

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4225
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2012
BENEFITS OF LAND REFORMS TO TRIBALS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the expert committee constituted by the Government on Land reforms have submitted their report wherein the State Governments have been blamed for the rising naxalism as they have failed to provide justice to the tribals;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to take any fresh steps to accrue benefits of land reforms to the tribals of the country;
- (c) if so, whether cases regarding right to traditional land are lying pending despite allotment of land to tribals under Land Reforms Act, 2006;
- (d) if so, the number of such cases lying pending in the country;
- (e) whether the Government has issued guidelines to the States to ensure that the benefits of land reforms reach the tribals; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): With a view to looking into the various 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 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, 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 have been examined by the CoS. Now, further action on the recommendations would be taken as per decision of the National Council for Land Reforms.

(c) to (f): 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 31.3.2012, an area of 69.19 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 61.78 lakh acres has been taken possession of and 51.38 lakh acres has been distributed to 56.74 lakh beneficiaries. Out of the total 51.38 lakh acres distributed, 19.25 lakh acres, 7.96 lakh acres and 24.16 lakh acres has been distributed to SCs, STs and other beneficiaries respectively.

Reports received from States indicate that 4.37 lakh cases of Tribal Land alienation have been registered covering 6.61 lakh acres of land of which 2.17 lakh cases have been disposed of in favour of tribals covering an area of 4.12 lakh acres.