

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE
OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(1977-78)**

(SIXTH LOK SABHA)

FIRST REPORT

**Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation
(Department of Agriculture)**

**Allotment of land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled
Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi.**

Presented in Lok Sabha on

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES.

(1977-78)

*Shri Ram Dhan—*Chairman*

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20. Shri Bhausaheb Thorat

Rajya Sabha

21. Prof. N. M. Kamble
22. Shrimati Saroj Khaparde

*Proceeded abroad on the 23rd September, 1977.

**Ceased to be Members of the Committee on their appointment as Ministers of State w.e.f. the 14th August, 1977.

†Appointed by the Speaker as Chairman with effect from the 23rd September, 1977 during the absence of Shri Ram Dhan, proceeded abroad.

23. Shri S. Kumaran
24. Shri P. K. Kunjachen
25. Shri Yogendra Makwana
26. Shri Bhaiya Ram Munda
27. Shri Parbhu Singh
28. Shri V. C. Kesava Rao
29. Shri Leonard Soloman Saring
30. Shri Mahendra Bahadur Singh

SECRETARIAT

Shri Y. Sahai—*Chief Legislative Committee Officer.*

Shri H. L. Malhotra—*Senior Legislative Committee Officer.*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this First Report (Sixth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture)—Allotment of land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi.

2. The Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (1976-77) (Fifth Lok Sabha) took evidence of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture) and adopted this Report on the 29th November, 1976. That Committee, however, could not present the Report to the Houses of Parliament due to the sudden dissolution of Lok Sabha on the 18th January, 1977.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee (1977-78) on the 23rd August, 1977.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Secretary/Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture) for placing before the Committee material and information they wanted in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. A summary of conclusions/recommendations contained in that Report is at the Appendix.

SURAJ BHAN,

Chairman,

NEW DELHI;

November, 4 1977.

Kartika 13, 1889 (S).

*Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes.*

A. INTRODUCTORY

1. Land has always played an important role in the economic and social position of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Quite a sizeable number of them work as landless agricultural labourers. Some Scheduled Tribe persons supplement their income by collection of minor forest produce, etc. It is on account of landlessness, small holdings and primitive methods of cultivation that their poverty is aggravated. The lot of landless agricultural labourers has long been neglected and wage disputes are frequently the cause of violent clashes between the labourers and landlords. The small agriculturists belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are generally victims of exploitation at the hands of village money-lenders and petty traders, because during lean seasons of the year they have to borrow money from these people to save their family members from hunger and to purchase necessary agricultural inputs.

2. There have been complaints that the work of distribution of land is not being done in a proper manner on account of obstacles created by the vested interests. Though priorities have been accorded to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the allotment of land for cultivation by the various State Governments, it cannot be said with certainty whether these priorities are really kept in view while making actual allotments of land in the rural areas.

3. While the matter regarding allotment of land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes comes within the purview of the State Governments, the Central Government have to lay down broad policies and see that within the framework of the policies so laid down, benefits do accrue to the weaker sections of the people. The Central Government also have a special responsibility in regard to the allotment of land in the Union Territory of Delhi.

4. In the succeeding paragraphs the Committee will discuss the land reforms and the allotment of land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi.

B. AVAILABILITY OF LAND IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF DELHI FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

5. It has been stated that the total acreage of cultivable land available in the Union Territory of Delhi is 1.80 lakh Acres. The surplus land available for allotment in five blocks of the Union Territory of Delhi is stated to be as under:—

	Acres
Shahdra Block	584
Mehrauli Block	193
Najafgarh Block	7430
Alipur Block	1103
Nangloi Block	1440
TOTAL	10750

6. The cultivable land allotted to Harijans and landless persons in the Union Territory of Delhi during the years 1974-75 and 1975-76 in the above five blocks is as follows:—

Sl. No.	1974-75			1975-76		
	Harijans	Others	Total	Harijans	Others	Total
	(Families)			(Families)		
1. Shahdra]	14	..	14			
2. Mehrauli	46	40	86			
3. Alipur	69	44	113			
4. Najafgarh	93	62	155
5. Nangloi	511	363	874
TOTAL	222	146	368			

7. It has been stated in a written note furnished to the Committee that prior to April 1973, there was no systematic and planned allot-

ment by panchayats. Sporadic allotment was made by Panchayats. During the years 1970—73, 1330 acres of land were allotted, and during the years 1973—75 allotment was 1131 acres. The Panchayats, however, took adequate interest in allotment of land after 25th June, 1975, i.e. the Proclamation of Emergency. The allotment figures during the period 25th June to 26th February, 1976 are as under:—

Harijans	Others	Total	Total acreage
1713	1129	2842 (Plots)	2442

8. It was further stated that the total acreage of cultivable land allotted to landless persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and others during the last three years is as under:—

FAMILIES

	Harijans	Others	Total
1973-74	501	262	763
1974-75	222	146	368
1975-76 (Upto Feb. 1976)	1713	1129	2842

During the last three years, the total acreage of cultivable land allotted to landless persons was 3573 acres out of which 2325 acres (approximately) was allotted to Harijans.

9. In a written note furnished to the Committee, it has been stated:

“The community purpose lands vest in gaon panchayats. The panchayats had passed resolutions making allotment of land to the landless by November, 1975. However, the possession to the allottees could not be given as per resolutions owing to certain practical difficulties.

The target is to distribute 4,000 acres of agricultural land during 1975-76. Another 1,000 acres of land would be distributed after the consolidation work is over in various villages of Union Territory of Delhi. As far as land under encroachment, (approximately 3,000 acres) is concerned,

the same would also be allotted after clearance of encroachments."

10. In regard to the Gaon Sabha land, it has been stated that presently the total available Gaon Sabha land under the management of the Development Department of Delhi Administration for distribution to landless persons in the rural areas of the Union Territory of Delhi is 1881 acres. The total number of landless persons to whom such land has to be distributed is 2329. Out of these, 1881 landless persons will be allotted land shortly and the remaining 448 persons will be allotted as soon as encroachments on Gaon Sabha land are removed. Out of the total of 2329 landless persons, 1295 persons belong to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes.

11. The total acreage of cultivable land which is not being cultivated at present in the Union Territory of Delhi as per 1973-74 census is 42,561 acres. The latest figure is being compiled.

12. In a note furnished to the Committee, it has been stated that no survey has so far been conducted to assess the total land available for procurement in the Union Territory of Delhi, and the same will be got assessed by 30th June, 1976.

13. It has been stated that in the Delhi Administration, the Assistant Development Commissioner (Panchayat) and Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) are responsible for the allotment of land to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

14. When asked about the machinery available with the Government to collect and collate the information regarding the allotment of land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi and the information regarding the lands held by any land-owner at different places in the Union Territory of Delhi, it has been stated in a written note furnished to the Committee that the data regarding the allotment of land to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are provided by the Director of Panchayats because the allotment of Gaon Sabha land is done by the Pradhan of the village under his supervision. However, if the allotment of land is referred to the Revenue Department for recording its possession in the revenue records the information can be had by the Revenue Department also. So far as the land held by the Scheduled Castes and land-owners is concerned the information can be gathered through the village patwaris.

15. In reply to a question whether the Delhi Administration has set up District, Taluka or Block Level Committees for speedy allot-

ment of surplus land, it has been stated that to gear up the mechanism for distribution of land, a two tier arrangement has been made i.e. Panchayat allotment Committee which consists of the following:—

- (1) Pradhan of Gram Panchayat
- (2) Patwari of the village
- (3) Panchayat Secretary
- (4) One representative of landless labourers to be nominated by the Block Development Officer.
- (5) One representative of Harijans to be nominated by Block Development Officer.
- (6) One extra member of Gram Panchayat to be nominated by the Chairman of the Block Panchayat Samiti.

16. Those allotments, where there is disagreement and no scope of amicable settlement, will be referred to Block Development Officer who will function as the member Secretary of the Block Allotment Committee, which consists of the following:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| (1) Chairman Block Panchayat Samiti | Chairman |
| (2) Block Development Officer | Member Secretary |
| (3) Two Pradhans to be nominated by the Chairman Block Panchayat Samiti in consultation with Block Development Officers | Member |
| (4) Block Panchayat Inspector. | Member |

Such disputes as involve policy matters or cannot be settled even at the Block level will be referred to the Director of Panchayats, who will obtain orders of the higher authorities, wherever necessary.

17. When asked, whether the District Taluka or Block Level Committees set up, for allotment of surplus land, also include members belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it has been stated that in the Village Level Committee one representative of the Scheduled Caste Community is included.

18. The Committee regret to note that the Delhi Administration has not so far conducted any survey to assess the total land available for procurement and allotment to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe landless persons in the Union Territory of Delhi. The

Committee need hardly stress the importance of conducting such a survey before formulating any scheme for procurement and distribution of land to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe landless persons. The Committee, therefore, urge that such a survey should be conducted immediately.

19. The Committee recommend that land reform tribunals should be set up to determine the quantum of surplus land available for procurement in the Union Territory of Delhi. Such Tribunal should verify the return of each land owner on the spot by visits to villages and talks with the local officials, tenants and landless persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

20. The Committee also recommend that the appearance of pleaders in such tribunals should be banned and appeals should be decided within a period of six months.

21. The Committee was informed during the course of evidence that the target of distributing 4000 acres of agricultural land was fixed for the year 1975-76. The Committee hope that the target has since been achieved.

22. From the figures made available to the Committee, it appears that the tempo of allotment of land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi never gathered significant momentum. During the period June, 1975 to February, 1976 as many as 1713 acres of land were allotted to Scheduled Castes whereas during the year 1972-73, 1313 acres of land were allotted. During 1973-74, the allotment was to the extent of 1131 acres of land only. The Committee are constrained to note that there was no systematic and planned allotment of land by Panchayats.

The Committee recommend that a time-bound and result-oriented programme should be chalked out for acquiring, allocating and distribution of land within a period not exceeding six months. The causes of delay at different stages should be identified and remedial action taken promptly.

C. SIZE AND QUALITY OF LAND FOR ALLOTMENT AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

23. Asked about the minimum quantum of land allotted to each family of landless persons, it has been stated by the representative of the Delhi Administration during the evidence that it was roughly one acre per family. It was further stated that: "the quantum of land to be allotted to each family depends upon the availability of land in each Gaon Sabha. At the moment, we are allotting only Gaon Sabha land. We have first to assess how much land is available in Gaon Sabha for allotment. Then we have to make a list of persons and arrange priority and allot the land accordingly."

24. Asked whether one acre of land was sufficient for maintenance of a family, the Committee have been informed during the evidence by the representative of the Department of Agriculture that "one acre will not be enough, but one acre is better than no land and we have to make out estimate on the total availability of land."

25. Explaining the underlying principle in deciding upon the quantum of one acre, it has been stated during the evidence that "In the 1971 decennial census, 45.6 million agricultural workers were notified. So, we had to find the best possible means of providing some land to as many people as possible. The idea is not to give them enough land which will give them full sustenance for a family, but when the national ceiling on agricultural land was being considered and when it was being revised from time to time, the uppermost thing in our mind was that we should see that as many of those people as possible are provided with some land, because land gives them a certain status and independence. It may not give them the entire means of sustenance but, to have even half an acre of land is a great asset to a family which had not seen land before. It is a great psychological advantage and it is emancipation from the landlord."

26. When the Committee suggested that to fix one acre of land for allotment for all the places was not correct and that it should vary from area to area depending upon the quality of land, the representative of the Department of Agriculture stated during the evidence as follows:—

"In the national guidelines we did not prescribe any acreage for allotment because the nature of the problem varies so

much from area to area that we find it difficult to prescribe a uniform standard at the national level. In the case of Delhi Administration, the number of agricultural labourers, according to the 1971 census, is 15,665. The surplus land which they were able to mop up under the old ceiling legislation was approximately 260 acres, out of which, I understand, 101 acres have been distributed. The expectation from the new legislation is roughly 600 hectares, this has to be implemented and only after a certain progress is made in implementation, one can comment to what extent this estimate is realistic. The other source of land for the Delhi Administration is gaon sabha land. The total estimate is 10,000 acres, and I am told that nearly 3,000 acres out of those are under encroachment. What I am trying to submit for your information is that the total pool of land from different sources available for distribution to the landless in Delhi is roughly 7,000 to 8,000 acres of gaon sabha land and 260 acres of surplus land from the implementation of the old ceiling legislation—or at the most 1,500 acres from the new ceiling legislation. And considering the number of landless families we have—and we are keen that we should give the maximum satisfaction in the sense that land should be given to as many families as possible—I do not think anything better than one acre is possible. We shall have to make a policy choice. If you want to give two or three acres, then the number of landless labourers to whom the land is to be distributed has to be restricted.”

27. A Study Group of the Committee during their on the spot local visit to certain villages around Delhi, received a number of complaints from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe allottees of land stating *inter alia* that the land allotted to them was not cultivable and no levelling thereof was done. When the Committee invited the attention of the representative of the Department of Agriculture to such complaints, he admitted during evidence before the Committee that it is a fact that all the plots of land allotted by the Delhi Administration to the landless persons are not fit for cultivation. The Delhi Administration are now considering as to what facilities can be given to the allottees of such land in respect of levelling of land etc.

28. The Committee are unable to appreciate the rationale behind the allotment of only one acre of land to each Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe landless person which is neither a viable unit nor

sufficient for maintenance of his family. The Committee desire that an economic holding should be allotted to a Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe person in the Union Territory of Delhi.

29. The Committee are also of the opinion that the minimum quantum of economic holding allotted to a Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe landless person should not be the same in all areas but it should vary from area to area depending upon the quality and fertility of land.

30. The Committee are concerned to note that some of the lands allotted to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe landless persons in the Union Territory of Delhi are not fit for immediate cultivation. If any land which is not fit for immediate cultivation is allotted to a Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe landless person, the Delhi Administration should provide him grant-in-aid to make the same cultivable. He should also be exempted from the payment of land revenue for a period of two years from the date of allotment.

D. PHYSICAL POSSESSION OF LAND

31. Asked to state whether there was any authority to check whether physical possession of land had been given to the allottees the representative of the Ministry has stated during evidence: "We have established a Squad consisting of one officer of the Police Department, one officer of the District Magistrate's Office and one officer of the Development Commissioner's Office. This Squad goes about for seeing that the possession is actually given to the persons to whom the allotments are made." Explaining the position further, the representative of the Delhi Administration has stated: "We are talking of the Gaon Sabha land which is being given to the landless labourers. When we say that the possession should be given to him, we mean that his name should be entered into the records."

32. In reply to a question, it has been stated in a written note furnished to the Committee that almost all the allottees of land have been given actual possession. However, 22 allottees have complained that their possession has been disturbed by the trespass of other persons. Efforts are being made to get the possession restored to them. Out of these 22 complainants, 16 are Scheduled Castes.

33. Asked about the number of cases where the gaon sabha land is under illegal occupation and the steps taken to get the same vacated, it has been stated that there are 2,300 cases of encroachment of gaon sabha land involving an area of about 3,000 acres. To remove the encroachment on the gaon sabha land a Special Enforcement Squad has been constituted. The Squad has already got vacated an area of 31 acres from the encroachers.

It has been stated during evidence that due to stay orders granted by courts, allottees of the land are deprived of possession of land for a considerable time. Asked about the remedial measures taken by the Government, the representative of the Delhi Administration has stated during the evidence: "We have not yet thought as to how to undo the court degree. Once the court gives a stay, that orders has to be complied with by us."

34. Asked whether the Government have under consideration any proposal to bring forward suitable legislation providing that no-

person could go to the courts of law in respect of the gaon sabha land, the representative of the Delhi Administration has started during evidence that "it was a good suggestion to exclude this matter from the jurisdiction of the Courts." The Delhi Administration would consider as to what action can be taken to vacate the stay orders issued by the courts in this matter. In most of these cases, the persons concerned obtained stay in the writ against the gaon sabha land under Article 226 of the Constitution.

35. The Committee learn that the Delhi Land Holdings Ceiling (Amendment) Act, 1976 (Central Act of 1966) has been included in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution through the Constitution (Fortieth Amendment) Act, 1926. As a result, the provisions of the aforesaid Act would be outside the jurisdiction of the courts.

36. It has been stated by the Ministry in a written reply that there are 12 cases relating to the allotment of surplus land which are pending in the High Court of Delhi and other civil courts in which stay orders have been issued by the courts. The Government have engaged advocates in all such cases and they have been instructed to get the stay orders vacated as early as possible.

37. The attention of the Committee has been drawn to the following news item appearing in the *Times of India*, New Delhi, dated the 31st January, 1976:—

"Over 3,000 acres of land belonging to gaon sabha is under unauthorised occupation. This was disclosed by the Executive Councillor for Development Mr. Hira Singh in the Metropolitan Council, Delhi, today (30-1-1976).

He said Delhi Administration had appointed a Land Reforms Survey Committee to examine cases of unauthorised occupation of gaon sabha land. Some influential persons including Sarpanches were in league with officials thereby grabbing large chunks of land. The Delhi Administration, he said was aware of this fact and stern action would soon be taken to get the land vacated. The land would then be distributed among Harijans and landless labourers. Legislative and executive measures were under consideration to get such land vacated."

38. The attention of the Committee has also been invited to the following news item appearing in *Times of India*, New Delhi, dated the 10th June, 1976:—

“Anybody found to have grabbed land distributed among the harijans and members of other weaker sections in Bihar would be put under arrest under the DIR or MISA.”

39. The Committee are greatly concerned to note that there have been 2300 cases of encroachment of gaon sabha land involving an area of about 3000 acres. While the appointment of a Special Enforcement Squad is a move in the right direction, the Committee are not at all happy about the performance of the Squad, which got only an area of 31 acres of encroached gaon sabha land, vacated till the end of February, 1976.

The Committee note that the main hurdle in getting the land vacated from encroachers has been the stay orders granted by courts. Now that the Delhi Land Holding (Ceiling) Act, 1960 has been included in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution, there should not be any difficulty in getting all stay orders granted by Courts vacated and the land under encroachment cleared without further loss of time.

40. The Committee would urge that in all cases where possession of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe allottees of land has been disturbed by the trespass of other persons, immediate steps will be taken to get the possession restored to the rightful allottees.

41. The Committee would like the Delhi Administration to probe into the allegations that some influential persons, including Sarpanches, in league with certain officials, have grabbed large chunks of gaon sabha land. If allegations are proved to be true stern penal action under the existing laws should be taken against the persons concerned and the number of cases reported to the Committee.

42. The Committee also recommend that suitable legislative executive measures should be initiated immediately to prevent trespassing on gaon sabha land.

E. RESERVATION/PRIORITY TO SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ALLOTMENT OF LAND

43. It has been stated that in the existing laws no priority or reservation has been provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi in the matter of allotment of surplus land.

44. In connection with the allotment of excess land, Section 16 of the Delhi Land Holding (Ceiling) Act, 1960, which was amended in February, 1976, provides as follows:—

“Subject to any rule that may be made in this behalf, the Chief Commissioner or any officer authorised by him may allot, **any excess land vesting in the Government (other than land reserved under Section 15)** to such persons preference being given to landless agricultural labourers particularly, those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and on such terms and conditions as he thinks fit”.

45. It has been stated that no instructions have been issued to the effect that while giving land to the landless preference should be given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But there has been a **change now and in future Panchayats**, will keep all these things in view, while allotting lands to landless persons.

46. Asked whether Government have issued any guidelines regarding the category of landless persons to be given priority in allotment of gaon sabha land, the representative of the Department of Agriculture has stated during evidence as follows:—

“Under the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954, Section 75, a **certain order of preference** has been given:

The persons in the Armed Forces of the Union and the dependants of such of those persons who are likely to be in action;

The special preference in the case of persons who have been given awards for gallantry;

A cooperative farm established under this Act, holding land within the gaon sabha;

A group of landless labourers or a landless labourer residing in the village;

A Bhumidhar residing in the village who is holding land less than 8 standard acres in area in the State;

An Asami holding land less than eight standard acres in the village; and

Any other person.

It is in this order that the distribution of land is to be done”.

47. Explaining the position further, the representative of the Department of Agriculture has stated during the evidence that there is no mention of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes in the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954 for allotment of land. But in the new Ceiling Law which has been enacted in 1975, priority in allotment of surplus land has been given as follows:—

A registered cooperative joint farming society consisting exclusively of landless agricultural labourers residing in the village;

A registered cooperative joint farming society consisting of exclusively landless labourers in the same village or contiguous to it;

Landless agricultural labourers residing in a contiguous village;

A registered cooperative joint farming society consisting of exclusively landless agricultural labourers residing in a village or villages of the Union Territory of Delhi;

Any other person”.

He further stated that “even though there is no specific mention of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes all over the country and also in Delhi, the majority of landless agricultural labourers belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore for practical purposes. It amounts to giving land to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people”.

48. In regard to the priority accorded to landless persons residing in the same village in the matter of distribution of surplus land,

it has been stated during evidence that "The excess land, if any—surplus land in Delhi—shall be allotted to the landless agricultural labourers, particularly to those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes residing in the same village; in case there are no landless agricultural labourers, residing in the same village, then to the landless agricultural labourers, particularly, those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, residing in the contiguous village, in case there is no landless agricultural labourer in the contiguous village, then to the landless agricultural labourers, particularly to those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes residing in any village in the Union Territory of Delhi".

49. Asked to state if there was any difficulty in prescribing a fixed percentage for allotment of surplus land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the representative of the Department of Agriculture has stated during evidence that there is no hitch in laying down a certain percentage for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe landless labourers in the matter of allotment of land.

50. When the Committee pointed out that the Maharashtra Government has set apart 50 per cent of such surplus land for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and out of general quota also they got their share, it has been stated during evidence that the national guidelines which have been recommended by the Government of India lay down that while distributing surplus land priority should be given to landless agricultural workers particularly to those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

51. Explaining the position further, the representative of the Department of Agriculture has stated during the evidence that "In actual practice during 1973-74 out of a total of 763 allotments made by the Delhi Administration, 501 were in respect of Harijans. During 1974-75, out of a total figure 368, the allotment in respect of Harijans was to the tune of 222. During the current year, out of 2842, the allotment in respect of Harijans is 1713. To sum up, out of a total figure of 3,573 acres, an area of 2,325 acres has been actually allotted to Harijans".

52. In reply to another question, the representative of the Delhi Administration has informed the Committee that since among the landless labourers, the majority of the persons belonged to Scheduled Castes it has not been considered necessary to provide for a reservation for them in the matter of allotment of land. But now the Government is considering as to what minimum percentage should be reserved for landless persons belonging to this community in the allotment of land.

53. In regard to the allotment of gaon sabha land to landless persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it has been stated that under the Delhi Land Reforms Act, the land vested in the gaon sabha is available for allotment to the landless persons. The legislative measures or the executive measures do not provide for allotment of land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes exclusively.

54. In a written note furnished to the Committee, it has been stated that the rules relating to the allotment of gaon sabha land to landless agricultural labourers particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes residing in the same village are being amended to give first priority to them. In the meantime, administrative orders have been issued to the gaon panchayats to give first priority to this class of persons.

55. The Committee regret that under Section 16 of the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceilings) Act 1960, there is no specific mention of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in regard to the allotment of land.

56. The Committee recommend that suitable legislative|administrative measures should be taken immediately to accord first preference to the landless Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons in allotment of gaon sabha land.

F. NATURE OF RIGHTS CONFERRED ON ALLOTTEES OF LAND

57. Regarding the nature of rights conferred on the allottees of land belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture has stated during the evidence that such allottees of land are given Asami rights on such land. Asked whether holders of land who are given Asami rights are eligible to get loans on that land, the representative of the Ministry has informed the Committee during the evidence as follows:—

“This is one of the questions which led us to review the existing law and only a couple of days back (in February, 1976), a decision had been taken to amend the law and we have made a special law that whenever land is allotted to anybody in the village he will get automatically Bhumi-dhari right. A decision has been taken but it will undergo legislative process”.

58. In this connection, it has been stated in a written note furnished to the Committee that:

“It is correct that agricultural land is allotted initially for a period of five years with the status of Asami. After five years the allottee would be entitled for getting Bhumidhari rights. However, a proposal to amend the Delhi Land Reforms Act is under active contemplation. It is proposed that proprietary rights should be conferred on the allottees on the date of allotment itself.”

59. It has been represented to the Committee by the allottees of land that the land allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi is leased for five years and after five years the lease has to be renewed again. It takes about five years to develop such land and make it fit for cultivation and by that time the lease period expires. It has accordingly been suggested to the Committee that permanent ownership rights should be conferred on the allottees of land.

60. In this connection, it has been stated in a written note submitted to the Committee that the Lt. Governor had constituted a Com-

mittee under the Chairmanship of Executive Councillor (Development) and that Committee was asked to suggest amendments of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954. One of the amendments suggested by the Committee is to confer ownership rights on the allottees of the gaon sabha agricultural land from the date of their allotment.

61. The Committee note that asami rights are conferred on the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons in respect of lands allotted to them. The Committee, therefore, recommend that suitable legislative/administrative steps should be taken immediately to confer Bhoomidhari rights on the allottees of land.

G. LAND CEILING LEGISLATION

62. In regard to the ceiling on land holdings, as applicable in the Union Territory of Delhi section 3 of Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Act, 1960 provides *inter alia* as follows:—

“Subject to the provisions of this section, on and from the commencement of the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Amendment Act, 1976, no persons either by himself or, if he has a family, together with any other member of his family (hereinafter referred to as in the person representing the family) shall, whether as a Bhumidhar or an Asami or partly in one capacity and partly in another, entitled to hold land in excess of—

- (a) (i) 7.25 hectares, in the case of land which is assured of irrigation from a private source of irrigation and is capable of yielding at least two crops in a year; or
- (ii) 5.8 hectares, in the case of land which is assured of irrigation from a Government source of irrigation and is capable of yielding at least two crops in a year; or
- (b) (i) 10.9 hectares, in the case of land which is assured of irrigation from a private source of irrigation and is capable of yielding at least one crop in a year; or
- (ii) 8.7 hectares, in the case of land which is assured of irrigation from a Government source of irrigation and is capable of yielding at least one crop in a year; or
- (c) 21.8 hectares, in the case of any other land, including an orchard.

63. The Committee enquired whether the revised Delhi Land (Ceiling) Law (1976) had been given retrospective effect. The representative of the Ministry of Agriculture has stated during evidence that it has been given retrospective effect from 24th January, 1971. Asked to state whether alienation, distribution or sale of land which had taken place before 1960 when the Ceiling Legislations

in most States were enacted should be made *null and void*, the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture has stated as follows:—

“There was no general ban on sale of land before 24th January, 1971. In most of the States, there was no ban. That is what the Chief Ministers had decided in their meeting in 1972, to have a certain date which would not be too far back to make it impossible to implement and at the same time not too close to render the fixation of the date meaningless. That is what 24th January, 1971, was taken as the beginning point.”

The representative of the Ministry has further stated during evidence that in certain States the Ceiling Laws had never been implemented in full. “If we have a date 10 years earlier, we cannot really say what problems it would create. The Delhi Administration, therefore, fixed a date which would be appropriate for the purpose of implementation”, he added.

64. Asked whether the Delhi Administration has set up any Advisory Body at various levels for the administration of the ceiling laws as has been done by certain States, the Ministry have stated in a note furnished to the Committee that no such Advisory Body has been set up at any level in the Union Territory of Delhi because of its compact and small area and also because of the provisions in rule 32 of the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Rules, 1961 which require goan panchayats to send their recommendations on the applications received for allotment of land within 15 days of their receipt. Even the copy of the notification under section 6(3) declaring the excess land of a bhumidhar is sent to the Gaon Panchayat of the purpose of implementation”, he added.

65. Asked whether the Delhi Administration is submitting regularly the periodic returns to the Central Ministry of Agriculture regarding the progress in the implementation of land reforms/ceiling laws, the Committee have been informed in a written note that the progress reports regarding disposal of ceiling cases are now being sent to the Ministry of Agriculture.

66. Asked whether any time limit has been fixed by the Delhi Administration for filing a declaration before the tribunal regarding the holders of surplus land, the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture has stated during evidence that the time limit has been mentioned in the rules which has been notified under the revised

ceiling law and that the time limit has expired in the third week of February, 1976. Explaining the position further, he has stated:

“We have got 1300 and odd returns. Some people have asked for an extension of time which is provided for, in the rules. It has been given i.e. for a fortnight. We will get a clear picture by March, 1976.”

67. In reply to a question, whether there was any provision to award deterrent punishment for failure of file or to submit incorrect land returns, the Ministry have stated in a written note furnished to the Committee as follows:—

“A provision has now been incorporated in section 23 of the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Amendment Act, 1976, that a Bhumidhar/Asami who files incorrect return shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 6 months and with fine which may extend to Rs. 1000/-.”

68. The Committee note that the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Act 1960 (as amended in 1976) provides in Section 23 that a person who, being bound to submit a return, files incorrect return shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and with fine which may extend to Rs. 1000/-. The Committee hope that the holders of surplus land have already made necessary declarations before the competent authority regarding the surplus land in their possession and that the Administration have taken steps to award deterrent punishments to those who have failed to file their returns by the due dates. The Committee desire that a statement showing the progress in the implementation of the land reforms/ceiling laws since the enactment of the Delhi land Holdings (Ceiling) Amendment Act, 1976, should be compiled and furnished to the Committee immediately. The statement should, inter alia, show the extent of land declared as surplus, procured and distributed among landless persons. The number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among the beneficiaries should also be specified.

The Committee further desire that there should be a Statutory Committee in the Delhi Administration for supervising the distribution of surplus land in the Union Territory of Delhi. This Committee should also have representatives of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

- 69. The Committee realise that updating the land records is an important pre-requisite for implementing the land reforms. They, therefore, recommend that the Delhi Administration should give the highest priority to design and execute a quick programme for the updating and maintenance of record of rights.

H. ALIENATION OF LAND

70. The Committee have been informed during the evidence that there is at present no law prohibiting the alienation of land allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi. Elucidating the position further, the representative of the Delhi Administration has stated during evidence as follows:—

“If we put this restriction, the value of land belonging to the Harijans will immediately come down and it will not be in the interests of the Scheduled Castes people to have a lower value for their land. This will apply to all Scheduled Castes—landless labourers, *chaprasis*, part-time jama-dars etc. all will be covered.”

71. The Committee pointed out to the representative of the Ministry that in Uttar Pradesh an Act has recently been enacted according to which the Scheduled Castes who possess more than 3½ acres of land could alienate their land in excess of 3½ acres of land with the permission of the Deputy Collector, but a person holding less than 3½ acres of land could not alienate his land in any circumstances not even to Scheduled Caste persons. The representative of the Delhi Administration has assured the Committee during evidence that the whole matter would be examined in all its aspects. In reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1033 dated the 22nd March, 1976, the Government have stated that they are considering legislation to safeguard the interest of members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

72. The Committee note that there is at present no law prohibiting the alienation of land allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi. The Committee recommend that suitable legislation should be enacted so as to provide that no Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe person holding land up to a minimum limit to be specified by the Government can alienate such land to any other person.

I. EXEMPTION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES FROM LAND REVENUE

73. In reply to a question whether the Delhi Administration has under their consideration any scheme to grant land revenue exemption to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons who are allotted agricultural land in the Union Territory of Delhi as has been done by certain other States, the Representative of the Delhi Administration has stated during evidence that "We shall put it up to the Programme Implementation Committee which meet every week."

74. In the post evidence reply, the Committee has again been informed as follows:—

"The matter regarding exemption of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from paying the land revenue will now be put up before the Implementation Committee."

75. The attention of the Committee has been drawn to a news item published in the "Hindustan Times", New Delhi, dated the 10th February, 1976, wherein it has been stated that the U.P. Government has decided to grant land revenue exemption for three years to the landless who were allotted agricultural land by it.

76. The Committee urge upon the Delhi Administration to examine the scheme of the Uttar Pradesh Government in regard to giving exemption from land revenue to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe agriculturists, and introduce a similar scheme in the Union Territory of Delhi for giving land revenue exemption to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe agriculturists for three years or more."

J. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER FACILITIES TO SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE ALLOTTEES OF LAND

77. The Committee enquired whether the Delhi Administration had formulated any scheme for providing financial assistance to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for development of land allotted to them. The representative of the Delhi Administration has stated during evidence that no such scheme has been prepared so far but the Administration are now actively considering to supplement the present marginal farmers' schemes which are likely to be implemented within three months. The Committee have also been informed during evidence that there is at present no provision to provide financial assistance or credit facilities on easy term to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe allottees of agricultural land in the Union Territory of Delhi to enable them to derive benefit out of such land.

78. However, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture) have drawn up a Central Scheme which is also applicable to the Union Territory of Delhi, for financial assistance for development and cultivation of land declared surplus as a result of imposition of land ceiling. The details of the scheme as laid down in the Ministry's letter No. 11-11/72-LRO dated the 27th August, 1975, and communicated to all State Governments, are reproduced below:—

“An amount of Rs. 25 crores has been sanctioned by the Government of India for a Central Sector Plan Scheme for financial assistance to the new assignees of surplus land to be available on imposition of ceiling on agricultural holdings in the States and the Union Territories during the Fifth Five Year Plan period.

In view of the emphasis laid in the Fifth Five Year Plan on the distribution of surplus land accompanied by timely supply of inputs in adequate quantities and investment support, wherever necessary, for the development of land, this scheme has been formulated to enable the new assignees to take to efficient cultivation of the assigned land. These assignees will mostly be landless agricultural workers and a majority of them members of the Schedul-

ed Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. They are unlikely to have the means to provide on their own the initial doses of inputs for the production of crops. Further, a large part of the land available for distribution may be entirely dry or otherwise in need of development so as to be cultivation-worthy, having, nevertheless, potential for increased production. In such cases land development works like land shaping, land levelling etc. and some soil conservation measures like contour bunding may be essential to enable adoption of suitable dry farming techniques.

In the present circumstances planning of such a programme on a wider scale is not feasible. It should, however, be possible to make a beginning in land development works like land levelling, land shaping, contour bunding etc. so that the assignees of the land will be able to utilise it. For this type of work, the required scale of investment is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 500 per hectare.

“The short term assistance by way of grants that is proposed to be given to help the assignees meet their immediate requirements of seeds, organic manure, chemical fertiliser, pesticides, agricultural implements etc., as well as for their consumption requirements until the crops are harvested, has been estimated at Rs. 250 per hectare per season. This grant will be available for the first two crop seasons which in most such cases are likely to be two years. It is felt that there would be no need for the assignees to purchase bullocks in the initial stages as it should be possible to hire them. 50 per cent of the amount proposed to be given by way of assistance for investment on land will be outright grant, the balance being loan recoverable from the assignees by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. As far as possible the supply of necessary inputs are to be made departmentally and the extension staff should help the assignees in procuring them. Any assistance by way of loans that the assignee-farmer may subsequently require will have to be financed through the primary cooperative societies or from loans from the State Governments who would take care to ensure that land shaping and preparation of the area for proper moisture conservation precede and investment in fertilizer and other inputs.

The State Revenue Department will be responsible for the execution of the scheme. The State Governments will be required to submit quarterly district-wise reports on the progress in the implementation of the ceiling laws and the distribution of surplus land and the flow of assistance under this scheme to the new assignees, indicating separately the number of beneficiaries belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. These reports should reach the Department of Agriculture of the Government of India with a fortnight after the end of every quarter. They would also have to take necessary steps for proper utilisation of the assistance and maintenance of accounts."

79. The Committee have been informed that the Madhya Pradesh Government give subsidy to their Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe agriculturists owning land upto 10 acres for seeds, fertilizers, agricultural implements, bullocks, land development etc. at the following rates:—

Item of Subsidy	Total cost Rs.	Percentage of Subsidy	Percentage of loan
1. Seeds	100	50%	50%
2. Fertilizers	200	50%	50%
3. Agriculture Implements. . . .	200	100%	Nil.
4. Bullocks	700	60%	50%
5. Land Development.	100	50%	50%

In addition, 50 per cent subsidy to a maximum of Rs. 2000 per Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe cultivator having land not exceeding 39 acres is given for irrigation wells. A subsidy to a maximum of Rs. 1000 per Scheduled Caste/Tribe cultivator having land upto 30 acres is also given for electric pumps. A subsidy to a maximum of Rs. 2,400 per Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe family having land up to 30 acres is given for diesel pumps.

80. The Committee have also been informed that the Rajasthan Electricity Board has provided the following concessions/facilities to

the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe agriculturists in the State of Rajasthan for energing agricultural wells:—

- (i) Overriding priority in release of connections.
- (ii) Exemption from the charges for the installation of poles.
- (iii) Exemption from the levy of minimum charges for consumption of Electricity.

81. The Committee note that under a Central Sector Scheme a grant of Rs. 250 per hectare per season is given to each allottee of surplus land during the first two agricultural seasons for purchase of inputs and an assistance for levelling of land etc. is given at the rate of Rs. 500 per hectare to each allottee whose land requires such development.

82. The Committee would like the Delhi Administration to take full advantage of the benefits accruing under the Central scheme. The Government should also take up with the nationalised/commercial banks the question of providing further credit facilities at preferential/differential rate of interest to Scheduled Caste/Tribe allottees of land.

83. The Committee would also like the Delhi Administration to examine the feasibility of setting apart a separate fund called 'Land Development Fund for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' in their budget for development of land allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to sanction interest free loans from this fund to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe allottees with a provision to recover the same in easy instalments.

84. The Committee also desire that the Delhi Administration should take up with the nationalised banks to open their branches in rural areas with a view to giving loans for development of land and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe allottees should be given priority in granting such loans.

NEW DELHI;

SURAJ BHAN,

November 4, 1977.

Chairman,

Kartika 13, 1899 (S).

Committee on the Welfare of
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

APPENDIX

Summary of Conclusions|Recommendations of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Report

Sl. No.	Reference to Para No. in the Report	Summary of Conclusions Recommendations
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	18	The Committee regret to note that the Delhi Administration has not so far conducted any survey to assess the total land available for procurement and allotment to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe landless persons in the Union Territory of Delhi. The Committee need hardly stress the importance of conducting such a survey before formulating any scheme for procurement and distribution of land to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe landless persons. The Committee, therefore, urge that such a survey should be conducted immediately.
2	19	The Committee recommend that land reform tribunals should be set up to determine the quantum of surplus land available for procurement in the Union Territory of Delhi. Such Tribunals should verify the return of each land owner on the spot by visits to villages and talks with the local officials, tenants and landless persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
3	20	The Committee also recommend that the appearance of pleaders in such tribunals should be banned. Appeals should be decided within a period of six months.
4	21	The Committee was informed during the course of evidence that the target of distributing

(1)	(2)	(3)
		4000 acres of agricultural land was fixed for the year 1975-76. The Committee hope that the target has since been achieved.
5	22	<p>From the figures made available to the Committee, it appears that the tempo of allotment of land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi never gathered significant momentum. During the period June, 1975 to February, 1976 as many as 1713 acres of land were allotted to Scheduled Castes whereas during the year 1972-73, 1313 acres of land were allotted. During 1973-74, the allotment was to the extent of 1131 acres of land only. The Committee are constrained to note that there was no systematic and planned allotment of land by Panchayats.</p> <p>The Committee recommend that a time-bound and result-oriented programme should be chalked out for acquiring, allocating and distribution of land within a period not exceeding six months. The causes of delay at different stages should be identified and remedial action taken promptly.</p>
6	28	<p>The Committee are unable to appreciate the rationale behind the allotment of only one acre of land to each Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe landless person which is neither a viable unit nor sufficient for maintenance of his family. The Committee desire that an economic holding should be allotted to a Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe person in the Union Territory of Delhi.</p>
	29	<p>The Committee are also of the opinion that the minimum quantum of economic holding allotted to a Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe landless person should not be the same in all areas but it should vary from area to area depending upon the quality and fertility of land.</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)
7	30	<p>The Committee are concerned to note that some of the lands allotted to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe landless persons in the Union Territory of Delhi are not fit for immediate cultivation. If any land, which is not fit for immediate cultivation, is allotted to a Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe landless person, the Delhi Administration should provide him grant-in-aid to make the same cultivable. He should also be exempted from the payment of land revenue for a period of two years from the date of allotment.</p>
8	39	<p>The Committee are greatly concerned to note that there have been 2300 cases of encroachment of gaon sabha land involving an area of about 3000 acres. While the appointment of a Special Enforcement Squad is a move in the right direction, the Committee are not at all happy about the performance of the Squad, which got only an area of 31 acres of encroached gaon sabha land, vacated till the end of February, 1976.</p> <p>The Committee note that the main hurdle in getting the land vacated from encroachers has been the stay orders granted by courts. Now that the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Act, 1960 has been included in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution, there should not be any difficulty in getting all stay orders granted by Courts vacated and the land under encroachment cleared without further loss of time.</p>
9	40	<p>The Committee would urge that in all cases where possession of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe allottees of land has been disturbed by the trespass of other persons, immediate steps will be taken to get the possession restored to the rightful allottees.</p>
10	41	<p>The Committee would like the Delhi Administration to probe into the allegations that</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)
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some influential persons including *Sarpanches*, in league with certain officials, have grabbed large chunks of gaon sabha land. If allegations are proved to be true, then stern penal action under the existing laws should be taken against the persons concerned and the number of such cases reported to the Committee.

11 42 The Committee also recommend that suitable legislative|executive measures should be initiated immediately to prevent trespassing on gaon sabha land.

12 55 The Committee regret that under Section 16 of the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Act, 1960, there is no specific mention of Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes in regard to the allotment of land.

56 The Committee recommend that suitable legislative|administrative measures should be taken immediately to accord first preference to the landless Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons in allotment of gaon sabha land.

13 61 The Committee note that *Asami* rights are conferred on the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons in respect of lands allotted to them. The Committee, therefore, recommend that suitable legislative|administrative steps should be taken immediately to confer *Bhoomidhari* rights on the allottees of land.

14 68 The Committee note that the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Act, 1960 (as amended in 1976) provides in Section 23 that a person who being bound to submit a return, files incorrect return shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and with fine which may extend to Rs. 1000|-. The Committee hope that the holders of surplus land have already made necessary declarations before the competent authority regarding the surplus

(1)	(2)	(3)
		<p>land in their possession and that the Administration have taken steps to award deterrent punishments to those who have failed to file their returns by the due dates. The Committee desire that a statement showing the progress in the implementation of the land reforms ceiling laws since the enactment of the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Amendment Act, 1976, should be compiled and furnished to the Committee immediately. The statement should, <i>inter alia</i>, show the extent of land declared as surplus, procured and distributed among landless persons. The number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among the beneficiaries should also be specified.</p>
		<p>The Committee further desire that there should be a statutory Committee in the Delhi Administration for supervising the distribution of surplus land in the Union Territory of Delhi. This Committee should also have representatives of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.</p>
15	69	<p>The Committee realise that updating the land records is an important pre-requisite for implementing the land reforms. They, therefore, recommend that the Delhi Administration should give the highest priority to design and execute a quick programme for the updating and maintenance of record of rights.</p>
16	72	<p>The Committee note that there is at present no law prohibiting the alienation of land allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi. The Committee recommend that suitable legislation should be enacted so as to provide that no Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe person holding land upto a minimum limit, to be specified by the Government, can alienate such land to any other person.</p>
17	76	<p>The Committee urge upon the Delhi Administration to examine the scheme of the Uttar</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)
		Pradesh Government in regard to giving exemption from land revenue to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe agriculturists, and introduce a similar scheme in the Union Territory of Delhi for giving land revenue exemption to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe agriculturists for three years or more.
18	81	The Committee note that under a Central Sector Scheme a grant of Rs. 250 - per hectare per season is given to each allottee of surplus land during the first two agricultural seasons for purchase of inputs and an assistance for levelling of land etc. is given at the rate of Rs. 500 - per hectare to each allottee whose land requires such development.
	82	The Committee would like the Delhi Administration to take full advantage of the benefits accruing under the Central Scheme. The Government should also take up with the nationalised commercial banks the question of providing further credit facilities at preferential differential rate of interest to the Scheduled Caste Tribe allottees of land.
19	83	The Committee would also like the Delhi Administration to examine the feasibility of setting apart a separate fund called 'Land Development Fund for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' in their budget for development of land allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to sanction interest free Loans from this fund to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe allottees with a provision to recover the same in easy instalments.
20	84	The Committee also desire that the Delhi Administration should take up with the nationalised banks to open their branches in rural areas with a view to giving loans for development of land and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe allottees should be given priority in granting such loans.