

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2352
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2008
COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORMS
Rajendran Shri P.;Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted five sub-groups under the Committee on the Agrarian Reforms to work on various aspects of the land reforms policy; and

(b) if so, the terms of reference thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b): As per the terms of reference of the "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms", in the first meeting of the Committee, held under the chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development on 19.2.2008, it was decided to set up seven Sub-groups with the following topics/terms of reference:

Sub-groups ToR/topics assigned

Sub-group I To conduct in-depth review of the land ceiling programme in the country including status of distribution of land declared surplus, continued possession by the rural poor of the allotted land and expeditious disposal of land declared surplus but held up due to litigation and to suggest appropriate and effective strategies in this regard.

To suggest ways for identification, management, development and distribution of Government/wasteland to the landless.

To review the progress of distribution of Bhoodan and Gramdan land in the States and suggest measures for distribution of the remaining Bhoodan/Gramdan land to the landless.

Sub-group II To examine the issues of tenancy and sub-tenancies and suggest measures for recording of all agricultural tenants and a framework to enable cultivators of land to lease in and lease out with suitable assurances for fair rent, security of tenure and right to resumption.

To examine the issues related to homestead rights and recommend measures for providing land for housing to the families without homestead land and providing approach roads / connectivity for the habitations / homesteads of the poorer or weaker sections.

Sub-group III To examine the governance issues and convergence of policies relating to land and suggest institutional mechanisms including role of PRIs and PESA for effective implementation of land reform programmes.

To examine measures to provide women greater access to, and due rights in, land and other productive assets.

To examine the issue of setting up of fast track courts/mechanism for speedy disposal of land-related litigation cases.

To examine the issues related to environmental/ecological factors in relation to land and suggest appropriate measures in that regard.

Sub-group IV To examine the issues relating to alienation of lands belonging to the Scheduled Castes or tribal lands including traditional rights of the forest-dependent tribals and other traditional forest dwellers, and to suggest realistic measures including changes required in the relevant laws for restoration of such lands to them.

To examine the issues related to alienation due to market forces of the lands belonging to the poorer or weaker sections and to suggest appropriate ameliorative measures in this regard

Sub-group V To suggest measures for modernization of land management with special referenc to updating of land records, proper recording of land rights and speedy resolution of conflicts and disputes relating to land.

Sub-group VI To ensure access of the poor to common property and forest resources.

To look into the land use aspects, particularly of agricultural land, and recommend measures to prevent/minimize conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, consistent with the development needs of the country.

Sub-group VII To study the systems of Land Management in the North-East and recommen appropriate measures in relation to them.