

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 11th December, 1970/the 20th
Agrahayana 1892 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SURPLUS LAND

*634. SHRI ARJUN ARORA :
DR. SALIG RAM : †
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP
SINHA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total surplus land available in the country;

(b) what is the total Government waste and available in the country; and

(c) how Government propose to utilise the land thus available?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND
COOPERATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR) :

(a) So far about one million hectares of land have been declared surplus or taken possession of by the State Governments. Precise information is not available with regard to the total extent of surplus land which would eventually become available.

(b) There are 17.4 million hectares of culturable waste lands in the country. Considerable portion of such lands are Government lands

(c) The lands at the disposal of the Government are being distributed in accordance with rules made for allotment of such lands.

डा० शालिग्राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय, यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो सरप्लस लैंड 1 मिलियन हेक्टेर्स है और जो दूसरी 17.4 मिलियन हेक्टेर्स है उसमें से कितनी भूमि ऐसी है जो कि इस वक्त तक बंटी बाँची है और उसके

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Salig Ram.

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लिये क्या क्या कानून हैं जिनके मातहत वह दी जाती है और किन किन लोगों को दी जाती है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, the State Governments have mostly their own rules for distributing these lands to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people and if from those categories persons are not available, then to the landless persons. Broadly this is the line on which the State Governments are distributing the lands. As far as the culturable waste lands are concerned, so far, up to the end of the Third Five Year Plan period 4.3 million hectares have been distributed and now the process is still on. Recently, as a result of the request from the Centre to the State Governments, the Andhra Government has also distributed at the rate of 40,000 hectares monthly and the Rajasthan Government has also distributed recently such lands which were available and 72,000 hectares have been distributed to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people in areas which are lying in the Rajasthan Canal area and the Madhya Pradesh Government has recently distributed 80,000 hectares.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Krishan Kant. . . . You want to put one more question. Mr. Salig Ram? All right.

डा० शालिग्राम : जिन लोगों को यह भूमि दी गई है उन लोगों को किस कदर फर्टिल इजर्स और इरिगेशन के मुतालिक फैसिलिटीज दी गई हैं। उनको कितनी फैसिलिटीज दी गई हैं। क्या क्या फैसिलिटीज दी गई हैं।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, it would be very difficult for me to say, from State to State, what has been granted. Broadly our approach has been that necessary credit and credit for getting various inputs should be made available to these farmers and in addition to that, even for improving lands, long-term loans should be made available to them. That is our broad policy approach.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister by what time do they think that these surplus lands and culturable waste lands will be distributed? Has their attention been drawn to the resolution passed by the AICC that they should be granted within a period of one year? May I know

whether the Government has considered the question of distribution of lands, the panchayat lands, canal lands and the railway lands, which are lying fallow, to the agricultural labour? Sir, the problem of land records is a ticklish one. What action has the Government taken to see that the land records are complete and by what time do they think they can complete the land records?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, as far the waste lands are concerned, we would like the State Governments to distribute those lands within a year or so and some of the State Governments are taking very positive steps as already indicated by me.

As far as the panchayat lands and canal lands are concerned, our broad approach is that those lands which are not required for the benefit of the community should be distributed to the landless labour and preferably to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people.

As far as the improvement of land records is concerned, it will take three or four years more by which time we expect that the land records will be completed in the areas wherever they are incomplete.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या श्रीमान् यह बताएंगे— अपने यह बताया कि अभी आंध्र प्रदेश में और मध्य प्रदेश में इसकी गति अच्छी है—अभी 19 वर्षों से वहाँ की सरकारों ने जो कानून बनाए हैं, अभी तक वह पूरी तरह से लैंड्स को दे नहीं सके, तो क्या आपने इस बात की जांच की है कि ऐसी भूमि जो कि जंगलों के अधिकार में है, और रेवेन्यू डिपार्टमेंट उनको लेने का यत्न कर रहा है, लेकिन अब तक तेईस वर्षों में वह भूमि उनके अधिकार में नहीं आई और कानून में डिले होने के कारण वह भूमि अभी तक किसानों को वितरित नहीं की गई?

इसके साथ ही क्या यह भी बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि आपके पास क्या कोई ऐसी मशीनरी है जिससे आप यह जांच कर सकें कि राज्यों ने आपके पास जो आंकड़े भेजे हैं, वह सही हैं या गलत हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, it would not be correct to say that problem

has been pending for the last 23 years. In fact, immediately after Independence, positive actions were taken by the State Governments for abolishing landlordism in various States, and this concept of land ceiling, etc., came later on. During the last 10 years, State Governments have been making laws ...

SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA : What about forest lands? These have not been converted into revenue lands.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We do not stand for converting forest land. We do not stand for reducing the land under forests. I was referring to the other aspect. You have made a general observation that the implementation is slow. I do not want to make the contention that it is very fast. That's why we have taken up with the Chief Ministers of various States that they should expeditiously implement land reforms so that surplus lands which are available are distributed to the landless labourers and others.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that on account of the absence of definite criteria and guidelines for distributing land to the landless tillers, only the land-owners are getting it *mala fide* and not the landless tillers? May I also know whether the Government of India will issue any direction to the State Governments to make positive legislation for giving permanent tenancy rights to agricultural labourers, so that the landless tillers get the surplus land on a permanent basis?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : At least as far as I know from the information which is with the Government of India, whatever lands have been distributed, have been distributed to the landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If the hon. Member has any specific instance in mind that this is not being done and somebody had taken some disadvantage of that, we will be prepared to take it up with the State Government. So far as share-croppers are concerned, we have taken the decision that share-croppers must be given a permanent right.

SHRI B. K. KAUL : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether whatever figures the Minister gets from the States are reliable. Has he got any machinery to find out the authenticity

of those figures? May I also know as to how far the legislation we pass is applicable to the States?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE : Sir, State Governments are responsible entities. I do not see any reason, unless there is some mistake, to disbelieve the figures furnished by them. As the hon. Member himself is aware, Land is a State subject and we have to rely on the assessment of State Governments in regard to these matters. But our effort has been to try to evolve a national consensus and expeditious implementation of the same.

श्री मनसिंह वर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री कृपया स्पष्ट रूप से यह बतलाने का कष्ट करेंगे कि जितनी भूमि आपा बतलाई है कि शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स वालों को दी गई है, उसमें से कितनी भूमि पर वास्तविक रूप से उनका कब्जा हुआ है क्योंकि मेरी अपनी जानकारी यह है कि भूमि कागज पर तो दे दी जाती है पर कब्जा उतका हाता नहीं है। अनेक प्रान्तों के इस प्रकार के उदाहरण हमारे सामने हैं। और दूसरी बात यह कि जितने भी वेस्ट लैन्ड पड़े हुए हैं, जो दिखलाया गया है, इसमें क्या कहीं भी किसी प्रान्त में सरकारी तौर पर, को-ऑपरेटिव बेसिस पर, खेती करके लैन्डलेस को उसमें लगाने का कोशिश की है क्या ?

SHRI ANNA SAHB SHINDE : There may be case where possession may have been disputed but the exact figures of how much land is under dispute is not available but my assessment is quite a substantial portion of the land distributed is not under dispute as far as possession is concerned. As far as cooperative farming is concerned, we have been trying to encourage it but I must say that so far the progress of the cooperative farming has not been encouraging but as far as our support to the cause and to the basic approach to the problem is concerned, we have been taking the position that a large number of farmers being small farmers, ultimately from the point of view of economy, cooperative farming is a very desirable direction in which farming activity in this country needs to be reorganised.

AMERICA'S SHARE OF CONTRIBUTION TO I. L. O.

*635. **SHRI M. K. MOHTA :** †

SHRI KALYAN ROY :

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the news item published in the "Economic Times" on September, 10, 1970 under the caption "ILO Crisis; Indian Labour Perturbed" on the refusal of the United States to contribute its share to the ILO affecting the World Labour Body's assistance to developing countries and its plan to solve growing unemployment problem there; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made any protest to the United States for its move to withhold its contribution to the Organisation; and if so, the results thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BISHWA NATH ROY) : (a) The Government of India are aware of the fact that the U. S. Government has withheld \$3.8 million out of its assessed contribution to the budget of the I. L. O. for 1970 thereby seriously affecting some of the Organisation's programmes.

(b) No, Sir. However, the Government of India's views on the subject have been informally conveyed to the U. S. authorities both at Delhi and in Washington.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I ask the Minister if it is a fact that out of the ILO's total contribution of nearly 30 million dollars the US contribution amounts to about 25 %, that is, 7½ million dollars and that so far the entire contribution has been withheld? If so, how would the ILO's finances be managed? What is the share of the country in the total budget of the ILO now? May I know whether the contribution is likely to be raised and if so, exactly what is the total burden on the country's foreign exchange resources due to the membership of the ILO? What is the advantage that we derive by the member of the ILO because it seems we do not derive any advantage for the money we are paying?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. K. Mohta.