

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you insist on the External Affairs Ministry paying the market value? That is the question.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: We are constantly in touch with the External Affairs Ministry and negotiations are going on. We hope they will give us suitable price.

Distribution of agricultural land

*268. **SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a Planning Commission report only 1 per cent of the agricultural land has so far been re-distributed under the ceiling laws;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for its early re-distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Out of 74.54 lakh acres of land declared surplus an area of 43.36 lakh acres i.e. 58.2 per cent has been distributed. The area declared surplus happens to be about 1 per cent of total cultivable land. The remaining area could not be distributed due to the following reasons as indicated by the State Governments:—

	(Lakh acres)	(Percent)
Involved in litigation	14.53	19.5
Transferred/reserved for public purposes	3.69	4.95
Unfit for cultivation	4.24	5.69
Not available for distribution due to miscellaneous reasons	5.205	6.98
Not available for distribution	3.51	4.72

(c) In the Conference of Revenue Ministers held in May, 1985, among others, the following steps were suggested to the States/UTs:—

(i) The implementation of existing ceiling laws should be monitored vigorously and effectively.

(ii) An analysis of the gaps between declared surplus and area taken possession of, and between area taken possession of and distributed be done for taking remedial measures.

(iii) A time bound programme should be prepared for disposal of returns, cases pending in various courts including the remanded and re-opened cases, taking possession of area declared surplus and its distribution followed by prompt mutations, issue of certificates/

Pattas, physical demarcation of spot and handing over possession etc., and its implementation completed as early as possible.

(iv) Creation of Tribunals under Article 323B of the Constitution and/or creation of special courts/Bench in High Court in consultation with the concerned High Courts for quick disposal of ceiling cases may be considered.

(v) States may ensure that the posts of officials, revenue as well as judicial, concerned with the disposal of ceiling cases, do not remain vacant. Well experienced and competent officers need to be posted to man these posts.

(vi) Evasion and avoidance of law need to be looked into seriously.

Vigorous action to investigate circumvention of law be taken followed by concrete remedial measures, legislative and otherwise, as may be necessary.

(vii) Random Survey needs to be undertaken by the States to ensure whether the surplus land said to be unfit for cultivation was really so, and also, if it is a fact that there were no takers, where such pleas are advanced for non-distribution of surplus land.

(viii) Provision should be made for taking over that part of land which has been declared surplus and which is not the subject matter of litigation.

(ix) Making of provision for taking over surplus land in anticipation of the completion of proceedings where the parties are agreeable, may be considered.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reasons as indicated by the State Governments are given in the reply under five heads. Out of these five heads, one is litigation and it is understandable. The rest of the reasons given are—unfit not available for distribution. Then why has this been taken into consideration if it is fit for distribution? Why are the reasons 2 to 5 have been taken into consideration and is the Central Government satisfied with the report of the State Government because, as per their reply, land not fit for distribution has been taken into consideration? So, my first question is: Why all these points—2, 3, 4 and 5—have been taken into consideration for the purpose of distribution and whether the Central Government is satisfied with the reply of the State Governments?

SHRI R. PRABHU: Sir, as far as this question is concerned, out 74.54 lakh acres of land, 58.2 per cent has been distributed and 19.5 per cent of the land is not distributed because it is involved in litigation and the remaining for various other reasons.

But the Central Government is taking steps to see that these lands are properly distributed. The question of the honourable Member says that certain land areas which are not supposed to be transferred were included in the area which was declared. Sir, I would like to stress here again that the Central Government has to advise the State Governments that these lands should be properly transferred. As you are aware, Sir, it was Mrs. Gandhi who, in her first 20-point Programme, brought these agricultural land reforms into play, and she had consultations with all the Chief Ministers in 1969 and enunciated this policy in 1971. Also, in the new 20-point Programme which our Prime Minister has recently given in August, if you see No. 5—Enforcement of Reforms—in this booklet which all the Members have got—you will find that the Central Government is trying its best and recommending to the State Governments to implement these agricultural land reforms as early as possible.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Sir, in reply to my question, part (c), it has been stated that about nine measures have been suggested by the Conference to the States and the Union Territories for monitoring. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government intends to involve themselves in monitoring and whether there is any proposal to form a special team or a high-powered committee by involving public men and landless at the block development level to monitor these suggestions. I also want to know whether the land for distribution is being cultivated. Whether it is in the use of the person whom it is distributed.

SHRI R. PRABHU: Sir, the implementation of the agricultural land ceiling laws was reviewed in May, 1985 in the Conference of the Revenue Ministers from all the States. A summary of the consensus arrived at in that meeting has been sent to the State Governments. And the action taken in this regard is going to be

reviewed in the next conference which is supposed to be held on the 25th of November this year.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, here in the answer it has been given that the Land unfit for cultivation is 4.24 lakh acres, that is, 5.69 per cent I would like to know the meaning of "Unfit for cultivation", whether it is sick or it is not agriculturally good. What is the reason?

The second thing is, in part (c) it has been mentioned;

"Random survey needs to be undertaken by the States to ensure whether the surplus land said to be unfit for cultivation was really so, and also if it is a fact that there were no takers, where such pleas are advanced for non-distribution of surplus land."

I want to know what decision the Government is going to take in distributing this land. Also I would like to know whether the Government knows that some of the landlords have transferred their land in the names of their servants or people who do not exist at all. Are there some cases like these, and if so what are those?

SHRI R. PRABHU: Sir, it is true that in the answer, we have given that certain land is unfit, and this land would probably mean uneven land which is unfit for agricultural input.

Sir, as far as his feelings about certain benami transactions taking place are concerned, we are tightening the laws to monitor the benami transactions. As has been given in the answer, there are nine guidelines which were suggested in the Revenue Ministers Conference. Here stringent actions are envisaged against people who go into this. There is a guideline for creation of tribunals to go into these aspects. If he sees clauses (v) and (vi) he will find that the State Governments have been asked to ensure that these benami tran-

sactions are looked into more vigorously and that they should monitor all these transactions to minimise these benami transactions. (Interruptions)

श्री भगतराम मनहर : सभापति जी, कुछ भूमिपतियों ने अपनी जमीनें बचाने के नाम पर अपने गांव में, अपने जिले में, दूसरे जिलों में तथा दूसरे प्रान्तों में बेनामी जमीनें ले रखी है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी जमीनों को निकालने के लिये सरकार ने कौन कौन से उपाय किये हैं?

SHRI R. PRABHU: Sir, I have already stated before that the Government has asked the State Governments to monitor all transactions including benami transactions, and for these reasons specifically the Revenue Ministers had been called to Delhi and a conference was arranged in which they have given certain guidelines. If you want, I can read out all the guidelines, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is not necessary.

SHRI R. PRABHU: Tribunals have been asked to be created, and evasion and avoidance of the law directly or indirectly has also been asked to be looked into, Sir.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has given the reasons for the non-distribution of the land. He has said, "not available for distribution 3.51 lakh acres." The percentage is 4.72. What is the non-availability for distribution? I do not know. I do not understand what that non-availability is. The reasons are better understood if they are "Not fit for cultivation."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over. Mr. Reddy, you lost the chance of getting an answer. You went on speaking.