

ADMINISTRATION OF LAND DISTRIBUTION IN TELANGANA – A STUDY OF ADILABAD DISTRICT

U. Gangadhar¹

Assistant Professor of Public Administration, GRP.Govt Degree College, Bhainsa
Dist. Nirmal: 504103, Email - ugangadhar006@gmail.com

Prof. P. Narasimha Rao²

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, Department of Public Administration & HRM, Kakatiya University,
Warangal:506009, Email - pnrao1958@gmail.com

Abstract : *Land Reform in itself is not a permanent solution, unless it is supported by a comprehensive agrarian reform programme, providing proper institutional and infrastructural strength. Then only the land reform programme initiates a process of change that helps to promote both income and employment generation in agriculture as well as in industry. It is true that only partial land reforms were implemented in India. But by all indications, even these partial land reforms were implemented in India. But all indications, even these partial reforms have produced some positive and useful results when viewed against the background of the pre-independence agrarian structure. There is, however, a need for more comprehensive and structural adjustment oriented agrarian reforms to introduce just and egalitarian social relations in the rural areas.*

Key words: *Comprehensive, Agrarian, Income, Employment, Industry, Rural areas.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Andhra Pradesh is essentially an agrarian economy with nearly more than seventy per cent of its people living on agriculture and activities allied to it and generating nearly twenty five per cent of States Income. In this situation naturally, the question of equity in land-man-ratio becomes a crucial one in this region of the nation. Those who argue from the view-point of elite politics may consider the equity in land relations as an obsolete issue in Indian politics. Land Reform as a policy prescription for rapid rural development has received a serious setback worldwide in recent years. This is not because land reform is no longer relevant, but because of change in the policy prescription of international funding agencies like the IMF and the World Bank in favour of market oriented reforms as against the welfare and development oriented reforms¹. The UN and its leading organizations, such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO have contributed specifically to the globalization process and 'enhanced the ability of global capitalism to dominate the world'. They have been key institutional instruments through which global corporations and globally dominant states have dictated their policy choices to developing and less developed nations in the forms of structural adjustments, privatization, and desired market reforms to serve the purposes of global surplus accumulation and political control.² There is a need to reopen the debate on why land reform should still be considered as one of the powerful policy measures for breaking the vicious circle of poverty and underdevelopment in rural areas of less developed countries.

Post-independence India has witnessed three rounds of land reforms programmes; the first phase is from 1950 to 1965, the second phase from 1970 to 1985 and the third phase is from 2005 to 2014.

1.1 First Round Land Reforms

In the first round of land reform programmes, during 1950- 65, much importance has been given to implementation of Jagirdari abolition, Tenancy laws, and land distribution through Bhoodan movement where as in the second round during 1970-85 the focus of land reform programme shifted to distribution of surplus lands emerged out of implementation of Ceiling Acts and cultivable lands under government control. The Socio-Political backdrop for introduction of land reform laws in first round is, discussion of agrarian reforms in Congress Party during the freedom struggle, recommendations of various committees on land reforms- especially during 1947-50 appointed by Congress

Party to deal with land problems in rural areas, powerful peasant movements in rural areas, especially Telangana peasant armed struggle during 1946-51.

1.2 Second Round Land Reforms

The major Political reasons for introduction of second round of land reform policy are; the opinions expressed by Chief Minister Conference in 1969 on implementation of first round of land reform laws, recommendations of Task Force Committee, appointed by Planning Commission, on failures of first round of land reform programmes and need for introduction another round of comprehensive agrarian reform programmes and specific recommendations of Central Land Reforms Commission (CLRC) in 1970. Besides this, another political exigency for the Congress Party in power was to counter the debate push forwarded by Naxalite Parties in Indian Politics on failure of land reforms implemented by various state governments and need for advancing agrarian revolution programme in rural areas.

The major reasons for the failure of redistributive land reforms in first and second rounds are; lack of political will and commitment on part of the political party in power and government, inefficient and corrupt law enforcement agencies, negative and litigant role of judiciary, the time gap between enactment and enforcement of law gave scope for effective manipulation and adjustment of land holdings by the land owners, and lack of political awareness and unorganized nature of beneficiaries i.e. landless poor which resulted in complete absence of beneficiaries participation in the programme. There used to be a popular comment on implementation of Land Ceiling Act during late 1970's, according to opinion of an popular academician; "it is not a land ceiling Act but it is a land feeling Act there used to be a feeling of hope among poor to get land from Government and a feeling of fear among landowners to lose their land". However, though the implementation of ceiling Act did not benefit much to the landless and poor farmers but there is indirect impact of this Government initiated land reform programme over landowning classes of rural areas, as a result, they set their land holdings and rural properties right with in the manageable limits and invested the surplus into industry and business and concentrated on building urban assets.

1.3 Third Round Land Reforms

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced to distribute a few lakhs of acres land in the third round of land reforms programme on the republic day of 2005 this program has been launched by the Chief Minister at the Kondangal Mandal of Mahabubnagar district of Telangana region. In the third round of land reforms programme taken up in the 7 phases from 2005 to 2014.(The statistical data provided in this article only up to 5 phases).

In this phase the government land distribution program is supplemented by a comprehensive land development scheme popularly known as "Indira Prabha" scheme formulated and implemented by the Department of Rural Development in coordination with Panchayath Raj and Revenue departments. As per the announcement made an amount of 500 crores were allotted to this "Indira Prabha" scheme to give subsidized loans to the beneficiaries to develop the land for cultivation. The declared purpose of this land distribution program is "to provide at least two acres of cultivable land to each landless family in the state". Empowerment of women through providing an income generating permanent asset, i.e., cultivable land, is an important dimension of this third round of land reform programme in Andhra Pradesh. Another important feature of this programme is the constitution of assembly constituency level land assignment committees under the chairmanship of MLA to select the beneficiaries and monitor the distribution program. These constituency level committees are represented by revenue officials, political party representatives and three activists from SC, ST, BCs and women categories nominated by the in-charge minister of the district. In this regard the earlier Government Order related to this programme has been revised by the government to give representation to the regional parties along with national level political parties. Thus space is created to encourage the participation of all political parties in the land distribution program in the villages.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

1. To study the various land reforms stages and other programs and facilities available in selected area in Telangana state.
2. To study the social economical background of Adhilabad district towards the land distribution.
3. To identify the perception of the respondents of land distribution in Telangana state.
4. To study the impact of land reforms Acts in agriculture sector.
5. To assess the distribution gaps and suggest suitable remedial measures for improvement of land distribution system in Telangana state.

3. METHODOLOGY :

The research paper based on secondary data the related secondary data will be collected from Telangana statistical surveys, Andhra Pradesh Records, books. Magazines, annual reports, documents, news papers journals unpublished thesis and etc.

Table – 1
All Phases of Land Distribution Programme in the State of Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Regions & Districts	I – Phase 26-1-2005	II – Phase 21-8-2005	III – Phase 19-11-2006	IV – Phase 4-1-2008	V – Phase 14-4-2010	Total
Andhra Region							
1.	Srikakulam	3282.05	16056.00	6618.29	5204.75	1539.90	32700.99
2.	Vizianagaram	6297.82	3500.00	6000.00	3988.75	2020.13	21806.70
3.	Visakhapatnam	19910.00	16861.00	5877.98	31235.26	7396.02	81280.26
4.	East Godavari	5155.37	2704.57	2247.41	3135.67	4724.10	17967.12
5.	West Godavari	5204.11	5757.63	5001.62	4328.57	340.00	20631.93
6.	Krishna	3532.49	4593.31	1947.39	10910.7	1702.37	22686.26
7.	Guntur	2724.44	3373.72	3975.10	7748.15	1086.57	18907.98
8.	Prakasam	6660.46	13739.79	6730.80	5127.54	1839.03	34097.62
9.	Nellore	23242.15	5485.88	6007.79	10500.81	6815.00	52051.63
	Total	76008.89	72071.9	44406.38	82180.2	27463.12	302130.5
Rayalaseema Region							
10.	Chittoor	2829.89	6577.91	8050.37	13794.25	16124.41	47376.83
11.	Kadapa	8465.10	6513.00	6902.47	9772.53	6028.85	37681.95
12.	Ananthapur	8992.46	6835.46	11705.36	15234.56	8878.54	51646.38
13.	Kurnool	5659.35	6761.08	4769.82	3799.12	4017.10	25006.47
	Total	25946.8	26687.45	31428.02	42600.46	35048.9	161711.6
Telangana Region							
14.	Khammam	4531.26	4693.14	3593.01	6138.00	1321.99	20277.40
15.	Warangal	3304.26	3326.42	4785.50	3100.1	4130.31	18646.59
16.	Karimnagar	4664.54	4332.28	4201.81	2686.95	1709.82	17595.40
17.	Adilabad	15275.71	10573.80	4724.94	8165.54	5984.31	44724.30
18.	Medak	6883.38	25402.40	5501.55	3169.00	2451.62	43407.95
19.	Mahabubnagar	6616.15	4219.06	4545.35	6602.16	5190.58	27173.30
20.	Nizamabad	5072.00	4358.61	3249.80	6852.33	2498.33	22031.07
21.	Nalgonda	5069.40	11264.79	4349.55	4146.88	4400.58	29231.20

22.	Ranga Reddy	1845.08	3493.19	594.95	1147.71	856.07	7937.00
	Total	53261.78	71663.69	35546.46	42008.67	28543.61	231024.2
	Grand Total	155217.47	170423.04	111380.86	166789.33	91055.62	694866.32

Source: Compiled from the statistical data of Bhubarathi from 2005-2010, A.P. Secretariat, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, 2012

In the third round of land reforms, the Government of Andhra Pradesh started the land distribution programme to promote socio-economic development to the weaker sections especially SC's, ST's, BCs and other weaker sections. So far, five phases of the programme have been completed over a period of five years i.e., from 2005 – 10 under these five phases an extent of 6,94,866.33 acres of land has been distributed to 5,03,373 beneficiaries. (See Table – D).

The region wise analysis reveals that, in all the five phases the percentage of land distributed is more in Andhra Region (43.8 per cent) followed by the Telangana (33.2 per cent) and Rayalaseema Regions (23.0 per cent) respectively. The district-wise land distribution reveals that, except in the three districts viz. Ranga Reddy, Karimnagar and East Godavari in all other districts, the total extent of and distribution and number of beneficiaries is higher than in other districts. An examination of beneficiaries caste composition in the land distribution, programme in A.P. reveal that most of them represents Backward Castes (34 per cent), followed by Scheduled Castes (28 per cent), Scheduled Tribes (24 per cent) others (0.11 per cent) and minorities (0.01 per cent).

While coming to the actual implementation of the land distribution programme, it is reported that more than 65 per cent of beneficiaries have already received these lands long back i.e. during the second round of land reforms between 1970-85. The lands distributed in the seven phases of the third round are under possession of the beneficiaries without title deeds. In this phase the government is distributing the same land to the same beneficiaries along with "Patta pass books" (i.e. title deed/RoR). For examples in Hathnoora mandal of Medak district in 1977-78 (26 years back) 370 acres of land has been distributed to 280 poor families since then the land is under their possession but government did not bother to issue 'title deeds' to the beneficiaries.¹⁶ In this phase of "Indira Prabha "Indira Kranthi Patham" (IKP) the government has come forward to issue "patta pass books" to the beneficiaries so that they become eligible for institutional finance, which is crucial for the poor farmers to cultivate the land. Likewise in Prakasham district of coastal Andhra (especially in Kanigiri, Addanki, Parchur, Martur Assembly Segments) the district administration has procured 15280 acres and identified beneficiaries to that effect among them 62 per cent are old beneficiaries now receiving "title deeds". The only encouraging factor in this phase is beneficiaries are getting clear cut "title deeds" to that extent that they are happy. In Khammam district out of 4,500 acres procured land for distribution 4,237 acres were already assigned to the poor now the district administration has distributed "title deeds" to the old beneficiaries and shown them as new land owners. In an informal discussion with an Officer in the Revenue Department commented and accepted the fact indirectly that, in this phase we are giving "title deeds" / Patta Pass Books and financial assistance to the farmers in order to develop the land which is already in their possession

In the month of August, 2005 special commissioner for land administration and special officer for land distribution, Government of Andhra Pradesh visited the Warangal district to inspect the land distribution programme. The Commissioner has visited some villages in Mahabubabad revenue division and interacted with the beneficiaries on the related issues like receipt of Patta Pass Books (PPB), possession and control of distributed land, development of the land and so on. The main complaint of beneficiaries is the attitude of bank officials to give loans which is not in favour of farmers in general and beneficiaries in particular. The Commissioner has advised to form "Rythu Mithra" groups to take loans from the government.

The another typical example in the second phase of the third round of land distribution programme initiated by the Prime Minister of India in Pothamshetty Palli village of Kolcharam Mandal in Medak district is most of the beneficiaries are considerably rich farmers though they belong to ST Community i.e., banjaras. Another important dimension is that some other beneficiaries of the village are refusing to accept the land distributed to them because the lands are absolutely unfit for cultivation with boulders.

Besides this another important dimension of the present round land distribution programme is the government of Andhra Pradesh has allotted thousands of acres of land to the big corporate business firms to develop SEZs (Special Economic Zones). Most of these government-assigned lands belonging to Dalits, Adivasis and Backward classes have been taken back by the government paying nominal compensation to the poor and marginal farmers and allotting the same to the industrial and business firms. In this process the innocent poor and marginal farmers belonging to socially backward classes felt that, "the government is taking back its own land given to them". But, according to a judgment

given by Supreme Court the government has no power to take back the land once assigned to poor farmers belonging to socially and economically backward classes and the assignee shall not alienate the assigned land-without proper approval and permission- to any other person either by sale or any other method of transfer. These poor farmers, neither have knowledge about the land Acts nor economic capacity to fight back the issue in the courts law.

4. CONCLUSION:

Finally it can be concluded that the Andhra Pradesh government is making another non-serious attempt to resolve the land problem in rural areas ignoring the link between pressure from below and the land distribution programme. In the five phases of the third round of land reform programmes, at most the government is able to issue Patta Pass Books/Title deeds to the already distributed lands and to the old beneficiaries which are pending for more than two decades with district revenue administration.

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