

ECONOMICS (CLASS—12)

INDIAN ECONOMY

1950–1990

Topic----- THE GOALS OF FIVE YEAR PLANS

AGRICULTURE (Land reform)---

Steps Implemented under the Land Reforms

Immediately after independence, many states in India passed the Zamindari Abolition Act. In the states of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar etc. the surplus land of the landlords were seized by the states. Although the Supreme Court found the act unconstitutional, the legislature amended the article and corrected their actions. By the abolition of intermediaries of all types, nearly 2 crore tenants became owners of their own lands. The tenure laws were updated and the land reforms were finally showing some positive results.

The other important step taken was the imposition of the land ceiling. This law fixes the total amount of land an individual or family can hold. Not only does the law implement the fixation of the ceiling, it also allows the government to take over the surplus land. Such land was then distributed among landless farmers or small farmers. The imposition of such a land ceiling was to deter the concentration of land in the hands of a few. The reforms also promoted consolidation of holdings. If a farmer had a few plots of land in the village, under this scheme these lands would be consolidated into one big piece of land. This can be done by the purchase or exchange of land. Actually, one problem of agriculture in India is that the land parcels are too small for commercial farming. This method can solve the problem of land fragmentation. To solve the problems of land subdivision and lack of financing the government also began promoting co-operative farming. Here farmers can pool their lands and resources and gain the advantages of economies of scale

and capital investment. But co-operative farming in India has only seen limited success.

Importance of Land Reforms

The main incentive of these land reforms is to act as an incentive for the farmers and the cultivators of the land. If the government can assure their protection (from exploitation) and provide them financial help, these farmers are willing to do the hard work. Once he is actually granted ownership farmer can raise credit and cultivate his land to the full potential. Another major advantage of such land reforms is that they can increase the agricultural output of the country. This is done without any major influx of capital by the state. India was anyways struggling with food self-sufficiency. These land reforms were a cost-free method to increase grain and agricultural output from farms. And once the farmer is self-sufficient he

will sell the market surplus and help the economy. These land reforms also helped in establishing a relationship between the farmers and the government. During the British rule these farmers were heavily exploited and hence they became disenfranchised. These reforms opened a dialogue between the government and the farmers. They both cooperated to boost the agricultural sector of our economy. And land reforms fulfilled one of the major goals of the five-year plan Equity. It provided social justice to the crores of farmers across the country. It made sure the farmers benefitted from their own labour and promoted equality of wealth.

Assignment

(1) Write the importance of land reform.

(2) What are the step of implementing land reform?

(3) What do you mean by the term Land ceiling?

(4) Write the main benefits of land reform.

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