

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2251

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012

DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS LAND

Choudhry Smt. Shruti; Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a task force to look into the matter of land redistribution;
- (b) if so, the details along with its proposed functions thereof;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be set up;
- (d) whether against the potential ceiling surplus of 21 million hectares, only about 2.7 million hectares have so far been taken possession of and distributed to the needy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this direction?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA)

(a) to (c): Land and its management falls within the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the respective 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 coordinating nature. However, implementation of Land Reforms Programmes 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/UTs administration have been requested from time to time for distribution of ceiling surplus land to the eligible rural poor. This Department has constituted a Task Force on Land Reforms under the Chairmanship of Hon<sup>ble</sup> Minister of Rural Development on 22.10.2012. The term of reference of the Task Force inter-alia includes to suggest and recommend appropriate dialogue process with State Governments regarding giving statutory backing to (a) providing agricultural land to the landless poor in the backward districts (b) providing Homestead Rights to the landless & shelter less poor of rural area.

(d) & (e): As per information received from the States/UTs, on implementation of land ceiling laws, as on 30.6.2012, an area of 69.20 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 61.79 lakh acres area has been taken possession of and 51.40 lakh acres area has been distributed to 56.81 lakh beneficiaries. Out of the total 51.40 lakh acres area distributed, 19.26 lakh acres, 7.97 lakh acres area and 24.16 lakh acres area have been distributed to SCs, STs and other beneficiaries respectively.