

Guidelines /Criteria for selection of AAY beneficiaries:

Category (i) consists of such individuals who have not been identified by the State Government or those who are unable/unaware of the process of application to procure ration card. It may also be pointed out that since a majority of people under this category are illiterate, they are completely oblivious to beneficial schemes initiated by the Central/State Government.

Category (ii) most consist of old-age people, mentally/physically differently-abled persons, homeless people and children, who have been either deserted by their family members or devoid of companionship of any other surviving family member and are unable to cater to their needs themselves. It was observed that most of the elderly people falling under the said category were not receiving old age pension. Households headed by widows were also not receiving widow pension as they have not been appropriately identified by the State Government.

It was further observed by the committee that in these backward/poorest districts, in each Panchayat, roughly 6-8 families would fall under the above mentioned categories (i) and (ii)

Government of India Order No.6(5)/2005-PD I dated 12-05-2005, provided the following criteria to identify the households falling under the AAY scheme:-

- a) Landless agricultural labourers,
- b) Marginal Farmers,
- c) Rural artisans/craftsmen,
- d) Slum dwellers and,
- e) Person earning their livelihood on a daily basis in the informal sector in both rural and urban areas,
- f) Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons/disabled persons/persons aged 60 or more having no assured means of subsistence or societal support,
- g) Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 or more, single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence,
- h) All primitive tribal households, and
- i) Eligible BPL families of HIV positive persons.

To address the issue of isolated cases belonging to categories (i) and (ii), it is suggested by the Committee that poor households which fall under the Antodaya Anna Yojana Scheme but have not been properly identified by the State Government, shall be provided with AAY cards urgently.

Guidelines /Criteria for selection of PHH beneficiaries: All economically weaker households not included under sub rule (i) of rule 6, shall be included under Priority Households (PHH) on the following ground.

- (a) the households shall not have any member in the regular service of State Government/Central Government/Public Sector Undertaking/Army etc;
- (b) the households shall not have any retired Government Servant as member of their family;
- (c) the household shall not have any member in the work-charge service in State Government/Central Government/Public Sector undertaking etc;
- (d) the household shall not own a taxi or private vehicle in the name of any of the family member;
- (e) the household shall not own pucca house (Chief Minister's Rural Housing Scheme & REDRH houses are excluded)
- (f) the household shall not be earning house rent more than 10 (ten) thousand.
- (g) The household shall not have any member enlisted as government contractor in class I, IA, II and III categories with sound socio-economic backgrounds;
- (h) The household shall not possess more than 2.5 acre of cultivable land or 5 acres of barren land;
- (i) The household shall not have agriculture/floriculture/animal husbandry related commercial ventures earning more than 1.20 lakhs per annum from any other source;
- (j) All selected households shall possess either of the following documents;
 - (i) Sikkim Subject Certificate (SSC);
 - (ii) Certificate of Identification (COI) Khatiyan, Parcha,
 - (iii) Voter Identity card issued by the Sikkim Election Department, Government of Sikkim,
 - (iv) Ration card surrender certificate issued by the Food and Civil Supplies Department of the respective State Government, in case the applicant beneficiary is from outside the State.

- The process of identification shall lay that all such persons who do not fulfill the parameters for the exclusion criteria shall automatically be included in the priority category.
- Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules and the NFS Act, and subject to provision thereof, the State Government may from time to time prescribe criteria for exclusion of households for entitlements under section 3 of the Act.