

REDISTRIBUTION OF LAND AFTER REVISION OF LAND CEILING LAWS

63 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT†.

DR Z A AHMAD.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA.

SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state.

(a) whether any assessment has been made of land likely to be available for redistribution after the revised land ceiling laws are enforced in all the States.

(b) if so what is the assessment, and

(c) whether Government propose to set up people's Committees to supervise land redistribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) (a) Some States have made loose estimates of the surplus land likely to be available on implementation of the revised ceiling laws.

(b) From the tentative estimates made available by some of the States so far about 35 lakh acres would be available from those states. However, it is very difficult to make any assessment at this stage.

(c) The national guidelines based on the conclusions of Chief Ministers' Conference held in July, 1972 contemplate the setting up of non-official bodies at appropriate levels for effective implementation of land reforms. All the State Governments have been advised accordingly.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : क्या यह सही है कि सीनिंग कानून इसलिए लाया गया कि लडनैस का जन्दी से जन्दी ज्यादा से ज्यादा

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Lakshmi Kumari Chundawat

जमीन दी जा सके ? यदि हा, तो क्यों इसका पहलू अदाजा नहीं लगाया गया ? इनने महीने बीतने के बाद आपका पास अग्रेसमेंट नहीं आये इसके क्या कारण हैं और ये कब तक होंगे ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA Sir, it is very much true that the whole objective behind this revision of land ceilings was how we should distribute land to the landless and poor sections of society. However, some guidelines were very necessary. At the instance of the Prime Minister, a meeting of the Chief Ministers was conveyed. Guidelines were prepared. On those guidelines several States have come forward for having enactments, and naturally after those enactments it will be possible for us to assess, because the data shall have to be made available, the extent of family shall have to be made available, how much land is under irrigation, how much is under perennial irrigation, which was under one crop, and so on. Under these circumstances, it is not possible for me at this stage to give any exact assessment.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : भविष्य में कब तक हो सकेगा कुछ रफ अदाजा बना सकने दें ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA Sir, all the State Governments have been requested to expedite this ceiling law. We hope that by the end of this year, 1973, it will be possible for us to give some more appropriate and exact assessment.

MR CHAIRMAN Dr Ahmad

DR Z A AHMAD I presume that the hon. Minister is a knowledgeable person and a learned man. I do not know why he has given some figures which, according to all standards, are completely baseless. The States which have provided you those figures do not know how much land will be available, because they do not know how much land has been partitioned in this period. There are very poor land records—very poor land records.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question?

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : My question is that it would be proper and more honest on the part of the hon. Minister to state that they are not in a position to give any figures because the figures supplied are guess-work, and he should not try to confuse and mislead the House by giving a figure of 35 lakhs, creating an illusion. But my question is this.

Are you sure and have you got it examined that this figure of 35 lakhs is based on the real assessment of the situation and examination of facts? My contention is that it is absolutely wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put your question.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to my reply itself. In (b), I have said : From the tentative estimates made available by some of the States so far about 35 lakh acres would be available from those States. However, it is very difficult to make any assessment at this stage.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : My question is : Have you ever examined the basis on which this tentative assessment has been made?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : The State Governments have supplied these figures. At the outset, I am not here to say that all these figures which have come from the State Governments are bogus. We have all faith in the State Governments.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : I challenge it.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government is not implementing its revised land ceiling and the surplus lands already given to the landless peasantry and the poor peasants are going to be snatched away from them? Does the Government know this? The interests of these poor people should be protected. The West Bengal Government should follow the guidelines given by the Centre.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir the West Bengal Government has not only accepted the guidelines, but it is one of those States which have enacted the revised ceiling laws and they are honestly implementing these laws.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : My question is this : Are those lands already distributed to the poor peasants and landless people being snatched away from them?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : I have no information on this.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : May I know from the hon. Minister which are the States which have not provided the Central Government with the figures in this regard? May I also know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in not a single State so far surplus lands have been taken over by the States and distribution begun?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, the States which have supplied these figures are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mysore, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The remaining States have not so far supplied these figures. Regarding the distribution, the revised laws have been recently enacted. Right from independence, nearly 1 million hectares of land was declared surplus in the country out of which 50 per cent has been distributed. Out of the Government waste lands . . .

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : My question is not regarding the Government waste land. My question is about the surplus land after the implementation of the ceiling laws.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : My friend will show that much courtesy. I am giving information to the House regarding the exact state of affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you are entitled to it.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : One million hectare of land was declared surplus out of which 50 per cent has been distributed. 5.9 million hectares of land from the Government waste land has been distributed. As I have said earlier, nearly 35 lakh acres of land will be surplus as indicated by the State Governments.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : Sir, the ceiling law has been in the air for the last 20 years. In particular, it has received special emphasis during the last 2 years. Now, may I know whether in a single State the ceiling law has taken its final shape and whether the preparation of rules and regulations and up-to-date records has been done in a single State? Is the hon. Minister in a position to say that in that particular State where all these things have been completed, how much is the surplus land and how much of it has been allotted to the deserving persons?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, as for my information, Jammu and Kashmir and Kerala have made significant progress but there is not a single State about which I can say this. However, I must say that so far as the implementation of these reforms is concerned, we are not very much happy about it.

SHRI M. ANANDAM : Is the hon. Minister aware that recently the Andhra Pradesh representative of the Finance Commission has said that it requires nearly Rs. 75 crores for proper implementation of the Land Ceilings Act? If that is so, may I know whether it will be possible to provide necessary funds for proper implementation of the Act?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : As for my information, we have not so far received any such concrete proposal.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : आपने जो 35 लाख एकड़ जमीन बताई है कि यह सरकार को मिलेगी तो यह 35 लाख एकड़ जमीन जो वर्तमान सीलिंग लगायी गयी है उससे मिलेगी या उस के पूर्व जो सीलिंग लगायी गई थी उससे जो जमीन मिली थी। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पहले जो सीलिंग लागू हुई थी उससे कितनी

जमीन उपलब्ध हुई सरकार को और उसको और उसमें से कितनी जमीन बांटी गयी? उसके साथ आपने जो सरकारी परत भूमि के बारे में कहा कि सरकारी परत भूमि भी है और उसका भी आपने वितरण किया, तो क्या सरकारी परत भूमि पहले जो सीलिंग लागू की गयी थी उससे मिली हुई जमीन, इन दोनों को भी आप जो वितरण नहीं कर पाये तो क्या सरकार कोई निश्चित तिथि घोषित करेगी कि अमुक तिथि तक हम सरकारी परत भूमि और पहले की सीलिंग से प्राप्त भूमि को वितरित कर देंगे?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : So far as this figure of 35 lakh acres is concerned, it will be surplus after implementation of the new ceiling laws. It has nothing to do with the old ceiling laws.

So far as the other aspect is concerned, i.e. by what date it will be implemented, it is very difficult for me to say any specific date but it will be the endeavour of the Central Government to persuade the State Governments to implement these laws as early and as expeditiously as possible.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : With regard to the distribution of surplus land, may I know if the Government has taken precautions to see that uneconomic holdings are not created because, otherwise it will be creating crisis? So much land divided into small portions will not be economically good. Have you taken any precautions to that effect?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, there are several problems involved in this question. If this surplus is to be distributed with priority to those who are landless labourers, who are sufferers, naturally we cannot say that it should go to those who are having . . .

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : It will be an uneconomic holding. Why not give them sufficient land?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, as far as I know, in case, while deciding priorities if a priority is given to those who are landless and again to those who are

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons, who are from backward classes or areas or communities etc., naturally when that priority is expected, I cannot say immediately whether this surplus land will go to those who are holding.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI I am sorry, I am misunderstood, I never said that it will not go to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. It must go to them but it should not be in small pieces. That means, enough economic holdings should be given to them.

DR Z A AHMAD What is an economic holding?

(Interruption is)

MR CHAIRMAN: Do not discuss among yourselves.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI Just by giving them half an acre of land, you want to appease them.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA To the extent possible, we shall request the State Governments to take care of this problem raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI A G KULKARNI May I know from the Minister whether the Planning Commission has appointed a Task Force on agrarian relations and also whether the Task Force has come to the conclusion that the land reforms have not been effectively implemented because of the absence of the requisite political will? Along with it they have stated that the programmes of land reforms has been in isolation from the main stream of the economic development.

May I know from the Minister as to what the specific solution is to the problems which have been indicated by this Task Force and for this purpose how far the Government will go ahead to take association of local committees—whether in the land reforms or in the wholesale trade takeover of food?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA It is true that the Task Force has suggested and come to the conclusion that lack of politi-

cal will is one of the reasons for non-implementation of the land reforms.

SHRI A G KULKARNI Whose political will?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA Of those who are in power in the States. It is one of the reasons mentioned by the Task Force. They have also suggested that all possible care will have to be taken to create proper land reforms immediately. They have also suggested that organisation of these landless people and small tenants is very much necessary. It is the rich peasantry who is organised, but unfortunately these smaller sections, weaker sections are disorganised and therefore the implementation of the reforms has been obstructed at various stages. I think all the suggestions made by them are very much relevant and their suggestion to create local committees at the village level is equally important. The Kerala Government has done it statutorily and I think the creation of such organisations of the beneficiaries will very much help in the implementation of these land reforms.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA May I know what is the order of priorities for redistribution of land and where particularly are the landless people placed in that order of priorities? I am told some of the States have placed them at the 12th or 13th position, like the State of U.P. for instance. Is it a fact?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA I have not got the exact details of all the suggestions made by the Chief Ministers' Committee but as far as my information goes the landless labourers, particularly belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given priority but for the information of the House.

DR Z A AHMAD They come in the bottom of the scale.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA I shall see that these indications are made available to hon. Members of the House.

SHRI K CHANDRASEKHARAN In not a single State it is so, the information is wrong.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD: They come at the very bottom.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Ahmad, you go to your seat if you want to talk.

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, Andhra Pradesh passed a Land Reforms Bill last September and now the State is under the President's rule. Nothing has happened so far for the last eight months. The President has also given his assent. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India have given clear directions to the Advisers there to implement the land reforms as early as possible?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I am not exactly aware whether these instructions have gone to the Advisers there but I shall be visiting Hyderabad tomorrow itself and I shall bring it to the notice of the Advisers and I shall request them on behalf of the Government to see that these land reforms are implemented.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी बताया कि गवर्नमेन्ट का आव्रजेक्ट यह है कि मारे सीलिंग लाज इम्प्लीमेंट कर दे और प्रग्न के (सी) भाग में यहाँ पर कमेटीज बनाने के बारे में बताया कि सब चीफ मिनिस्टर्स ने बैठ कर के मलाह की, लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन कमेटीयों का स्वरूप क्या होगा, कमेटी में कौन लोग लिये जायेंगे? ग्राम-पंचायतों के सरपंच, होंगे पंचायतों के अध्यक्ष होंगे, एम० एल० एज० होंगे या कौन-कौन होंगे? क्या क्राइटेरिया उसके लिये फिक्स किया है? या सभी का सहयोग प्राप्त हो सके इसकी दृष्टि से क्या यह करेंगे कि लेडलैम लोगो में से लोग उस कमेटी में आये। क्या क्राइटेरिया है, किस आधार पर यह कमेटी बनेगी? और जैसा कि हमारा अनुभव है कि मध्य प्रदेश में एम० एल० एज० की राय लेना जरूरी हो गया था।

श्री सभापति आपका इतना लम्बा सवाल नहीं हो सकता।

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा तो उस अनुभव के आधार पर मैं वह मकता हूँ कि इसके कारण डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन में विलम्ब होने की सम्भावना है। क्या गवर्नमेन्ट के पास लेड आने के बाद छ महीने के अन्दर में वह डिस्ट्रीब्यूट कर दी जायगी? क्या इस प्रकार का कोई समय निर्धारित कर दिया जायगा? फिर, मध्य प्रदेश में अभी भी 10 लाख एकड़ जमीन पड़ी हुई है शासन के पास तो उसके डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन के लिये क्या किया जायगा?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, kindly sit down. This is not a debate; you know this is Question Hour. Sit down please.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: As I have indicated, the Chief Ministers have suggested and accordingly the Government of India has indicated that these non-official committees should be set up at the local level but the specific form of the committees has not been suggested. I can however assure the hon. Member that those who are opposed to such ceilings should not be there. To that extent we shall give instructions.

श्री सीताराम केसरी अध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह जानना चाहूँगा कि बिहार में भूदान समिति की ओर से बहुत सी जमीन गरीबों को, भूमिहीनों का वितरित की गई, लेकिन उनके पास फण्ड नहीं होने की वजह से जमीन को नहीं जोत सके, जिसके कारण वह उन्हीं के जिम्मे चली गई जिन्होंने जमीन दी, ता इस पृष्ठभूमि में जो आप भूमिहीन लोगों को जमीन देंगे, क्या उस जमीन के साथ उनका इतना फण्ड भी देंगे, जिससे कि वह जमीन जोत सकें और उससे लाभ उठा सकें?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The Ministry of Agriculture is proposing one scheme for giving direct finance to such beneficiaries. It is very much true that because no funds were at their disposal they could not properly cultivate those lands which were distributed to them.

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि अभी सरकार मुख्य मंत्रियों के साथ मिल कर कुछ गाइडलाइन्स बनाने जा रही है। साथ

ही उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि सरकार ने सरकारी जमीन का वितरण किया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ, सरकार के पास बेकार भूमि की कुल तादाद कितनी है और उसमें से आपने कितनी भूमि कितने परिवारों को वितरित की है और उस वितरण का मापदण्ड क्या रखा है ? क्या उसी मापदण्ड को आप प्रान्तों में जो फालतू भूमि मिलेगी, वहाँ पर भी उसका लागू करेंगे या नहीं ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: In the country there are more than 47 million agricultural labourers without any land, landless labourers. I cannot give other details and I would require notice.

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने जो पूछा, उसका उत्तर नहीं मिला है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने वेस्ट लैंड का वितरण किया है। तो उसके डिस्ट्रिब्युशन का मापदण्ड उन्होंने क्या रखा है यह मैं जानना चाहता था ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like to add anything?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: As I indicated earlier, the criterion is universal, those who are landless, those who are from the weaker sections of the community or society should be given land . . .

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी : एक परिवार को कितनी जमीन आपने दी ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It varies from State to State. In some States it is 4 acres and in some other States it is six or seven acres.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr Harsh Deo Malaviya, last question.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: The question of fixing a ceiling on landholdings has been there for a long time. The first was in 1948, by the UP Zamindari Abolition Act. Then, in 1949, the Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question. This is not the stage to give the history.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Just one minute. Please excuse me. The programme has been there, but it has not been implemented. So, in the meantime, the landlords have been redistributing their land among their relatives, their own brothers and sisters and in West Bengal land was given even to a horse. Yes, it is a fact I want to know whether there is a proposal in the minds of the Government to give retrospective effect to the ceiling laws and, if so, what would be the year from which retrospective effect would be given? It is an important question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have put your question and let the answer come.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: I have got figures with me . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Already retrospective effect has been given from an earlier date. It is very much true that some of the landlords have taken undue advantage of it in the meantime. It is the political will which is very much necessary. I would like to seek the co-operation of the House and in the respective areas they should also come forward with mass organisations. Otherwise, it is not possible to do it.

STAFF ARTISTES WORKING IN GORKHALI UNIT OF A.I.R., NEW DELHI

*64. **DR. R. K. CHABRABARTI:**

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of staff artistes working in the Gorkhali Unit of All India Radio, New Delhi and Nepalese Services of its External Services Division;

(b) the total number of persons of Nepalese origin out of the above number;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from the listeners in connection with the bad Nepali accent of announcer; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?