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# **M.R.D.E.-3**

## **Land Reforms and Rural Development**

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# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

## LAND REFORMS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

M.R.D.E.-3

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer all five questions. All questions carry equal marks.

**Q. 1. Describe the impact of colonialism on land tenure system in India.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-2, Page No. 18, 'Impact of Colonialism on Land Tenure System'.

Or

**Explain main aspects of peasant movements in early twentieth century in India.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 51, 'Peasant Movements in Early Twentieth Century'.

**Q. 2. Discuss the impact of tenancy reforms in India.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-10, Page No. 107, 'Impact of Tenancy Reforms'.

Or

**Describe important features and contributions of Bhoodan and Gramdan movement.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-9, Page No. 93, 'Bhoodan and Gramdan Movement', 'Objectives of Bhoodan Movement', Page No. 94, 'Working of the Movement', 'The Philosophy behind Gramdan' and Page No. 95, 'Working of Gramdan Movement'.

**Q. 3. Answer any two of the following questions:**

**(a) Describe main features of land revenue collection system during the Mughal period.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-12, Page No. 121, Q. No. 3.

**(b) Discuss the impact of land reforms on Indian society and economy.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-10, Page No. 112, 'Cumulative Impact of Land Reforms on the Society and Economy'.

**(c) Explain, in brief, the constitutional provisions related to land reforms.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-7, Page No. 71, 'Constitutional Provisions towards Land Reforms'.

**Q. 4. Answer any four of the following questions:**

**(a) Zamindari system.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 31, 'Zamindari'.

**(b) Deccan Peasant Movement.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 50, 'Deccan Peasant Movement'.

**(c) Land tenure system during Gupta period.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-2, Page No. 15, 'Gupta Period'.

**(d) Land tenure system in Vedic period.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-2, Page No. 11, 'Land Tenure System in Ancient India and Vedic Period'.

**(e) Impact of British rule on agrarian structure.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 30, 'Impact of British Rule on Agrarian Structure'.

**(f) Land reforms through Panchayats.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-14, Page No. 148, 'Land Reforms through Panchayats'.

**Q. 5. Write short notes on five of the following:**

**(a) Pabna Movement.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 49, 'Pabna Movement'.

**(b) Caste System.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-13, Page No. 135, 'Caste' and 'Features of Indian Caste System'.

**(c) Computerization of Land Records.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-8, Page No. 88, 'Computerization of Land Records'.

**(d) Indian Villages.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-13, Page No. 134, 'Features of Indian Village Community, India a Land of Village'.

**(e) Mahalwari.**

**Ans.** In Mahalwari System the unit of land revenue was the village or the mohalla is a part of zagir). The owner of land was not the individual farmer, but it was owned collectively by village *sabhadgram sabha*, others were called co-sarers. In Mahalwari system of land tenure individual farmer was both a *zamindar* and a rent payer. In Ryotwari every registered individual farmer was considered as owned of that land. He was responsible for paying land revenue to the British

government. He Mahalwari system farmers were responsible for the payment of land revenue both individually and collectively. In Mahalwari system, which was prevalent in North-Western provinces and Awadh, the land revenue was fixed. And it could not be reduced even in time of natural calamity, while during the time of Nawab land revenue arrangements could be reduced in case natural calamity occurred.

**(f) Dimensions of Land Reforms.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-1, Page No. 3, 'Dimensions of Land Reforms'.

**(g) Consolidation of Land holding.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-12, Page No. 128, 'Consolidation of Holdings'.

**(h) Pattern of Operational Holding.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-4, Page No. 41, 'Pattern of Operational Holdings'.



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# **Sample Preview of The Chapter**

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# LAND REFORMS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## LAND TENURE SYSTEMS AND AGRARIAN STRUCTURE

### Significance of Land Reforms in Rural Development



#### **INTRODUCTION**

Land reform can be learned along with the overall rural socio-economic structure of the country. In the rural sector in India, overwhelming majority is engaged in agriculture and related occupations. The large segment of this sector often finds them in the low income category. Land reform covers various issues. The objectives and approaches to land reforms and major contribution of land reforms in rural development is not very clear, yet they are very essential in the primary products such as agricultural produce and minerals that are required by the advanced countries also. The significance of this sector in overall nation building, measures has been undertaken by various governments to improve and empower this sector by means of several initiatives of land reforms. In this chapter we will discuss about the meaning and definition of land reforms and also the reasons for its need.

#### **CHAPTER AT A GLANCE**

##### **LAND REFORMS: CONCEPTS AND MEANING**

In this section, we will try to understand the meaning and scope of land reforms followed by a study of approaches to land reform.

##### **Definition of Land Reform**

The definition of land reform is the breaking up of large pieces of agricultural land to be given to small farmers. An example of land reform is the Lancaster House Agreement in Zimbabwe. Land reform is defined as the re-distribution of property or rights in land for the benefit of the landless, tenants and farm labourers. The Warriner, 1969 reduces land reform to its simplest

element. United Nations in 1951 floated a concept known as land reforms. Important features of land reform programme are discussed below:

- Mainly the elimination of the traditional economic-political exploitative power structure in rural society.
- Re-distribution of surplus agricultural land which would lead to more extensive utilization
- Adoption of innovative technology and thereby increasing production and productivity.
- The motivation of the peasants for work and readiness to invest in agriculture.

Agrarian reform is a word derived from the Cold War period which is related with the 'radical movements' whereas land reform, involves improvements towards land tenure and various institutions related to agriculture.

Thus, land reform pertains to the restructuring of tenure. The concept of land reform has varied over time according to the range of functions which land itself has performed: as a factor of production, a store of value and wealth, a status symbol, or a source of social and political influence. Land value reflects its relative scarcity, which in a market economy usually depends on the ratio between the area of usable land and the size of that area's population. As the per capita land area declines, the relative value of land rises, and land becomes increasingly a source of conflict among economic and social groups within the community.

##### **Approaches to Land Reform**

Following are the approaches of the Land Reforms which can be studied under the following heads:

**Asia and the Middle East:** 'Land for the Tiller' In the years after World War II land redistribution to poor and landless peasants was initiated by the communist



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Viet Minh insurgents in areas which they controlled. Reforms which are taken in East Asia have been comprehensive which create a class of independent property owned peasants and alleviating poverty and the landless farmers. In the country like Japan the reform were by US occupation forces. On the other hand, in Korea it was carried by the threat the communist segment in the society. After the partition of the country into two parts, North Vietnam and South Vietnam the communist land reform (1953-1956) re-distributed land to more than 2 million poor peasants, but at a cost of thousands, possibly tens of thousands of lives and contributed to the exodus of up to 1 million people from the North to the South in 1954 and 1955. Reforms in India and Middle East have been on the same pattern.

**Latin America: Redistribution of Estates**

Unlike Europe and Asia, where there has been a broad tradition of small-farm ownership in Latin America. Land in Bolivia was unequally distributed – 92% of the cultivable land was held by large estates – until the Bolivian national revolution of 1952. Then, the MNR government abolished forced peasantry labour and established a program of expropriation and distribution of the rural property of the traditional landlords to the Indian peasants. In 1934, President Lázaro Cárdenas passed the 1934 Agrarian Code and accelerated the pace of land reform. He helped redistribute 45,000,000 acres (180,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of land, 4,000,000 acres (16,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of which were expropriated from American owned agricultural property. This caused conflict between Mexico and the United States. Agrarian reform had come close to extinction in the early 1930s.

In Chile, attempts at land reform began under the government of Jorge Alessandri in 1960, were accelerated during the government of Eduardo Frei Montalva (1964-1970), and reached its climax during the 1970-1973 presidency of Salvador Allende. In Mexico, One of the aims of the reform government was to develop the economy by returning to productive cultivation the underutilized lands of the Church and the municipal communities (Indian commons), which required the distribution of these lands to small owners.

**Africa: Re-distribution of White-owned Land**

Land reforms in African countries have been concerned with correcting the imbalance of agricultural land ownership by the minority white settler population. Namibia's colonial past had resulted in a situation where about 20% of the population (mostly white settlers)

owned about 75 per cent of all the land. In 1990, shortly after Namibia got its independence. Its first president Sam Nujoma initiated a plan for land reform, in which land would be re-distributed from whites to blacks, legislation passed in September 1994, with a compulsory, compensated approach. By 1979, when Zimbabwe gained independence, 46.5% of the country's arable land was owned by around 6,000 commercial farmers, and white farmers, who made up less than 1% of the population, owned 70% of the best farming land.

About 50% of the agricultural land in both Namibia and Zimbabwe, and over 80% in South Africa and the transfer of power to the native majority.

**De-collectivization in the Former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe**

The Emancipation reform of 1861, effected during the reign of Alexander II of Russia, abolished serfdom throughout Russia. More than 23 million people received their liberty. Serfs were granted the full rights of free citizens, gaining the rights to marry without having to gain consent, to own property and to own a business. For instance, the decision to restore the rights of former owners have been universal in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. The Manifesto prescribed that peasants would be able to buy the land from the landlords.

**Interventions in Land Reform**

There are four main types of interventions in land reform:

**Land Tenure Reform:** Land tenure is the relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, among people, as individuals or groups, with respect to land. Land tenure is an institution, i.e., rules invented by societies to regulate behaviour. Rules of tenure define how property rights to land are to be allocated within societies. They define how access is granted to rights to use, control, and transfer land, as well as associated responsibilities and restraints. In simple terms, land tenure systems determine who can use what resources for how long, and under what conditions.

**External Inducements:** The market-based incentives which are offered by government for social and economic causes some of them includes, the distribution of public lands; state expenditure on land reclamation and subsequent allotment as private property; state sponsored credits with the help of cooperatives; support to various health and educational institutions.

**External Controls:** These are related with the law on property rights. For example: under-utilization,

ownership by absentee landlords and or foreigners, nationalization and collectivization; restitution; re-distribution policies involving expropriation of land on grounds of excessive size. On the other hand, gradual re-distribution policies operate through death duties.

**Confirmation of Title:** This helps in securing the land titles to those who have already had claim. It lays the foundations for land reform towards the complete development.

#### Dimensions of Land Reform

The dimensions of land reform can be studied under two major categories.

**(a) Re-distributional Land Reform:** Land reform meant reform of the tenure system or redistribution of the land ownership rights. The re-distributional land reform aims to minimize accumulation of land holding with a particular group or social institution. Land reform has therefore become synonymous with agrarian reform or a rapid improvement of the agrarian structure, which comprises the land tenure system, the pattern of cultivation and farm organization, the scale of farm operation, the terms of tenancy, and the institutions of rural credit, marketing, and education.

**(b) Institutional Land Reform:** Land reform refers to all those institutional changes aiming at the redistribution of operational land holdings in favour of the less privileged classes from the view point of optimum utilization of land. It focuses on the various areas of institutional support to land reform, identifying several important areas of assistance.

#### Scope of Land Reform

The scope of land reforms, therefore, includes: (a) abolition of intermediaries, (b) tenancy reforms, i.e., regulation of rent, security of tenure for tenants and conferment of ownership on them; (c) ceiling on land holdings and distribution of surplus land to landless agricultural labourers and small farmers; (d) agrarian re-organisation including consolidation of holdings and prevention of sub-division and fragmentation; (e) organisation of co-operative farms; and (f) improvement in the system of record keeping.

#### NEED FOR LAND REFORMS

The need for land reform is felt due to the following reasons:

- It helps in direct and indirect poverty reduction.
- It helps in enhancement of the the agricultural incomes leading to increased demand for tradable commodities and for manufacturing the goods.
- It sponsors the greater household and national food security issues within the country.

- It protects the rights of indigenous small farmer groups.
- It improved income for small farmers.
- It increases employment opportunities in the agricultural sector.
- It strengthens the rights and well-being of women, agricultural labour and other deprived sections of the society.
- It provides direct support to vulnerable groups.

#### IMPORTANCE OF LAND REFORMS

Following are the essential points of the land reforms:

**(a) Enhanced Agricultural Asset:** Land reform measures leads to increased assets.

**(b) Distributive Inequity:** Land ownership is often socially uneven. It aims at judicious distribution of land and promotes equity.

**(c) Distribution and Poverty:** Unequal land distribution pattern is one of the principal cause of poverty in the country like ours. Land reform measures correct these inequalities by improving the per capita income.

**(d) Productivity:** Better managed land distribution coupled with contemporary agricultural production supplements takes the capital productivity to the new level.

**(e) Income:** The above benefits result in higher net income streams from agriculture as compared with other possible forms of economic activity for the rural poor.

#### MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAND REFORMS

The major contributions of land reforms can be divided into following areas:

**(a)** Promotion of socio-economic equality in the rural scenario.

**(b)** Land reforms influence the basis of economic and political power in rural areas.

**(c) Increasing Income and Improving the Quality of Life of Rural Population:** The feeling of security and the resulting willingness to work harder also increases with increased production and income. Land management reform measures in particular work as an incentive for production enhancement, which in turn has a considerable effect on income. An improvement in the living conditions of the rural population can be achieved by increasing agricultural production. Furthermore, changes in distribution pattern mean generally only the redistribution of chances that cannot be of really much help until there has been increase in production.

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**(d) Employment Generation:** Land reform measures results in increase in the employment opportunities for every segment of the society. The small size of the farms is generally accompanied by intensification in cropping and animal husbandry. Breaking up large farms can, however, results in unemployment of farm workers. The laid off workers and tenants may, however, find employment in other fields. Likewise, tenants may lose their land if the owners start cultivating the remaining land they are allowed to keep, particularly if mechanization is introduced or increased at the same time.

**(e) Positive Consequences for Agriculture Production:** Production is directly influenced by measures for improving land management. Appropriate measure for promoting land management makes it possible to avoid decrease in the share designated for the market and setbacks in the cultivation of export crops. It is indirectly influenced by incentives affecting work performance and investments that ensue from land ownership reform. This will be all the more successful and more intensive if the proper help is given by means of the necessary services. The higher the level of development, the easier is this outcome, and larger increases in production are definitely possible. The effects of the land reforms on the type of production are generally clearer.

The new farmers as a result of land reforms have reason to work hard, and the large landowners try to make up for loss of land by intensive cultivation of the remaining land at their disposal.

**(f) Changes in Rural Investment:** Capital generation is important for the agricultural sector due to its long-term effects on production and the economic development. The land reforms lead to a shift in the methods of capital formation. On the other hand; the chances of non-monetary capital formation increase. As small farms pay few taxes because they are exempted as the larger share needed for their subsistence is not counted and only a small percentage of the products are subject to sales.

#### ISSUES IN LAND REFORMS

**Causes of failure of land reforms:** There are a number of causes for the failure of the programmes of land reforms. They are as follows:

**1. Undue advance publicity and delay in enacting land laws:** Much publicity has been given in advance by the leaders of the ruling party to the proposed land reforms after independence. Again, the time taken

for a bill to become an Act in many states has been unusually long.

This has enabled the landowners to make necessary adjustments so as to be able to evade various provisions of land reform legislation. According to the World Bank, "We have, for an unduly long time, continued to preach land reforms rather than practise them and this has proved counterproductive."

**2. Loose definition of the term "personal cultivation":** The term "Personal cultivation" is quite loose. One could resume land for personal cultivation under the definition even while sitting at a distance of 200 miles. The Zamindars have been permitted to possess substantial areas of land for cultivation. Again, the laws have provided for many exemptions in the form of land awarded for gallantry, land under orchards, tea estates, well-run farms, etc.

There are instances when people have availed benefits from some of these concessions, e.g., exemption on the basis of the land being under orchard, by growing only a few berry trees in a particular plot. In this way, loose definition of the term "Personal cultivation" has given chances to Zamindars to eject large areas of land by defying the law.

**3. Optional nature of the laws:** Most of the laws granting ownership rights to tenants are not mandatory. They are rather optional. The tenants have to move the government for grant of ownership rights. They will not get them automatically. On many occasions, tenants hesitate to approach the law courts for this purpose merely out of fear of the landlords.

Cohen rightly observed, "The existing lower or weak position of the tenant would not have been a handicap in the amelioration of his conditions if the law had been a bit kind to him. The law drags him into the court on every occasion".

**4. Malafide transfer of land:** To escape the laws relating to land ceilings, the Zamindars have indulged in large scale transfer of land to their family members or kinsmen. Such malafide transactions do not make any change in the operational aspect of agriculture.

**5. Lack of social consciousness among the tenants:** Prof. Khusro in his study entitled "Economic and Social Effects of Jagirdari Abolition" has emphasised the importance of social consciousness of the tenants as a factor responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms.

The capacity of the tenants to fight for their right also counts a lot in the context of land reforms. M.L.