

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3164

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010

LAND REFORMS

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the expert committee on the land reforms has given recommendations regarding reasons for growing naxalism in some State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether taking cognisance of the report, the Union Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any action plan to implement land reforms in the tribal areas and to provide benefits of the land reforms to the tribal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of cases of land allocation lying pending in spite of the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 being enforced in the country,
- (f) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to dispose of the pending cases immediately;
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (h) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments to ensure the benefits of land reforms to the tribal people; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof along with effective steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure benefits of land reforms/related laws to tribals?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): 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' was constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development vide Resolution dated 9.1.2008. The terms of reference of the Committee, inter-alia, included in-depth review of the 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 land, land use aspects, homestead rights, modernization of land management, institutional mechanism effective implementation of land reform programmes etc. The Committee has submitted its report, and has made recommendations on various aspects of Land Reforms. The report of the Committee is to be placed before the 'National Council for Land Reforms' constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister for its consideration and directions. However, it has been decided that the recommendations of the Committee may be examined by an appropriate Committee of Secretaries (CoS) before these are placed for consideration of the 'National Council for Land Reforms'. Accordingly, the recommendations are being examined by the CoS. Five meetings of the CoS have been held so far and examination of all the recommendations by the CoS is likely to take some more time. Accordingly, further action on the recommendations would be taken as per decision of the CoS/National Council for Land Reforms.

(e) to (g): 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. The Act does not deal with the cases of land allocation.

(h) & (i): Land and its management falls within the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the 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, implementation of Land Reforms Programme is reviewed from time to time at various fora including Conferences of Revenue Ministers and Revenue Secretaries of the States/UTs organized by the Ministry of Rural Development. 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, prevention of alienation of tribal land and

restoration of alienated land etc.

As per information received from the States/UTs, on implementation of land ceiling laws, as on 30.6.2010, an area of 69.99 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 61.46 lakh acres has been taken possession of and 50.20 lakh acres has been distributed to 56.57 lakh beneficiaries. Out of the total 50.20 lakh acres distributed, 18.61 lakh acres, 7.91 lakh acres and 23.68 lakh acres has been distributed to SCs, STs and other beneficiaries respectively.

Reports received from States indicate that 4.77 lakh cases of Tribal Land alienation have been registered covering 8.10 lakh acres of land of which 2.09 lakh cases have been disposed of in favour of tribals covering an area of 4.06 lakh acres.