

therefore desirable that up-to-date land data is available for preparing the programmes, schemes, and action plan relating to land with specific reference to SCs & STs. The Ministry of Agriculture may take suitable steps to gear up the machinery in this regard.

- 2 The implementation of Ceiling laws has not been given due importance by the States. These Laws were originally framed 30-40 years ago and in some cases those laws were amended as back as 20-25 years ago. There is urgent need to implement these laws since the quality of land and size of land holdings vis-a-vis the population varies from State to State. States have separately passed Ceiling laws but sufficient efforts are not made in enforcing these laws. 6.23  
D.C.(A)  
D.C.(N)
- 3 Large number of areas declared surplus are yet to be taken possession by the State Govts. Such areas are mainly pending in litigation in various courts. The State Govts. Should take immediate steps for early redemption of the lands which are in litigation in the courts, by making suitable changes in the law itself. Similarly the lands which are free from encumbrances and awaiting distribution should be distributed among eligible SC & ST and other poor families so that they can make use of land at the earliest for their livelihood. Delay in distribution of surplus land will not only cause hardships to the poor persons awaiting source of livelihood, it will also decrease the fertility of land awaiting distribution. 6.24  
D.C.(A)  
D.C.(N)
- 4 Up-to-date information about Wasteland and Bhoodhan land available for distribution and distribution made and the number of beneficiaries during each year is not available. The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment which is the Nodal Ministry on the subject has also pointed out that information on the subject was not being reported by the State Govt. It is also noticed that the available data does not give any information about SC/ST beneficiaries and land alienated to them out of Wasteland and Boodhan land, though priority in such allotment is accorded to SCs & STs beneficiaries. The information about SC/ST beneficiaries should also be reported by the State Government so as to enable the Commission and other agencies to monitor and evaluate the progress made in this regard. 6.25  
D.C.(A)  
D.C.(N)
- 5 The allotment of land under any scheme of the Government should be made in the name of women or joint name of allottee and his/her spouse. In the situation where land has already been allotted but the patta or ownership rights have yet to be issued the same may be done in the joint name of wife and husband, except where only one spouse is living. 6.26  
D.C.(A)  
D.C.(N)
- 6 The programme for conferment of ownership rights to the tenants and protecting the rights of the tenants/ sharecroppers from eviction-at-will does not seem to be getting adequate attention in the States. States are 6.27  
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