

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4387

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014

LANDLESS PERSONS

Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has advised the State Governments to distribute the lands to landless poor throughout India;
- (b) if so, the details of the land and the number of people likely to be benefited thereby, State/UT-wise;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to prevent the cases of forcible acquisition of lands from adivasis, dalits and tribal people;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and social activists have been allowed to monitor the land distribution to these people; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LAL CHAND KATARIA)

(a) & (b): An agreement on land reforms was signed between the Ministry of Rural Development and Jan Satyagraha on 11th October, 2012 at Agra. As per the aforesaid agreement, this Department has constituted a Task Force on Land Reforms under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development. Two meetings have been held with the members of the Task Force on Land Reforms under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development on 26th November, 2012 and 26th February, 2013. As a follow up of the aforesaid meetings, the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development has issued two Advisories on Land Reforms to the Chief Ministers of various States. The First Advisory lists measures to provide free legal assistance to the poor by establishing community based paralegal programmes. The Second Advisory relates to specific issues concerning access to land for the poor that need resolution within the concerned State.

(c) & (d) The Central Government has enacted the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 which came into force with effect from 01.01.2014. Section 41(3) of the Act provides that 'In case of acquisition or alienation of any land in the Scheduled Areas, the prior consent of the concerned Gram Sabha or the Panchayats or the autonomous District Councils at the appropriate level in Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution, as the case may be, shall be obtained, in all cases of land acquisition in such areas, including acquisition in case of urgency, before issue of a notification under this Act, or any other Central Act or a State Act for the time being in force:

Provided that the consent of the Panchayats or the Autonomous Districts Councils shall be obtained in cases where the Gram Sabha does not exist or has not been constituted.'

(e) & (f) Land and its management falls under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the States as provided in Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. Therefore, monitoring of land distribution is the jurisdiction of States/UTs.