



Employment News



WEEKLY

VOL. XXXVIII NO. 31 PAGES 56

NEW DELHI 2 - 8 NOVEMBER 2013

₹ 8.00

JOB HIGHLIGHTS

CRPF

● Office of Inspector General of Police, CRPF, Madhya Pradesh Sector, North Eastern Sector and Jammu Sector requires about 2952 Constable (Technical/ Tradesman) (Male/Female)
Last Date : 11.11.2013

UPSC

● Union Public Service Commission notifies Combined Defence Services Examination (I), 2014
Last Date : 02.12.2013

INDIAN ARMY

● The Indian Army invites applications for recruitment of 270 Havildar Education in the Army Educational Corps in Group 'X' and 'Y'
Last Date : 01.12.2013

SAIL

● Steel Authority of India Limited, Burnpur requires 550 Operator cum-Technician (Trainee) and Attendant-cum-Technician (Trainee)
Last Date : 14.11.2013

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Following item is available in the Web Exclusives section on www.employmentnews.gov.in :

1. Prime Minister's Russia and China visit

Approaches in Estimating Multidimensional Poverty in India

Dr. Joseph Abraham

The concepts and methodologies used at identifying the poor have undergone several changes in the past. While the National Sample Survey (NSSO) estimates provide the percentage of people below poverty line based on consumption expenditure specific caloric norms, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Surveys and the current Socio Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) helps in identifying the poor households by using a different set of concepts. The changes introduced at each round of BPL Surveys to the currently on going SECC 2011 needs to be recapitulated. The introduction of country wide e-governance modules in the SECC 2011 at identification of the poor are considered a major breakthrough and the results are awaited. To what extend the e-governance initiatives under taken in the realms of data collection, awareness generation and the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Grama Sabhas through a process of Claims and Objections Tracking Systems (COTS) by various states and union territories are helpful in arriving at the BPL list is a concern for all. As in the past but for decentralised efforts at data collection much error is likely to be present. The number of people below the pover-

ty line (BPL) is determined at the national and the State level by the Planning Commission of India. This is done on the basis of a large sample survey of consumer expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) after an interval of every 5 years. The available figures of poverty ratios released by the Planning Commission, was based on the 61st Round of NSSO of 2004-05; it estimated that 28.3 per cent households in the rural areas were living below poverty line. The latest figures of poverty for the year 2009-10 based on the Tendulkar Committee (2009) methodology. While estimations of poverty are being done by the Planning Commission, three separate Censuses to identify the BPL households have also been conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in 1992, 1997 and 2002 in the past. The primary purpose of conducting village wise census of households is to identify the BPL households that could be assisted under various poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry. In addition, many other Ministries of the Government of India use the BPL list so prepared for targeting benefits, such as PDS, health insurance, scholarships, etc. The BPL list is thus of enormous prac-

tical importance to both Central and State governments as well as the population at large. The Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group in August 2008 to recommend a more suitable methodology to identify the poor in the rural areas. The Planning Commission constituted a 'Task Force on Projection of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand' (GOI 1979) which on the basis of a systematic study of nutritional requirements recommended a national norm of 2,400 calories per day and 2,100 calories per day for rural and urban areas (the difference being attributed to the lower levels of physical activity needed in the urban areas) respectively. These figures were derived from age-sex-occupation-specific nutritional norms by using the all-India demographic data from the 1971 Census.

Unidimensional vs Multidimensional Approach.

The measurement of poverty has largely dealt with economic deprivation in the income or expenditure space. The official estimates of poverty since mid 1970's have been based on nationwide household consumption surveys conducted quinquennially adopting more or less common methods and procedures. There is by now a growing

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Career in Horticulture

Dr. K. P. Singh, Dr. Beena Nair and Dr. Prem Chand

Agriculture holds the key position in Indian economy. After China, India ranks among the largest producers and leading exporters of flowers, fruits and vegetables in the world and has an immense scope for improvement in the forth-coming years. After globalization, India has achieved a massive prospective as an importer and exporter of agricultural merchandise in the world market. Horticulture is one of the most important branches of Agriculture. Horticulture has become an answer for the economic development of various states in our country. It contributes nearly 30.4 per cent to GDP of agriculture, which calls for technology-led progress. Globally, India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables. It leads the production of mango, banana, coconut, cashew, papaya, pomegranate etc. and is the largest producer and exporter of spices. It ranks first in the productivity of grapes, banana, cassava, peas, papaya etc. Export of fresh fruits and vegetables in term of value is nearly 14% and that of processed fruits and vegetables is 16.27%. About 1,596 high yielding varieties and hybrids of horticultural crops (fruits- 134, vegetables- 485, ornamental plants- 115, plantation and spices- 467, medicinal and aromatic plants- 50 and mushrooms- 5) have also been developed in our country. The cautious awareness on horticulture has rewarded dividend and resulted in

amplified production and export of horticultural produce. The production of horticultural produce has increased about 7-folds, which assures nutritional security and employment prospects. The influence of students towards horticultural stream has increased to a great echelon in recent decades. With the advent of commercialization in horticulture, there are diverse prospects for salaried jobs in government, semi- government as well as private enterprises. Whilst remunerated occupation with various government and private concerns provides a regular income and entrepreneurship can generate handsome profits in this stream. In due course, horticulture has emerged out to be a matter of choice for many aspirants worldwide.

Job opportunities

For an aspirant there is an immense scope for hopeful quality education in various state agricultural universities. Applicants should have passed 10+2 (Senior Secondary Examination) with Physics, Chemistry and Agriculture/Biology as their subject. Candidates qualifying the written examination of Pre Agricultural Test (PAT) are considered eligible for admission to UG degree programme in State Agricultural Universities in Agriculture/Horticulture. Learners who have completed their graduation course in horticulture have many careers prospective. More recently the students aspiring higher studies in horti-

culture can take up their degree as specialization in Floriculture, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Spices & Plantation crops, Pomology, Olericulture and Post Harvest Technology. The job opportunities are accessible for the students within the country and even abroad. After graduation the student becomes eligible to be appropriate for employment offered by banks, finance sectors, seed companies, sales and marketing etc. The nationalized banks, Reserve Bank, State Bank etc put forward an opportunity for post graduates in agriculture and horticulture as Agricultural Officers, Probationary Officers, Field Officers and Rural Development Officers. Different agricultural universities also employ horticultural postgraduates for distinct posts from concerned field of their specialization. However, for a number of posts, experience in concerned field is required and for the post of Associate Professor, Assistant Professor and other teaching posts, candidates should qualify National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by UGC/CSIR/ICAR. While for senior level posts Doctoral degree i.e. PhD in concerned field is an essential requisite. For students availing M.Sc Agriculture (Horticulture) and PhD (Horticulture) degree the following jobs are available in public sector: ● Scientists and Technicians in Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Science and Technology (DST),

Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEEDA), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO), National Seed Corporation (NSC), Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (both Government of India) etc., ● Assistant Professor, Associate Professor etc. in various State Agricultural Universities and Agricultural Colleges, ● Assistant Director Horticulture in State Government, ● District Horticulture Officer through the State Public Service Commission, ● Horticultural experts/Tele farm experts in IFFCO, ● Horticulture Inspector / Fruit & Vegetable Inspector / Marketing Inspector, ● Civil Service through the Union Public Service Commission, ● Research Associates and Senior Research Fellows, ● Rural Horticulture Extension Officer, ● Section Officer (Horticulture / Landscaping), Horticulturist or Supervisor (Horticulture), ● Senior Horticulture Development Officer, ● Subject Matter Specialists in Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVK), ● Technical Assistant/ Technical Officers in different State Agricultural Universities, ● Various technical posts in Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVK)

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Career in ...

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Apart from these, various private seed companies, fertilizers and pesticide companies engage agricultural/horticultural students in their firms. Even in big hotels and restaurants there is often high demand of horticulturists especially landscapers and gardeners to beautify the surroundings. Florists and nurseries appoint horticulturists for their lucrative business principally in the metropolitans. In addition, at the international level, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nation and some other agencies also appoints horticultural consultants.

Self employment in Horticulture:

● As Horticulture Consultant provide advice, design, evaluation, supervision of garden or orchard etc., ● One can start the Agriculture clinic. Government provides money (up to 10.00 Lac) for this work, ● Raise commercial nursery of fruit plants, flower and ornamental plants, ● Seed producer of vegetables and flower crops, ● Fruit/ Vegetable / Flower grower, ● Floral decorator/ florist shop, ● Horticulture Services Contractor, ● Mushroom grower, ● Seed dealer / Merchant, ● Proprietor-cold storage, ● Processing work of Horticulture production and ● One can start establishing of an institute for vocational education (Horticulture/ Landscape)

Educational Institutes Offering Horticulture Programmes

The undergraduate, post graduation and doctoral degree programmes in horticulture are offered by the Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research and in almost all State Agricultural Universities in India. Following is an indicative list;

S.No.	Name of Agricultural Institutes
1.	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
2.	A.P. Horticultural University, Tadepalligudem
3.	Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University
4.	Anand Agricultural University
5.	Assam Agricultural University
6.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya
7.	Bihar Agricultural University
8.	Birsa Agricultural University
9.	Central Agricultural University
10.	Chandra Shekar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology
11.	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University
12.	Chhattisgarh Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya
13.	CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya
14.	Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth
15.	Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth

16.	Dr Yashwant Singh Parmar Univ of Horticulture & Forestry
17.	Dr YSR Horticultural University
18.	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology
19.	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya
20.	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya
21.	Junagadh Agricultural University
22.	Kerala Agricultural University
23.	Maharana Pratap Univ. of Agriculture & Technology
24.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth
25.	Manyavar Shri Kanchiram Ji University of Agriculture and Technology
26.	Marathwada Agricultural University
27.	Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology
28.	Navsari Agricultural University
29.	Orissa Univ. of Agriculture & Technology
30.	Punjab Agricultural University
31.	Rajendra Agricultural University
32.	Rajmata Vijayraje Sciendia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya
33.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology
34.	Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University
35.	Sher-e-Kashmir Univ of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu
36.	Sher-e-Kashmir Univ of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir
37.	Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University
38.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
39.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore
40.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
41.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Shimoga
42.	University of Horticultural Sciences, Karnataka
43.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur
44.	Uttarakhand University of Horticulture and Forestry
45.	Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, West Bengal

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Approaches to...

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recognition that poverty is not simply a matter of inadequate income but also a matter of low literacy, short life expectation and lack of basic needs such as adequate shelter, clothing and safe drinking water.

The distinction between measurement of poverty and identification of poor have often got blurred in the debates on poverty. Measurement of poverty requires distinct methodology and makes use of well designed household surveys and reliable quantitative data. The methodology and data collection must ensure comparability of the poverty estimate over time and between regions and socio-economic groups. The data required for identification of the poor at the village level is multidimensional in nature and consists of both quantitative and qualitative information. The unidimensional or income poverty builds on the proposition that the living standard of a household depends on the commodities it consume. This in turn depends on the level of consumption expenditure and the prices the household has to pay for those items. The basic step in the income poverty approach is to identify a critical value of expenditure that can serve as a poverty line. In the identification of this critical value, a series of measurement choices are inevitable and these choices are subjective.

The Multidimensional Poverty have been worked out as a measure of poverty by pooling two different sets of unit level data namely the NSS 61st round consumer expenditure data and National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) unit level data, following the methodology given in Radhakrishna et al ((2005,2010), Alkire, S and S Seth (2008) }. Such pooling of data has enabled them to esti-

mate per capita total expenditure for each NFHS sample household. Thus, the augmented NFHS unit level information would contain total expenditure data. This augmented NFHS unit level data has been utilized for multidimensional poverty analysis.

Methodology of BPL Surveys.

In 1992, for the 8th Five Year Plan, a detailed procedure was prescribed by the Ministry of Rural Development to identify BPL families in the rural areas. The 1992 survey used income as criterion, and guidelines were issued to assess the annual income of the family; the annual income cut-off was Rs 11,000 per household, below which all were poor in the 1997 survey the income criteria was dropped, since it was felt that there is always an inherent bias among the population to under-estimate income so as to be included in the target group.

BPL Survey for the Ninth Plan (1997-2002)

The procedure of conducting the BPL census was changed in substantial measure from that employed in 1992 (in the Eighth Five Year Plan) in three major ways. First, the criterion for determining the cut-off point was changed from income to consumption. Second, the concept of poverty line used in the census was changed from the household to person basis. Third, before administering the questionnaire to figure out the level of consumption of the household, a set of exclusion criteria was applied to summarily eliminate the ineligible families so that adequate time and space could be ensured to precisely estimate the level of consumption of the potentially poor families.

This methodology was criticised mainly due to the application of the exclusion criteria. The criticism was mainly articulated by the rich and powerful rural lobby, because the exclusion criteria

made it difficult for them to enter the list. Its removal must have facilitated their entry, as the NSSO 61st round data for 2004-05 shows that 16.8 per cent of the richest quintile and 30.5% of the next richest quintile possessed BPL cards.

BPL Census for the Tenth Plan (2002-07)

The Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group for identification of BPL households, which comprised professionals, academicians, senior bureaucrats and the State Government officials directly engaged in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas. The Expert Group recommended a methodology of Score Based Ranking of each household indicating their quality of life. Thirteen socio-economic indicators including size of land holding, type of house, availability of clothes, food security, sanitation, literacy, means of livelihood and indebtedness, reflecting the quality of life of the rural population, were identified to get an idea about the level of living of the families

Approach to BPL Census 2011

In view of the inadequacies pointed out by the State governments and others about the methodology followed in 2002 for identifying the poor, the Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr.N.C. Saxena, in August 2008, to recommend a more suitable methodology to identify the poor in the rural areas.

The Expert Group submitted its Report to the Government in August 2009. The Report of the Group was duly considered by the Government and the methodology for BPL Census 2011 was finalized.

Methodology of the SECC 2011(Rural)

The Census would be conducted by State Governments / UTs with the technical and financial

support of the MoRD. The Census would be based on a self-declaration model of the respondents. The enumerator/ data entry operator would record the declaration of the respondents and where he finds that the response is prima facie incorrect, he would record his observation separately in the space provided for in the enumeration form. The Supervisor would mandatorily visit some of these households and verify the veracity of the information. The supervisor would also monitor and randomly check the filled up questionnaires on a sample basis. The information would be verified and approved by the Gram Sabha. The procedures for filing claims and objections and its disposal were to be prescribed separately by the Ministry. The Ministry would also provide detailed guidelines for conducting survey and finalization of BPL list.

There was separate methodology of the SECC 2011 for urban area.

The SECC 2011 is being carried out by the respective State/UT governments with the technical and financial support of the Government of India and the notifications to be issued by the prescribed authorities in the gazette. Some of the important

responsibilities of the States/UTs are the setting up and running charge centers ;appointment and training of enumerators/ supervisors/ charge officers / census staff; conducting of enumeration and supervisory verification; draft publications, claims and objections; quality check of data and finalize household lists based on various criteria.

The entire gamut of activities of SECC 2011 is envisaged and executed in an e-governance mode. For each stage of specific activity separate software is developed and put in use.

The efficient and successful execution of poverty alleviation programmes calls for a vivid understanding by of the various concepts and methodologies used in poverty identification surveys and censuses. The involvement of local people in arriving at own poverty status and in devising schemes and projects through democratic decentralised development calls for strengthening of local e-governance initiatives. The introduction of e-governance modules at estimation and in arriving at eligible target population for poverty alleviation has come to stay .

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