

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3687
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010
LAND TITLES TO LOW INCOME GROUPS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting of the State Chief Secretaries has been held in January, 2010 to discuss various issues including the right to land;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the issues discussed therein;
- (c) the outcome of the said meeting;
- (d) whether the Union Government has urged the State Governments to hand over the Pattas(land titles) to low income groups in order to give a fillip to housing activities in the country especially in the rural areas;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reaction of the State Governments on the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) to (c) : Yes Sir. A two day Conference of Chief Secretaries of States/Union Territories was held on 1st & 2nd February, 2010 in New Delhi for exchange of views between the Centre and State/Union Territories on global developments that have a bearing on the country as a whole and also on internal matters that concern the State/UT Governments. The following issues inter-alia were discussed in the Conference:-

- (i) Latest Trends in Technology.
- (ii) Emerging Global Challenges & Opportunities.
- (iii) Internal Trade Outlook.
- (iv) UID Mission.
- (v) Climate Change and National Action Plan on Climate Change
- (vi) Key Security Concerns and the Role of State Governments.

(d) to (f) A scheme has been launched for providing homestead sites to the rural poor for construction of a house. The guidelines of this scheme provide that in the first instance, the State Government will regularize the land as a homestead site if it is presently occupied by a BPL household and if regularization is permissible as per the existing acts and rules. If this not the case, State Government will allot suitable Government land as homestead site to the eligible BPL household. The Government land includes community land (gocher etc.), land belonging to panchayats or other local authorities.

In case suitable Government land is not available for allotment as homestead sites, private land may be purchased or acquired for this purpose. Financial assistance of Rs.10,000/- per beneficiary or actual, whichever is less, is provided for purchase/acquisition of a homestead site of an area around 100-250 sq.mt. which is shared by Centre and States in the ratio of 50:50 while in the case of Union Territories Central Government funds 100%. The State Governments are also incentivized by allocating additional funds under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) to the extent beneficiaries are provided with homestead site by way of regularization, allotment or purchase/acquisition. The response of the State Governments to these guidelines, is positive. Rs.157 crore have since been released to five States viz. Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Sikkim for purchase/acquisition of land. As an incentive, Rs.43.51 core have been released to the Government of Gujarat for construction of additional 33154 houses.