

BA Part 2

Economics (Subsidiary)

Topic : Land reform in India

Land Reform in India

Pre Independence

*Under the British Raj, the farmers did not have the ownership of the lands they cultivated, the landlordship of the land lied with the Zamindars, Jagirdars etc.

Several important issues confronted the government and stood as a challenge in front of independent India.

Land was concentrated in the hands of a few and there was a proliferation of intermediaries who had no vested interest in self-cultivation.

* Leasing out land was a common practice.

The tenancy contracts were expropriative in nature and tenant exploitation was almost everywhere.

*Land records were in extremely bad shape giving rise to a mass of litigation.

One problem of agriculture was that the land was fragmented into very small parts for commercial farming.

It resulted in inefficient use of soil, capital, and labour in the form of boundary lands and boundary disputes.

Post Independence

* A committee, under the Chairmanship of J. C. Kumarappan was appointed to look into the problem of land. The Kumarappa Committee's report recommended comprehensive agrarian reform measures.

* The Land Reforms of the independent India had four components:

1.The Abolition of the Intermediaries

2.Tenancy Reforms

3.Fixing Ceilings on Landholdings

4.Consolidation of Landholdings.

These were taken in phases because of the need to establish a political will for their wider acceptance of these reforms. Continued.....

By : Ekata Kumari

Assistant Professor (Guest faculty)

R. M. C Sasaram, Rohtas

Email I'd :bhardwajekata@gmail.com

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