

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:526
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
LAND OWNED BY SCS AND STS
SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families own far less area of agricultural land as compared to the land owned/held by others;
- (b) if so, furnish the area of land owned by the SCs and STs and others in terms of acres and percentage thereof; and
- (c) the steps initiated by the Government for providing agricultural land to the members of landless SCs and STs families in the Ninth Five Year Plan for bringing them above poverty line?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.526 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd MAY, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b) As per data available from Agricultural Census 1990-91, the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and others, respectively held 325.43 lakh acres (13.17 million hectares), 442.56 lakh acres (17.91 million hectares) and 3321.52 lakh acres (134.42 million hectares) of operated area. It is estimated that out of these operated areas, 12.84 million hectares was owned by Scheduled Castes and 17.37 million hectares was owned by Scheduled Tribes. The share of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and others in the total operated area was 8.0 per cent, 10.8 per cent and 81.2 per cent respectively during 1991. As per the Population Census, 1991, the total population of scheduled castes was 16.48 per cent and the population of scheduled tribes was 8.08 per cent of total population of the country (excluding Jammu & Kashmir). The data for past Agricultural Censuses indicates that the share of scheduled castes farmers in the total operated area has increased from 7.0 per cent during 1980-81 to 8.0 per cent in 1990-91. The share of scheduled tribes farmers during the same period has increased from 10.2 per cent to 10.8 per cent.

(c) The land acquired by the Government through imposition of ceiling on agricultural holdings is distributed to the rural poor including SCs and STs. Besides, the Government's wasteland and Bhudan lands are also distributed to the rural poor. Since inception of the programme, an area of 52.68 lakh acres of ceiling surplus land, 147.47 lakh acres of Government wasteland and 21.75 lakh acres of Bhudan land have been distributed to rural poor including SCs and STs. Nearly 50 per cent of ceiling surplus land distributed to the rural poor has been allocated to SCs and STs in the proportion of 36 per cent to SCs and 14 per cent to STs.