

# Expert Committee Report Summary

## Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011

- The Expert Group on Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (Chair: Mr. Sumit Bose) submitted its report to the Ministry of Rural Development in January 2017. The Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 was conducted in both urban and rural areas in the country to collect socio-economic and caste data of households.
- The Expert Group was set up in January 2016 to analyse the objective criteria for: (i) allocation of resources to states, and (ii) identification and prioritisation of beneficiaries under various programs using the SECC data. The Committee made observations and recommendations about the use of SECC data for various programs of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme:** MGNREGS is a demand driven scheme that aims at creating durable assets. It provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to a rural household. The Committee observed that the focus of this scheme should be more towards regions where there is greater concentration of landless labourers. It suggested that the implementation of the scheme should be strengthened in gram panchayats with a higher concentration of deprived households and landless manual labour.
- **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM):** The mission aims to increase the household income of rural poor through access to livelihood opportunities and financial services. The Committee noted that NRLM faces issues due to a lack of capacity and insufficient human resources to support the mission. The Committee recommended that SECC data should be used by NRLM to undertake planning for poverty free panchayats. In addition, it suggested that allocation of resources to states under NRLM may be made using an index with deprivation parameters. These parameters will include: (i) female headed households with no adult member, (ii) SC/ST households with no literate adult, and (iii) landless households deriving major part of income from manual casual labour. Initially, 70% of the resource allocation may be made using this index, which later may be increased to 80% and then 100%.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin:** PMAY is a housing scheme that provides financial assistance to rural BPL households for construction of a dwelling unit. The Committee noted that as per SECC 2011, nearly four crore rural families need to be provided with safe houses. It also observed that states are now being allocated funds in proportion to the eligible households falling under them. Presently, resource allocation to states gives 75% weightage to SECC housing deprivation data and 25% to the existing head count ratio of poverty. The Committee recommended that from 2017-18 onward, funds should be allocated to the states only on the basis of the SECC housing deprivation data.
- **National Social Assistance Program (NSAP):** The NSAP presently comprises five social assistance programs, that primarily include pension schemes for old age persons, widows and differently abled persons. The Committee observed that SECC 2011 covers socio-economic profile of old age persons, widows and differently abled persons. It recommended that eligibility for assistance under NSAP may be decided on the basis of SECC data. Under NSAP, it recommended starting several other programs, including pension for widows, school fees and medical insurance for disabled children, etc.
- The Committee observed that currently the amount of pension under NSAP is not sufficient and needs to be increased annually based on the Consumer Price Index. It also recommended that in addition to the assistance provided by the centre, states should provide an additional amount at least equivalent to the assistance provided by the centre.
- The Committee recommended that SECC data should be used for all schemes of central and state governments to refine them and ensure that they target the right beneficiaries. This will also help optimise the impact of the schemes by reducing leakages.

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