

# Preparing proper BPL list a big challenge: Sudesh

## SUGGESTION Gram Sabhas should make development plans, says the deputy CM

HT Correspondent

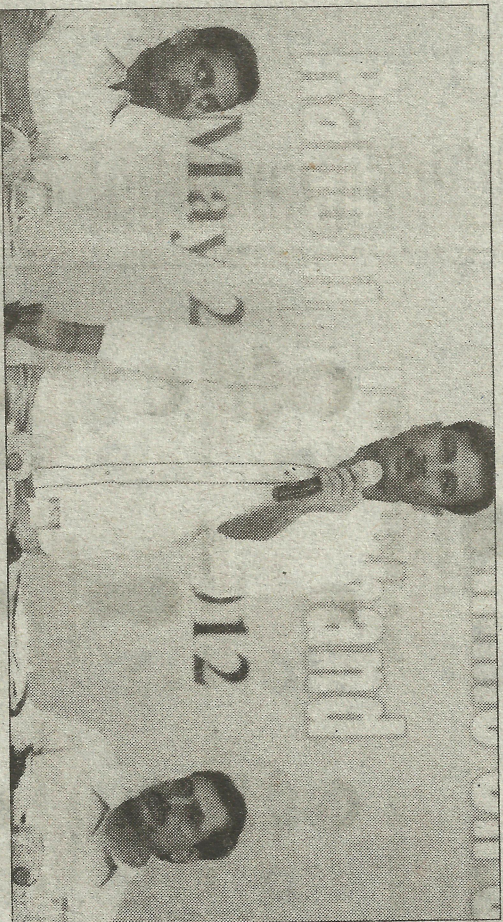
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**RANCHI:** Deputy chief minister Sudesh Mahito has said there are lots of challenges in preparing a proper Below Poverty Line (BPL) list in Jharkhand.

Mahito, who was addressing the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on 'Media Capacity Building' on Monday, said several poor families in the state are still not on the BPL list. Their names have not been raised either by the Gram Sabhas or by themselves in any village-level meeting.

"We talk about strengthening Gram Sabhas. But, many a times Gram Sabhas do not have the courage to remove the name of a family which doesn't deserve to be on the BPL list. One reason may be that the family is powerful. So, the needy do not get a place on the list," Mahato said.

He said BPL cards are a big issue in every village in Jharkhand. "The Centre should



**Deputy chief minister Sudesh Mahito (centre) addresses a media capacity building workshop in Ranchi on Monday.**

PARVAZ KHAN/HT PHOTO

hire an independent agency for preparing a fresh BPL list," the deputy chief minister said.

He, however, appreciated the ongoing socio-economic caste census (SECCS). "We expect the census to help in identifying

actual BPL families in the state,"

Mahito said.

The deputy chief minister, however, advocated for strengthening Gram Sabhas for reforms in the rural economy. "I believe development

schemes should not be enforced forcefully. There are lots of centrally-sponsored schemes, which do not help in development of the villages in Jharkhand, as the geographical demands are different here. So,

the responsibility of preparing plans should be given to gram sabhas for proper development," Mahato said.

He also said that the rural bodies should also be given the monitoring authority. "A rural body could monitor the implementation of developmental schemes more efficiently. This way could realise Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Gram Swaraj," he said.

He also advocated women's participation in local bodies. "We are ensuring that 30% members in Gram Sabhas are women so that their views should also be incorporated in planning," Mahato said.

The workshop was organised by Inclusive Media for Change (ImChange), a media resource centre on India's rural crisis.

Dr Vipul Mudgal from ImChange, Avinash Kumar secretary planning and development and other dignitaries Sunder N Mishra and TR Raghunandan, Prof Ramesh Sharan and Sudhir Pal addressed the workshop on media.