

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1639
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006
PROGRAMME FOR MINOR IRRIGATION
Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken by the Government so far to launch a comprehensive national programme for minor irrigation of all lands owned by dalits and adivasis;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to give land to the landless families through implementation of land ceiling;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to introduce land redistribution legislation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The Government is implementing `Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme` (AIBP) in special category States comprising North Eastern States and Hill States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttranchal) and Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa since 1999-2000. Preference is given to tribal areas and drought prone areas which benefits Dalits and Adivasis. A pilot scheme `National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies Directly Linked to Agriculture` has also been approved in January, 2005. Under the Scheme, priority is accorded to backward and tribal dominated districts. A special programme to provide 100% financial assistance to States for taking up Minor Irrigation Scheme for Scheduled Tribes` land has also been initiated during 2005-06. Besides, minor irrigation activities are also being promoted under the schemes of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India.

(b) to (d): Land and its management falls within the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the States as provided under Entry No. 18 of State list (II) of Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India. States have enacted ceiling laws pertaining to agricultural land holdings. Redistribution of available surplus land is done in accordance with the legal provisions made by the respective States.