

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2176

ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012

LANDLESS FARMERS

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath; Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has recommended for provision of one acre of land to every landless farmer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has raised this matter with the State Governments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any study on the number and conditions of landless farmers in the country; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the concrete measures taken by the Government to improve the condition of such farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) to (d): National Commission on Farmers (NCF) recommended provision of one acre of land per household wherever feasible. The National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007, which was approved by the Government based on the recommendations of NCF and consultations with State Governments, provides for asset reforms to ensure that every farmer household in villages possesses and/or has access to productive assets like land, livestock, fishpond, homestead farm and/or income through an enterprise or market driven skills, so that the household income is increased substantially which, in turn, would ensure nutrition and livelihood security and their education and health requirements. The NPF, 2007 was circulated to all State Governments in December, 2007 for further suitable action.

(e) & (f): As per the Agriculture Census 2005-06, the estimated number of landless operational holders cultivating 'wholly leased-in' land or 'wholly otherwise operated' land in the country was 5,49,029 (excluding the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra). Programmes for distribution of ceiling surplus land, Government wastelands and Bhoodan land to the eligible rural poor are being implemented by the States. As per information received from States, as on 30.06.2011, 51.30 lakh acres of ceiling surplus land has been distributed to 56.86 lakh beneficiaries of whom 37.5% belong to the Scheduled Castes and 15.5% to the Scheduled Tribes. In addition, 153.22 lakh acres of Government wastelands and 16.67 lakh acres of bhoodan land have also been distributed to the eligible rural poor.

Other measures taken by Government in this regard include the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act 2008, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2006, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Indira Awaas Yojana, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana, National Old Age Pension Scheme, etc.