

# LEGALFOXES LAW TIMES

## HISTORY OF LAND SYSTEM IN INDIA BEFORE BRITISH RULE

By Anushka Singh

### Introduction

India is a land based around farming hence it is said to be that it belongs to the agrarian community agriculture in India who holds a very important and gratified of place in terms of both employment and income it is a way of life that prove its origin and organisational structure and shape its value system

There was an unequal and unbalanced distribution of property and revenue forms

the person reading value system explain this unequal administration and suspension of property the system comprises a number of defences changes therefore the layout provides educate opportunities for research in the land system and reforms procedure.

The operation of evaluation and evolution which thereby played an important role in the complex structure of Indian agriculture is explain through the three main time reforms which are ancient mediaeval and British

### 1.1 ) Ancient Land Revenue system

Ancient India illustrates a set of systematic relations involving private ownership royal administration and communal rule of villages

#### a) the vedic age

the system of distributing land was predominantly stated from the early Vedic period were the term for this process was named as the land grants

the land was gifted by the kings to the brahmins and this gifted land when inhabited by the brahmins it was known as the agraharas this concept of land grant was prevailing in the ancient India Agrahara is also known as the chaturvedimangalam and its references are provided by the various literary sources apart from the various inscriptions from the kings along with Agrahara s , Brahmadeyas , Devadans were also the land grants the purpose of the donation were named the differently such as land grants donated to brahmins for religious institutions were known as Brahmadeya and land grants donated to brahmins as a gift towards the almighty was known as Devadanans and for the settlement of priests which land was given is known as Agrahara , these were the tax free land grants given to the brahmins, these land grants were made either to a

single Brahmin or to several brahmins families which ranged for several years Brahmadeyas,. Devadanas, Agraharas vah unwaveringly located near the irrigation work such as lakes rivers sir tanks and when not new sources for irrigation working instructed there by following this brahmins became the administration of agriculture and as productions the second is the Kara-shasna - David the revenue wearing land grants, where the tax must be paid to the

The third is the kraya shasana this was the land grants given for the secular purpose and it was mainly given to the military officers except in the later Vedic literature clearly indicated the preferences of brahmins on the land it clearly bring out the importance of brahmins in the literature also bring about 2 the conclusion the Brahmin should be given land in return of Vedic sacrifices and ceremonies which they perform.

#### b) **Pre Mauryan Age**

the literature became more vocal in preferences of land grants as dakshina to the brahmins who provide service to the individuals in Pali literature it was mentioned that the bimbisar of Magadh and Prasenjit of koshala donated land to the Brahmins

#### c) **Mauryan Age**

The Arthshastra best of the knowledge of indication that some of the brahmins settlement was established by the royal degree at the same time they enjoyed the land which was exempted through taxes and it included other privileges too

#### d) **Post-Mauryan Age**

the land grants were tax free with other privileges such as forced labour and the revenue generated by the land can be settled among them without being shared to the state the satavahana era in the naneghat and Nashik inscription of Queen Naganika.

#### e) **Gupta Age**

during this age implication of the land grant became extensively spread all over the subcontinent the imperial guptas were not deemed to be granted on the owners of the land and only to corporate inscriptions were described to skandagupta , the guptas mandated the villages to obey the brahmins and to hand over all the taxes to the brahmins.

#### f) **Post Gupta Age**

Hieun Tsang mentions the Harsha official tax free land grants tax exempted there was shift in the 10th century the land grants which was given to the Brahmins, now it was directly given to the temples

### **1.2)Mughal land revenue system**

gave out increased separation and Heriditiation of social potential a larger portion of agricultural product was extracted from Pizza entry and it was basically used to maintain the military vessels and the brahmins had grant such as brahmadeyas and devadanas and agraharas what the tenure holder

by the tenth century there was a change to witnessed where the land were directly granted for temples instead as brahmadeyas the separation from the president of the excessive production from the land as the land revenue was the mediaeval feature of agrarian system under the mediaeval period the subsequent study brought to the conclusion that the Mughal exempted land from the tax but not the crops if the land is wearing tax then the peasants were to pay tax other than that no land revenue was taken by the Mughals the revenue administration under the first two Mughal rulers did not get any chance to improve the land system in India as Babur I was so much engaged in various wars as in for the beginning of the Mughal Empire Babur for the Lodhi Empire in 1526 followed by the battle of khanwa all these four years of his ruling he devoted all his times to the words this successor who are you also did not get any chance to improve as he was troubled some after his accession to the throne and had to spend most of his life in the

the magnificent land revenue system was provided by Sher Shah Suri to intercede in the middle of Humayun and Akbar.

Sher Shah Suri had a great knowledge of revenue system as jagirdars of shishram , khawaspur and Tanda comma when he became the emperor of India he tried to introduce the system on a large scale he introduced the measurements of lands in uniform standards he divided the cultivable land in three categories which was good middling and bad. the share of the state was fixed at one third of the gross production which can be paid through any mode either cash or kind each cultivator has to pay two and a half percent of the revenue he paid to the state shares have paid great awareness to the pigeons hi lessen the revenue at the time of calamities he appointed particular officers for the collection of tax their conduct was kept a keen eye by the emperor so that they do not exploit any of the peasants in 14th century the foundation of surface irrigation led to the rising of spring crop Rabi autumn crop kharif the Tughlaq ruler encouraged the canal irrigation the local people and the landlords were given different responsibilities such as digging of fodder canal and maintenance of public canals Mohammed Tughlaq reform the revenue system the the emperor introduced an impartial approach by inflating the rate of taxation on such and fertile and full stop and help the poor.

The two periods of the instigation of two major crops tobacco and maize

Land revenue system during Empire shape of Akbar during this time Akbar's dynasty new system of revenue collection were introduced with the help of Raja todarmal who acted as the finance minister of emperor the two systems was Zabti and Dahsala system

### **The Zabti system**

it was considered as the most important method of evaluation all the origin of this practice was done by Sher Shah but it effectively prevailed during the Empire shape of Akbar Akbar revise the whole pattern of this practice until it got its final shape Akbar introduced an experiment name karori which month all the parganas and fiscal who is land building for more than 1 crore had to place under the office known as karori .

The jagir that is the land gifted by emperor as a gift word trans figured as khalisa the measurements during the karori experiment were done through different procedures were some changes were also seen during this time bamboo rods having an iron ring called the nawab was used instead of hamper ropes on the basis of higher yields and production and the prices prevailing in another region where divided for revenue purpose into Dastur circles Dastur ul Amal I was put together at zonal level keeping into consideration food crops there was a fixed price and were respectively decided

Main feature of zabti system was measurement of land was unnecessary ye Dastur Al Amal known for the fixed rates of crops the collection thereby was made in cash

Merits measurements were able to rechecked Dastur Al Amal was introduced and made easy for collection of fixed rates in 14 century the foundation of surface irrigation lead to the raising of spring crop Rabi and canal irrigation the local people and the landlords were given full responsibilities such as digger of field maintenance public canal

Demerits the zabti system could not be applied if the soil was not invariable if the yields were unknown it could provide problem to the presents this method was high priced it was only applicable in in CRO region of emperor.

### **The Dahsala system**

was initiated by Akbar the average prices and the average procedure of different crops prevailing in the last 10 years were calculated one third portion of the average production was allocated to the state the system was embraced in the major provinces of Empire covering Multan Delhi Allahabad our Lahore. The main feature of the system were calculated the appropriate measurement of the land 16x60 bighas was implicated as a standard unit of area. A new gaz aur yard was used as 41 digits or 33 inches in length to fix the land revenue of both consistency and production of cultivation were taken into examination coma land which was being continuously cultivated was named polaj and in the contrary lying land which was fallow was called parauti for years. Was made to pay ful rates called polaj the land which has been lide fellow for 3-4 consecutive years were called chachar .

entered in 5th year into its cultivation

decide that following land revenue had been examined in kind was transferred into cash from the basis of Dastur Al Amal prepared at zonal level cultivators got patta which was known for title deed of land qubooliat of agreement in obedience two patients had to pay the dues

### Shahjahan

The emperor introduced one of the important revenue official which was known as ameen whose main function was to assess the revenue he was appointed by Diwan which was the central finance department he was responsible collectively with the karori and faujdar for the safe transportation of collected revenue hair by the faujdar of the region kept a keen eye on the activities of amine and Karoli he also used to suggest their promotion

Other than Zabti and Dahsala there were more methods of land revenue assessment during the Mughals

Few frequently used methods were

- Khet batai : division of fields and share was decided when the crop was still standing
- Lang Batai : when the crop was cut but the grain was not separated at that time the share and division of crops was decided.
- Ghalla bakshi crop sharing common name different at different region bhaoii and batai

in late 17 century crop sharing has been mentioned as the best method of revenue assessment and collection the method was introduced where the pigeons and the state share the risk of seasons equally

Kankut word derived from the word kan and kut where Kan means grains and kut meant to calculate appraisal

Does the land revenue system established by Akbar continued throughout the Mughal period with not a proper amount of of change the system worked edicate likho the land revenue under Babar stood at rupees 2.60 crores in Akbar time it stood at rupees 17.5 3 crores in Jahangir time at 17.808300 under Aurangzeb it rose to 29.7 71 crores

At the time of of Empire ship of Aurangzeb he introduced the system to the Deccan the cost of revenue doubled

Masaq revenue assessment and collection that was

### Revenue farming ijara system

Aurangzeb precisely and clearly said that land revenue should be commanded according to Sharia that is not more than one half of the total produce Aurangzeb specify that where the authorities to alternative to crop sharing usually in the case of grave present fees entry the proportions should be one half of one 3rd to 5th

Rates were explicitly higher than that of Akbar's time in the scenario of Rajasthan it was observed that the rates of revenue were different according to the castes

### **Land revenue administration during Mughals:**

There is a lot of details about the revenue mechanism about the land which was directly on by the kings that for this type of land was kharif on the contrary the information about the jagir was a person who has the power to collect and enjoy the revenue and to operate the government in the district

the jagirdar were transferred in every two to three years in different areas where they have no knowledge of revenue paying potential of that local area therefore the local areas decided to have more officials to assist these jagirdars officials and agents of jagirdar jagirdar who had their permanent residence in that area and were hereditary do not get off affected by the Jagat Das who are transferred there were also imperial officials to help and control the jagirdars.

At the rural level there were some more revenue officials

#### **a) Qunango:**

a subdivision of districts resulting in group of villages were known as pargana which was administered by Qunango as the revenue officials this official post was inherited but an order from the king for the nomination was still required thereby the Qunango can be removed by the order of king when he is found to be conducting malpractices his main works include maintaining records revenue receipts area statistics common practices and customs of the local area generation in return of those works where 1% of the revenue generated.

#### **b) Chaudhari:**

Important it and one of the major main works to assess the collector of revenue was also known as the counter check for Qunango.

#### **c) Shiqqdar:**

at the time of Sher Shah Dewar respectively appointed for maintaining law and orders and at the time of Akbar these officials were the subordinate to the karori and were helpful during the experiment

#### **d) Muqaddam and patwari:**

they were the officials at the village level and they were known as headman who used to have 2.5 % of the revenue the main work of patwari was to maintain records

#### **e) Waqai Nawis :**

these were the officials whose main duty was to report the kings.

Since we have studied about ancient times and the pre-british rule now we will study about the british rule which was introduced in our country.

**Conclusion :**

The land system during the ancient time was efficient basically for the Brahmadeyas and they were given a lot of importance , this system introduced the Kayastha caste , and many other . the procedure in Ancient history gave an eminent rise to the caste system , where as when we look at the Mughal system of the Lnad revenue system the lands were effectively used by the peasants and were given reliefs during the time of calamities ,most of the emperors of this era was fascinated by the land system and brought many changes and gave a special importance for the finance assistance of their's .

The land system was not modern but was compassionate towards the peasants , after the rise of British the whole Land system was demolished .

