

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5537  
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012  
PUBLIC LAND BANK  
Mani Shri Jose K.;Patel Shri Devji

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware of reports which state that around ten per cent of rural households are landless and have to depend on informal leasing arrangements due to lack of uniform pricing system on lease of land for farming purposes;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has any plans of developing a public land bank to ensure land availability to disadvantaged groups;
- (c) if so, the progress made in developing a public land bank and the roadblocks, if any, being faced by the Government in implementing this scheme;
- (d) whether the Government has set any target for utilising large area of wasteland for cultivation in the country including Rajasthan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): According to the National Sample Survey Organisation's Report No.491 on 'Household Ownership Holdings in India,2003' based on the sixth nationwide Land and livestock Holdings Survey, about 10% of rural households were reported to be landless, i.e. owning land either nil or less than 0.002 hectare. However, the data regarding their dependence on informal leasing system is not being maintained in this Department.

(b) to (c): To look into the issues related to 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 Committee has submitted its report, and has made recommendations on Land Bank and various aspects of land reforms. The report of the Committee has been examined by an appropriate Committee of Secretaries (CoS) and the recommendations on the said report have been submitted to the Prime Minister's Office for consideration of the 'National Council for Land Reforms'.

(d) to (e): The Department of Land Resources has been implementing three area development programme viz., Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) , Desert Development Programme (DDP), and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), on watershed basis. These three programmes have now been integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called 'Integrated Watershed Management Programme'(IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. Under IWMP, watershed projects are implemented on rainfed/degraded lands in the country. The Department has not set any specific target for utilising the large area of wasteland for cultivation in the country (including Rajasthan). However under IWMP, the Department proposes to cover 25 million ha. area during the 12th Five year Plan. For 2012-13, the Department proposes to cover 5 million ha. area including Rajasthan under IWMP.