

Mechanism for selecting beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu Rural Housing Scheme

Introduction:

In 2011, the Government of Tamil Nadu launched its flagship scheme on rural housing called the 'Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme – CMSPGHS'. It is a 100 percent State sponsored scheme which aims at providing Solar Powered Green House for the poor living "Below Poverty Line" in rural areas.

Background:

The scheme was introduced to provide solar powered lightening houses to the poor population in rural areas to address shelter needs across the State of Tamil Nadu. Each house unit would have 300 square feet and cost Rs. 1.80 lakh. The target was to construct 60,000 houses under the project annually during the five financial years commencing on FY 2011-12.

Details of the Intervention:

Mode of Selection of Beneficiaries

A permanent waiting list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) for each Village Panchayat was drawn and the poorest of the poor were selected. While preparing the list of beneficiaries, priority was given to persons with disabilities, widows, destitute and deserted women, women headed families, transgender, HIV/AIDS/TB affected who were certified by the Deputy Director (Health Services) concerned and victims of natural calamities such as fire, flood, etc. Priority was also given to households having a mentally challenged person in the family.

Any eligible poor person whose name was not in the BPL list could apply to the Block Development Officer and an Assistant Director level officer of RD&PR Department verified the fact and with the concurrence of District Collector, his name could have been included in the BPL list and approval of Gram Sabha was obtained for the same. In the event of inclusion, his/her name became a part of the permanent wait list and considered for selection accordingly. The Village Panchayat drew a list of eligible beneficiaries living below poverty line under this scheme and placed it before the Gram Sabha for its approval.

Selection of the Beneficiaries

From the list of eligible beneficiaries, a Committee comprising of Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats), Deputy Block Development Officer and Village Panchayat President concerned selected the genuine BPL beneficiary as per guidelines and the final list of selected beneficiaries identified by the Committee was placed before the Gram Sabha for its approval.

Impact:

The scheme was flexible in its approach for selection of beneficiaries. The Gram Sabha had the ultimate power to furnish the final list of eligible beneficiaries. In this regard the scheme differed from PMAY-G and gave space to eligible non-beneficiaries to get houses.

Source: Retrieved from https://tnrd.gov.in/schemes/st_cmspghs.php. Accessed on 29/06/2020.