GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:602 ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011 RESTORATION OF VILLAGE ROADS Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed all State Governments to prepare schemes for eviction of illegal occupants of village community land and restore them back to the village for use for which it was originally meant for;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has asked all States Governments for details of such village community land; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by State Governments thereon?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes Sir, The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 28th January,2011 in the case of Jagpal Singh & Ors. versus State of Punjab & Ors. has given directions to all the State Governments in the country that ?they should prepare schemes of eviction of illegal/unauthorized occupants of Gram Sabha/Gram Panchayat/Poramboke/Shamlat land and these must be restored to the Gram Sabha/Gram Panchayat for the common use of villagers of the village. For this purpose the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/Union Territories in India are directed to do the needful, taking the help of other senior officers of the Governments. The said scheme should provide for the speedy eviction of such illegal occupant, after giving him a show cause notice and a brief hearing. Long duration of such illegal occupation or huge expenditure in making constructions thereon or political connections must not be treated as a justification for condoning this illegal act or for regularizing the illegal possession. Regularization should only be permitted in exceptional cases e.g. where lease has been granted under some Government notification to land less labourers or members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, or where there is already a school, dispensary or other public utility on the land.

(c) &(d): Supreme Court of India has directed to all Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories in India to ensure strict and prompt compliance and submit their compliance reports on 3.5.2011 to the Court.