

Distribution of Waste Land

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*1850. { **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for distribution of culturable waste land among the landless agricultural labour in India for inclusion in the Third Five Year Plan Programme is under the consideration of Government of India; and

(b) if so, full details of the proposal?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). Distribution of culturable waste lands has been one of the programme undertaken during the First and Second Five Year Plans for the benefit of landless agricultural workers. Since 1951 about 7.8 million acres of culturable waste lands have been distributed in the various States. The programme will be carried further under the Third Plan.

The Planning Commission has, however, under consideration a proposal, put forward by a special sub-committee of its Land Reform Panel, for distribution of 50 lakh acres of land to 7 lakh families of landless agricultural workers. This would consist of culturable waste lands, Bhoodan and Gramdan lands and surplus lands above the ceiling limit.

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: In view of the fact that the policy of the Government is to switch over to co-operative farming, may I know whether these newly reclaimed land will be allotted to individual farmers or to co-operative societies? May I also know what is the minimum or optimum acreage that has been fixed for these co-operative societies?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Co-operative farming is also contemplated in certain circumstances.

Shri Kodiyan: From the statement I find that so far 7.8 million acres have already been distributed. I want to know where this land has been distributed? I want to know whether it has been distributed to agricultural labour or to co-operative societies. I also want to know the state-wise break-up of distribution of this land.

Shri S. N. Mishra: I have not been able to get the full question.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know where these 7.8 million acres were distributed, whether to individual farmers or to co-operative societies. He also wants to have a statement of the break-up of this over the various States.

Shri S. N. Mishra: The break-up is not yet available with the Planning Commission. If it is the desire of the House, we shall supply that information.

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: It is just a matter of policy of the Government. It is a policy that is likely to be pursued by the Government. I want to know whether the newly acquired land is likely to be allotted to individual farmers or whether Government propose to give it to co-operative societies. There is no question of any break-up, whatsoever.

Shri S. N. Mishra: As I tried to explain, that depends upon the circumstances. By 'circumstances' I mean, that in some areas the land may be in compact blocks where it would be possible to have co-operative societies, and at other places it may be that the land is available in small bits and there it may be somewhat difficult to have co-operative farms. It all depends upon the circumstances.

Shri Thirumala Rao: In view of the fact that one of the members of the Planning Commission made a policy statement recently that landless labour will be given the surplus land in the country, does the Planning Commission co-ordinate with the Community Development Ministry in implementing this plan; if so, may I know to what extent?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Recently the Central Advisory Committee on Agricultural Labour has been formed, and probably the hon. Member is referring to the statement made by the Member, Agriculture, Planning Commission in that Central Advisory Committee. The function of the Central Advisory Committee is to co-ordinate the activities dispersed in different ministries relating to Agricultural labour.

12.00 hrs.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether in the matter of distribution of culturable waste lands priority will be given to co-operative farming societies formed by members belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Yes, Sir.

Shri Tyagi: As there are already quite a lot of uneconomic holdings in the country, which is resulting in waste of resources, will the Government see to it that no new uneconomic holdings are created?

Shri S. N. Mishra: That is an important consideration to be kept in mind.

Shri K. N. Pande: The hon. Minister has referred to the advisory committee. Is it a fact that the advisory committee decided to give lands to co-operative societies of landless workers instead of to individuals?

Shri S. N. Mishra: The hon. Member is a member of that committee. So, he would be in a better position to know that. I did not happen to be present in that committee's meeting. I cannot say that there has been a recommendation of this kind that co-operative societies should be formed in every case; I do not think so.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know the total available cultivable and culturable waste land in India for distribution?

Shri S. N. Mishra: On a very rough estimate, out of 98 million acres of

waste land, the cultivable waste land seems to be of the order of 54 million acres.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितनी ऐसी जमीन है जो कि कंटेड है और जहाँ पर कोऑपरेटिव फार्मिंग नहीं हो सकती है। यहाँ पर कितने कितने एकड़ एक किसान को आप देते हैं ?

श्री श्या० न० मिश्र : इसके लिये तो मैंने आज किया कि बहुत सों जगहों में बहुत छोटी छोटी इकाइयाँ हैं, छोटी छोटी जॉतें हैं और उनके बारे में क्या किया जायेगा, यह सब व्यावहारिक बातें हैं, जिन पर आगे और विचार किया जायेगा।

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: A part of my question has already been answered. When lands are giving to the co-operative societies, what is the proportion of land allotted per individual?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I would submit that it all depends upon circumstances. These are matters of detail, and these matters of detail would be decided, in most cases, by the State Governments. Of course, the Central Advisory Committee will have a say in the matter.

Shri Yajnik: May I know the time that will be taken for distribution of available waste land among the landless labour?

Shri S. N. Mishra: It is going to be a long process and, if everything goes on well, by the end of the Third Plan we will have distributed about 13 million acres of all kinds of land.

Mr. Speaker: Now the question hour is over.

Shri Hem Barua: I have sent you a note about Question No. 1853.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will notice that I have observed earlier that if hon. Members feel a certain question is important and should be taken up, they may send me a slip.

Shri Hem Barua: I have sent the slip.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Hem Barua wanted me to take up question No. 1853. But I find that some other questions are more important. Of course, he sends word to me on the basis of what he considers important. But I weighed the relative importance and then found that the question of distribution of waste lands is one in which the whole House is interested. Therefore, I allowed that question to be put. I do not extend time merely because an hon. Member has written to me to take up a question. If there is time before 12 O'Clock, I allow that question priority over other questions; but I do not allow it to be taken up after 12 O'Clock. Now 12 O'Clock is over. We will take up the Short Notice Question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Recovery of Loans from Displaced Persons in West Bengal

S.N.Q. 15. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news appearing in *Statesman* dated 22nd April, 1961 conveying that the realisation from the displaced persons in West Bengal given loans out of Central Government Funds through the West Bengal Government has been to the extent of 4 per cent only so far;

(b) if so, what is the total amount invested by the Central Government and the total amount due by this time;

(c) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government has not been made responsible and does not share the loss in their loan, when other State Governments shared 50-50 loss when loans were being given to West Pakistan displaced persons; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to realise the amounts due?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes.

(b) The amount of loans advanced by the Central Government to the West Bengal Government up to 31st March, 1961 is Rs. 54.10 crores and the amount due for repayment on the said date was Rs. 28.79 crores. The amount recovered, however, is only Rs. 1.63 crores.

(c) (i) The losses in respect of loans advanced by the Government of India to all the State Governments for rehabilitation of displaced persons from East Pakistan are:—

(a) to be shared equally between the Central and the State Governments concerned in respect of displaced persons who migrated from East Pakistan before 1st January, 1950; and

(b) to be entirely borne by the Government of India in respect of displaced persons who migrated on or after 1st January, 1950.

(ii) As regards the displaced persons from West Pakistan all losses in respect of loans advanced by the Government of India to the State Governments for their rehabilitation are to be shared equally between the Government of India and the State Governments concerned, irrespective of their date of migration, except to the small extent modified under recommendation of the Second Finance Commission.

(d) Government of India had agreed to bear all *bonafide* losses in the recovery of loans in view of the inadequate financial resources of the State Governments concerned.

The question of recovery of loans has recently been reviewed by the Government of India in consultation with the Government of West Bengal, The State Government have agreed to take effective steps to recover the dues. The States Government have also agreed to issue appropriate instructions to their District officers