

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:458
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2005
DISTRIBUTION OF WASTELAND AMONGST POOR
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether distribution of wasteland has been one of the key strategies of land reforms in the country;
- (b) if so, the policy framed by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the States are not following any uniform policy while distributing the wasteland to the rural poor;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the instructions issued by the Government to various States; and
- (e) the extent to which the rural poor, including farmers, have been or are being benefited by the said policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (e) Land and its management come under the jurisdiction of the State Government as provided under Entry No. 18 of the List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The Government of India plays an advisory and coordinating role in the field of land distribution. Distribution of Government wasteland has been one of the key strategies of land reforms in the country. It has been the accepted Policy of the Central Government that wastelands at the disposal of the State Governments should be distributed amongst eligible rural poor. The State Governments have been advised to speed up the allotment of Government wastelands and to take effective measures towards removing bottlenecks hampering the pace of distribution. There is no uniform pattern of distribution of Government wastelands in all the States/Union Territories of the country. So far, an area of 59.70 lakh hectares of Government wastelands have been distributed amongst landless rural poor. State-wise details of distribution are given in Annexure.