identified by Saxena Committee and mentioned in Chairperson's letter.
3. Mahadalits are not identified in all states, therefore a special mention should be made of manual scavengers for automatic inclusion in states where Mahadalits are not notified.
4. Chairperson's letter also mandated special weightage to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But MoRD proposes to give them the same weightage as other vulnerability criteria. It is proposed that SCs and STs should be given double weightage or a score of 2 among the vulnerability parameters, which get a score of 1.