

National Advisory Council

Recommendations on mandatory inclusion of certain highly vulnerable Groups in the National Food Security Bill

The deficiencies in the BPL surveys conducted in the past which have led to significant inclusion and exclusion errors is quite well known. To achieve our objective of inclusive growth, it is essential that the country's scarce resources in the form of subsidies and grants, reach only the intended beneficiaries.

2. It was agreed in the meeting of the NAC held on 21 January, 2011, that the proposed National Food Security Bill shall provide for mandatory inclusion of highly vulnerable groups, as given below, to protect these groups from exclusion errors. These groups form part of the recommendations of the Saxena Committee Report submitted to the Ministry of Rural Development in August, 2009:

1. Households "Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups" (PTGs).
2. Designated most discriminated against SC Groups, called "Maha Dalit Groups" if so identified by the state
3. Single women headed households.
4. Households with disabled person as bread earner.
5. Household headed by a minor.
6. Destitute households which are dependent predominantly on alms for survival.
7. Homeless households.
8. Any member of the household is bonded labourer.

3. The NAC recommended that, after the inclusion of these categories, the highest priority should be given to the inclusion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the identification of "priority" groups under the proposed National Food Security Bill.