

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1145
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
RELOCATION OF SRI LANKAN TAMIL
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken with regard to relocation of Sri Lankan Tamil repatriates from the tribal area of Katchal and resettlement at Saithankari rubber plantation;
- (b) whether any action has been taken for allotment of land at Saithankari to the Sri Lankan repatriates;
- (c) if so, the time by which allotment is likely to be made;
- (d) whether any decision has been made in the meeting Chaired by the Lt. Governor on 9 July, 2003 to allot 1.50 hect. of land to each of the original repatriate families in Saithankari rubber plantation; and
- (e) if so, the action taken by the Administration?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) and (b): In order to relocate Sri Lankan Tamil repatriates from the Tribal area of Katchal and re-settlement at Saithankari rubber plantation, a survey of persons of Sri Lankan Tamil origin was carried out. In 2009, the Rubber Board conveyed their "No Objection" for transferring the land at Saithankari back to A&N Administration alongwith existing 77 work men already employed in the plantations and subject to the concurrence of Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The proposal also envisaged development of the plantation in a phased manner by re-planting on a cost sharing basis between the A&N Administration (50%) Rubber Board (43%) and the beneficiaries (7%) by way of labour. One more proposal to resettle them in South Andaman and North & Middle Andaman by locating an area of 98 hectare deemed forest land was also pursued.

(c): The options were taken up with the authorities concerned. In the meantime, the settlers filed a writ petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta sitting in circuit at Port Blair claiming for land and other issues. The matter is subjudice.

(d) and (e) : In a meeting held in Raj Niwas in 2003, it was decided that the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar and Director, Agriculture may formulate a definite package for the shifting the families to Saithankari and may plan an income generating scheme with suitable provisions for intercropping at least in the initial stage of plantations.