

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3813
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010
BENEFITS OF LAND REFORMS TO TRIBALS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pending cases relating to allotment of land to tribals in each State of the country as on date despite the prescribed provisions under the Traditional Forests Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 meant for the purpose;
- (b) the reasons for their pendency;
- (c) whether the expert committee constituted by the Government on land reforms in its report has also highlighted injustice to tribals and this problems as the root causes of rising trend of naxalism in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the effective steps taken by the Government to ensure benefits of land reforms/related laws to tribals?

Answer

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

(a) to (b) : The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act ,2006 seeks to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. Regarding allotment of Land to tribals, land and its management falls within the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the respective States as provided under Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in the field of land reforms is only of an advisory and co-ordinating nature. However, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested from time to time for effective implementation of land reform programmes/schemes including distribution of ceiling surplus land to the eligible rural poor. As per information received from the States/UTs, on implementation of land ceiling laws, as on 30.9.2009, an area of 69.93 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 61.40 lakh acres has been taken possession of, and 50.03 lakh acres has been distributed to 56.43 lakh beneficiaries. Out of the total 50.03 lakh acres distributed, 18.60 lakh acres, 7.88 lakh acres and 23.55 lakh acres has been distributed to SCs, STs and other beneficiaries respectively. State ? wise details including area and cases pending is enclosed at Annexure.

(c) to (e) : With a view to looking into the unfinished task in Land Reforms, a Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development was constituted vide Resolution dated 9.1.2008. The terms of reference of the committee, inter-alia, included in-depth review/examination of issues related to land ceiling programme, access of the poor to common property resources, distribution of Bhoodan land in the States, tenancy and sub-tenancies, alienation of tribal lands,land use aspects, homestead rights, modernization of land management, effective implementation of land reform programmes etc. The Committee has submitted its report.