

# Sumit Bose PANEL REPORT on Socio Economic and CASTE CENSUS (SECC)



## WHY IN NEWS?

Sumit Bose expert group on Socio Economic and Caste census (SECC) presented its report to Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

## NEED OF THE REPORT

For better targeting of the beneficiaries

Study criteria for allocation of resources to states as per SECC

## BACKGROUND Objective

Identification of beneficiaries under various pro-poor programmes using SECC data

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REPORT

Gives broad guidelines to implement SECC data

Using SECC Would Help To

- Better budgetary planning and allocation of resources for various programmes
- Expand coverage of the programmes and reduce duplication of benefit and fraud
- Dynamic monitoring of the living standards of beneficiaries over time
- Streamline programme administration
- Better targeting of vulnerable sections of the society and enabling expansion of the coverage of the programmes
- Improve the efficacy of programme interventions and its improved outcomes

## Socio Economic and Caste Census (2011)

Conducted both in urban and rural areas

Used different committee methodologies in urban and rural areas

To collect socio-economic and caste data of households (HHs)

Only rural SECC has been publicly released

### Major Findings of SECC are

19

% of India's rural population in 2011 lacked at least one of seven socio-economic parameters of deprivation

30

% of rural HHs are landless and derive income from manual, casual labour

23.5

Second most common form of deprivation was literacy with 23.5% rural HHs having no literate adults above the age of 25

### Conducted by

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

The State Governments

Ministry of Rural Development

Ministry of Urban Development,

The Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner

## NC SAXENA committee (for rural areas) - recommended a three-fold classification of HHs

### Excluded

Identified by assets and income

Excluded from welfare benefits

### Automatically Included

Include HHs with extreme social destitution

Automatically included for government benefits

### Others

Ranked on the basis of multiple deprivation indicators

Eligible for graded benefits Eg. Presence of an able and literate adult etc.

## SR HASHIM Committee (for urban areas)

Also followed a three step approach

Eg. In urban areas pucca houses with greater than 4 rooms was excluded whereas in rural areas it was three rooms or more

Only difference is that both committees used different parameters for classification

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT

Replace Below Poverty Line (BPL) by multidimensional SECC for different government schemes.

Use SECC data for all schemes of central and state governments to ensure targeting of right beneficiaries.

## USE SECC DATA FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF THE MoRD

**PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA (GRAMIN)** - Presently, resource allocation is based on 75% weight to SECC housing deprivation data and 25% to the headcount ratio of poverty

Allocate 100% weight to SECC housing deprivation data.

### NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NSAP)

Starting programs, including widow pensions, school fees and medical insurance for etc. under NSAP

States should provide at least an equivalent contribution as Centre towards NSAP

Assistance under NSAP to be decided by SECC data

Increase pension under NSAP as per Consumer Price Index

### MGNREGA

Shift focus to regions with greater concentration of deprived households and landless manual labourers

### NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION (NRLM) - faces lack of capacity and insufficient human resources therefore

Use SECC data to plan for poverty free Panchayats

Resource allocation under NRLM using an index with deprivation parameters like

SC/ST house-holds with no literate adult

Female headed households with no adult member

Landless households deriving major part of income from manual casual labour.

Initially, allocate 70% resources using this index and later scale it to 80% and 100%

## CHALLENGES

The report wants regular update and verification of SECC data which would put additional burden on public resources

The urban caste data has not yet been released thus limiting the use of SECC data to only schemes in rural areas as of now

## WAY FORWARD

SECC has the potential to replace the binary approach of BPL-APL used till now. The government must diligently use the recommendations of the present committee to reform its programme in terms of coverage and reach to maximize governance

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