

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PANCHAYATS & RURAL DEV. DEPARTMENT
JESSOP BUILDING 63, N. S. ROAD
KOLKATA – 700 001

No: 76/JS(DG)/007/SGSY/20M-6/2005

Dated the :2nd April,2007

From : Dr.M.N.Roy, IAS
Principal Secretary to the
Govt. of West Bengal

To : District Magistrate (All)

Sub: Publication of the list of Rural Household Survey

Sir/Madam

The lists compiled under the Rural Household survey has finally been digitized by all the districts and submitted to this department in the digital format. It is necessary that the results are formally published and the lists of beneficiaries for different poverty alleviation programmes are worked out for each Gram Sansad from the survey results. All the districts followed more or less identical procedure for finalization of the database. A draft process documentation format is appended at **Annexure B** to this letter. The district may please fill in the format with such modification in the text as may be required and return the same to us for incorporation in the state level process document.

2. Although the results of the 61st round of NSSO has been published neither the Ministry of Rural Development nor the Planning Commission of India have intimated the official state specific Headcount ratio for West Bengal for working out the number of persons Below Poverty Line (BPL) on the basis of this round of NSSO Survey. (Unofficial estimates however indicate that the head count ratio for West Bengal is around 28.5%). In view of this we have to go by the official NSSO estimates of 55th Rounds published by the Planning Commission which pronounces the rural head count ratio for West Bengal at 31.7%.
3. Based on the data submitted by the districts, block wise and district wise database (which can be disaggregated upto the level of Gram Sansads) have been made and district wise table of frequency distribution and cumulative frequency distribution of households against each category of aggregate score (starting from 12 ending at 60) has been generated. Aggregating frequency distribution of all the districts, frequency distribution table for the state has been constructed which are presented in **Annexure "A"**. As the figures detailed in the table indicate, around 30.27 % of the rural population of the state has attained a score of 32 or less. The Guideline for identification of Families below poverty line of the Ministry of Rural Development as communicated vides their no. Q-16025/4/2002-AI(RD) dated 13th September 2002 prescribes that “ while deciding the cut of scores keeping in view the upper limit of BPL persons the results of BPL census may be compared with estimates of poverty obtained through the NSSO Survey on Consumer expenditure 1999-2000”. Hence for the present we may accept this as the cut of point for determination of BPL. **This means that all households who have scored less than or equal to 32 will be treated as BPL families.**
4. We shall hand over the CDs containing the block wise data to the representatives of the districts in a meeting to be held on 2nd April 2007. Kindly note that the no change in the score based entries in the database will be allowed by the software system of

the database at any level. The Block development Officers will generate print outs for BPL families Gram Panchayat and Gram Sansad wise, through the predefined query provided for in the software. The list of BPL families should published in the same venues at the Gram Sansad and Gram Panchayat level where the draft list was published for information of all concerned.

5. However, after getting the software and the database, the respective blocks will enter the data related to social group (SC/ST/Minority) for which provisions have been kept in the software. There is also provision for entering the data relating to befits received by the families concerned under *NOAPS, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Annapurna yojana, Indira Awas Yojana* etc as specified in the family wise input form in the software package. After entering the data the block level officials should identify the number of eligible persons who are not yet covered under these programmes and take appropriate action for covering them under the relevant programme(s) in accordance with the guidelines of the programmes. The updated database should be submitted to this department at the end of each financial year for further updating the state database.
6. List of beneficiaries under IAY is also to be generated from the predefined query as provided for in the software. This query has been built on the parameters of, 1) Total Score \leq 32; and 2) Housing condition =1. For Tea Garden areas the score relating to Housing status=1 is to be ignored and benefits under IAY may be extended if they have title over the land.
7. The Government is also considering working out programme specific indicators for identification of beneficiaries based on the parameters used in the survey for different poverty alleviation programmes. However till such time these are worked out the score based BPL calculated on the basis of cut off marks of 32 will be applicable for all poverty alleviation programmes.
8. Since Poverty happens to be a dynamic phenomenon, it is necessary that the list is updated. It may be noted in this regard that until fresh survey is done, the total number of BPL families should conform to the number of total BPL families as may be prescribed by the Government of India for the period under consideration, and more families may be included under the BPL if total count of BPL families is found to be less than the total BPL families to be extended benefit under various poverty alleviation programmes.

Yours faithfully,

(M.N.Roy)
Principal Secretary to the
Government of west Bengal