

CHAPTER XI.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

HISTORY OF LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND SETTLEMENT.

The district of Saharsa was separated from the old district of Bhagalpur from the 1st April 1954. The old history of Land Revenue Administration and Settlements of Saharsa district are the same as that of Bhagalpur which have been discussed in the *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1962)*.

HISTORY OF LAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT.

The history of land revenue assessment and management of Saharsa district followed the same pattern as in other districts of Bihar. There is a continuity in this matter from the ancient period to the end of the Mughal and then in the British period. There had been changes and modifications from time to time, but the fundamental features appear to have remained unaltered. The Muslims or even the Britishers did not impose entirely a new system of land revenue assessment and collection. On the other hand they adopted mainly, with some modifications what the time required. The Muslim sovereign not unlike some Hindu kings considered himself as a proprietor of the soil and thought he was entitled to get the whole produce. As such in theory there was no fixity of State demand. But in practice one-third or even half of the total produce was taken as the king's share during the Muslim period.

The assessment of the land revenue was ascertained in consideration of the area and quality of the land. The assessment of Todarmal was based on a fourfold classification of lands such as (i) *Polaj* (lands continuously cultivated and never allowed to lie fallow), (ii) *Parauti* (land left fallow temporarily to recover its fertility), (iii) *Chachar* (land left fallow for three or four years) and (iv) *banjar* (land uncultivated for five years or more). Each of the first two classes was subdivided into three grades good, middling and bad, and the average produce was calculated from the mean of the three grades. The classification was determined not by the examination of the soil but on the basis of continuity of cultivation. The revenue fixed in kind was commuted for money payment on the basis of revenue price for the previous ten years. But payment in kind was the general rule.

* See *Bhagalpur District Gazetteer* by P. C. Roy Chaudhury (pages 652-663).

The Britishers who inherited the prevailing system of assessment adopted it with some modification. Mr. Murphy, the Settlement Officer of Bhagalpur (1902-10), had mentioned the procedure generally adopted in fixing cash rents as follows:—

“The lands were classified, and where possible, the average rates paid for similar classes of land in the vicinity were ascertained. In many cases this was not possible, as the rates paid bore little or no reference to the class of the land. In such cases the average cash rate paid in the village for all lands was taken. The average annual value of the produce rent realised by the landlord in the previous ten years was also calculated, and the mean between this and the rental calculated at the average rate or rates was taken as a fair rent. As a rule the average annual value of the produce rents was greater than the rent calculated at the prevailing cash rates and hence the landlord generally stood to lose by the commutation. In many of the villages belonging to the Banaili estate, however, the opposite was the case. In these the result of the commutation proceedings was to increase the landlord's income by about 20 per cent. Strange to say that the only objection was raised by the landlords themselves, who were not satisfied and asked for more. The *raiyats* were quite willing to pay the enhanced rents. This is instructive, as it indicates that the persons chiefly interested in the maintenance of the produce rent system are the landlords' servants who find in it unlimited opportunities for blackmail. The manager of this estate is clearly aware of this, for in recent years he has himself commuted the rents of large numbers of holdings. The only objection to commutation through the settlement courts appears to be that the landlord does not get the *salami*, which is usually paid when the commutation is done by private agreement.”*

The average cash rates of rent per acre paid by different classes of *raiyats* in old Bhagalpur district including Saharsa were Rs. 1-4-0 for the *raiyats* at fixed rates, Rs. 2-10-6 for the occupancy *raiyats* and Rs. 2-15-3 for the non-occupancy *raiyats*. Thus the incidence of average rent per acre fixed during last Survey and Settlement Operations (1902-10) was Rs. 2-10-5.†

* *Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the Bhagalpur District* (1902-1910), p. 96, as quoted in the *Bhagalpur District Gazetteer* (1902), p. 685.

† *Ibid.*, p. 123.

Besides the cash rent the other form of prevailing rent was produce rent. This was the chief source of the bone of contention between the landlords and the tenants. The total area under produce rent during the last Survey and Settlement Operations was 1,57,073 acres and the incidence of assessment of this type of land was calculated at Rs. 8 per acre.

The last *Survey and Settlement Report* mentions as follows:—

“This shows the average assets to be Rs. 1,662 per square mile or Rs. 2-9-6 per acre. The incidence of Government revenue has been calculated in paragraph 349 to be Rs. 135 per square mile or annas 3 pies 4 per acre.

“The *zamindars* therefore enjoy over 91 per cent of the total assets instead of the 10 per cent which was reserved to them by the permanent settlement. In no other Bihar district is the disproportion between the assets and the revenue so noticeable as in Bhagalpur. The fact that the settlement was made at a time when the greater part of the district was covered with jungle, accounts for this result.”*

LATER LAND REVENUE HISTORY.

The period which followed the last Survey and Settlement Operations (1902—10) and the publication of the last *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1911) till the passing of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, followed practically the same system of land administration as, however, modified according to the various tenancy legislations. According to Mr. Byrne the total land revenue demand of Bhagalpur district in 1911 was Rs. 6,05,746 as against Rs. 6,71,071 in 1954 on the eve of the separation of Saharsa from Bhagalpur district.

There were no temporarily settled estates in the areas forming Saharsa district. The number of permanent settled estates on the eve of the vesting of estates to the State in 1955 was 1,936 in the district. Its net land revenue demand was Rs. 2,32,489 and cess demand Rs. 4,69,421 in 1955.

There were 7 *khasmahal* estates—5 in the Supaul subdivision and one each in Sadar and Madhepura subdivisions during 1954-55. The statement below supplied by Land Reforms Section, Saharsa,

* *Survey and Settlement Report* (1902—1910), p. 125 as quoted in the *Bhagalpur District Gazetteer* (1962), p. 666.

will show the details of the erstwhile *khasmahal* estates in the district:—

Serial no.	Name of the estates.	Subdivision.	Tauzi no.	Annual.	
				Rent.	Cess.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs.	Rs.
1	Rajanpur ..	.. Sadar	3,835	2,603	335
2	Dharampur ..	.. Madhepura	2,781	3,037	389
3	Government Estates of Supaul subdivision— <i>Khasmahal</i> .	Supaul	3,973	5,365	392
4	Mansi Piprahi ..	.. Ditto	3,853	309	19
5	North-Eastern Railway ..	.. Ditto	Not available	504	Not available.
6	Gidarmari ..	.. Ditto	3,854	557	35
7	Ranipatti ..	.. Ditto	3,852	520	32

The old distinction between the *khasmahal* estates and the *zamindari* estates has naturally been eliminated with the passing of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950. Now all the estates have vested in the State.

INCOME FROM LAND REVENUE.

Land revenue is the chief source of State income. According to tenancy law rent is the first charge on the land. After the abolition of the *zamindari* system the importance of land revenue as a source of income has increased considerably. The average rent per acre during the last Survey and Settlement Operations (1902–10) was calculated at Rs. 2-9-6. Since then no Cadastral Survey has been conducted in the district. In the absence of a detailed survey it would not be proper to come to any conclusion. But from the figures of current demand of land revenue it appears that there has been a progressive increase in the land revenue of the district. The hitherto *Kabillagan* and *Khas* lands of the ex-landlords which had not been assessed previously have now been assessed except for a small number of pending cases.

The statement of land revenue demand and collection along with cess is given below:—

Year.	Rent.		Cess.
	Current.	Arrear.	

Annual Demand.

1955-56	Rs. 13,16,050.07	Rs. 11,85,807.52	Rs. 1,10,814.73
1956-57	10,23,720.32	17,30,523.77	87,041.29
1957-58	13,68,496.71	18,37,539.89	1,15,463.63
1958-59	31,25,464.42	21,31,777.32	2,46,029.32
1959-60	36,25,556.54	24,69,646.55	2,81,336.58
1960-61	44,24,633.05	25,68,540.84	3,38,224.36
1961-62	42,51,447.74	25,73,799.36	3,29,761.36
1962-63	34,91,985.57	20,12,923.21	6,05,256.78

Total Collection Up-to-date.

1955-56	8,26,870.66	11,46,725.35	64,660.15
1956-57	6,92,344.89	10,03,458.02	52,342.95
1957-58	2,52,979.43	3,80,415.66	18,992.48
1958-59	11,89,271.08	8,32,726.12	87,871.64
1959-60	11,89,172.68	7,59,050.06	90,102.51
1960-61	18,07,588.58	10,24,095.63	1,36,966.95
1961-62	7,00,492.71	5,53,804.15	54,179.73
1962-63	27,92,313.95	12,59,586.46	2,57,500.61

From these tables, it will appear that the current land revenue demand has shown a fluctuating tendency. This is because the current rent demand has yet to be fixed. The rent on all the available *Kabliagan* lands and *Khas* lands of the ex-landlords has not yet been settled. Except in 1962-63, the current land revenue demand has shown a steady increase. The large fall in 1962-63 in the current land revenue demand is reported to have been due to abatements and remissions granted during the period under review. Large areas have had to be acquired for the implementation of Kosi Barrage for the construction of the eastern and western embankments. Abatements and remissions had to be granted for the acquired lands. In 1962-63 a sum of Rs. 7,13,619 was granted towards remission and abatement. The current land revenue demand is expected to go up after the completion of the field *bunhat* operations. The *bunhat* has had to become a lengthy process to find out the actual area in possession of the tenants, the quality, etc., as the

landlords in most cases did not make over detailed revenue papers when the estates were taken over. The remission relates mostly to the 224 villages lying within the two Kosi embankments and they are being ascertained for the period of 1951-52 to 1962-63 from the remission records.

For several reasons the collection of rent in the district for a period of four years, i.e., from 1957-58 to 1959-60 and 1961-62 has been very low. This period coincides with the distribution of relief on a large scale. The reasons for relief have been covered in the section 'Natural Calamities'.

An appreciable amount of rent, i.e., Rs. 27,92,313.95 towards arrear and Rs. 12,59,586.46 towards current has been collected in 1962-63 as a result of the special drive launched in the winter season.

Cess is assessed and realised in accordance with the provisions of the Bengal Cess Act, 1880, as subsequently modified by the rules framed thereunder. Prior to abolition of *zamindaris*, the ex-landlords used to pay cess at the rate of two annas per rupee on the annual value of land. The annual value of some of the estates was, however, considerably reduced as a result of rent commutation operations and Government have, therefore, amended section 37 of the Cess Act by the insertion of section 37-A giving powers to the Collectors to effect reduction in the cess liability of the estate from the date of rent commutation. After abolition, the State Government, in whom the *zamindaris* vested under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, have to pay cess to the District Board at the same rate. The landlords did not make over their up-to-date land records. Because of this it has not been possible to complete the reduction of cess under section 37-A of the Cess Act and make an accurate estimate of the total annual value of land, and so the total amount of cess payable to the District Board annually has not yet been correctly determined. The State Government are, therefore, making advances to Saharsa District Board along with other District Boards against State liability for payment of cess since 1954-55. The *ad hoc* payment is on the basis of figures of current rent demands. The statement below supplied by the Land Reforms Section, Saharsa, will show the amount of advances made to Saharsa District Board by Government from 1954-55 to 1962-63:—

Years.	Amount in rupees.			
1954-55	2,00,000
1955-56	3,17,000
1956-57	3,82,000
1957-58	3,53,800
1958-59	3,71,768
1959-60	3,77,618
1960-61	3,18,572
1961-62	3,71,068
1962-63	2,95,858

EDUCATION CESS.

From 1959-60 the State Government have imposed Education Cess at the rate of one anna per rupee on the annual value of land to meet the rising expenditure on education. There has been an enormous expansion of educational institutions. The statement below supplied by Land Reforms Section, Saharsa, will give the figures of the Education Cess during 1959-60 to 1962-63:—

Years.	Demand.		Collection.	
	Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.
1962-63	Rs. 3,39,780.12	Rs. 1,84,720.83	Rs. 1,53,194.32	Rs. 85,099.44
1961-62	Rs. 1,97,115.20	Rs. 1,71,623.74	Rs. 35,418.13	Rs. 37,085.62
1960-61	Rs. 1,53,990.81	Rs. 1,64,553.54	Rs. 68,697.71	Rs. 64,720.01
1959-60	Rs. 1,33,247.41	Rs. 1,47,429.03	Rs. 57,427.31	Rs. 5,127.14

MISCELLANEOUS CESS.

The figures for the demand and collection of Miscellaneous Cess for the years 1955-56 to 1962-63 are given below:—

Years.	Demand.		Collection.	
	Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.
1962-63	Rs. 2,61,024.88	Rs. 2,70,349.18	Rs. 20,319.32	Rs. 2,87,943.91
1961-62	Rs. 2,28,638.76	Rs. 3,61,023.46	Rs. 12,010.54	Rs. 2,25,004.20
1960-61	Rs. 1,71,130.64	Rs. 2,47,134.75	Rs. 11,340.49	Rs. 1,66,246.12
1959-60	Rs. 1,55,179.53	Rs. 2,59,925.73	Rs. 29,120.38	Rs. 2,34,987.23
1958-59	Rs. 74,650.69	Rs. 2,63,709.41	Rs. 12,902.46	Rs. 2,26,657.67
1957-58	Rs. 35,537.90	Rs. 1,96,693.75	Rs. 20,301.96	Rs. 1,77,593.64
1956-57	Rs. 38,177.40	Rs. 2,09,752.23	Rs. 21,726.56	Rs. 2,01,412.68
1955-56	Rs. 18,886.06	Rs. 1,09,109.04	Rs. 8,214.45	Rs. 1,48,017.34

Miscellaneous Cess figures include the income from *sairats* such as *hats, bazars, melas, jalkars, pokhars* and ferries.

RELATIONS BETWEEN LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

Zamindari system was the creation of the Permanent Settlement of 1793. It was not formed on the basis of mutual contract of the two parties. Peculiarly enough the contract was executed by the alien British Government and the few vested privileged people. Since the tenants were not party to this contract they had for ages considered it as an imposition by the third party. As such it was but natural that the relations between the ex-landlords and their tenants remained strained throughout the whole *zamindari* period. Their interest was never common.

The relationship between the landlords and the tenants has been reviewed in the old *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1911) in the chapter "Rent, Wages and Prices". Long extracts from the reports of the District Magistrate, Mr. F. F. Lyall, for the years 1907-08 and 1908-09 have been given there indicating the bad type of the landlords as a class. Instance of *zamindars* like Rash Bihari Mandal of Madhepura and Maharaja of Sonbarsa in Saharsa district realising much more than what was due as a rent had been given. The *zamindars* have been described as forgerers, robbers and oppressors. The view of Mr. Lyall may be taken to be one-sided and too severe on the landlords. The quotations in the old *District Gazetteer* from Lyall's reports from 1908-09 also show his veiled contempt for the procedure under which justice was administered either in Civil Courts or in the Criminal Courts. The evils pointed out by Lyall are not peculiar to Saharsa district alone. In a way it may be said that the Permanent Settlement brought in a sort of benevolent despotism between the landlords who had the rights very well protected by law and the tenants who had poverty as a common lot. It is correct that wherever absentee landlordism predominated the troubles of the *raiya*t increased. But the *zamindars* also to a great extent discharged their social obligations.

The administration had tried to keep the balance as far as possible till the *zamindari* abolition was undertaken in 1950 as an aid to bring about a socialistic pattern of society which has been taken up as a policy of the State after independence in 1947. The various agrarian laws that had been put under the statute book either as amendments to the existing tenancy legislation or as new Acts were meant for giving the much needed relief to the tenants. The spread of education, the extension of ideas of Local Self-Government and communications, spread of journalism, conclusion of settlement proceedings, etc., were also so many aids to bring about a better relationship.

It could not be expected that with the spread of education the district had in the first two decades of the present century, the tenants would any longer be weakly submitting to the whims and

oppressions of the landlords. There was a considerable friction between the tenants and the management of the Grant's estate and between the Banaili *zamindars* and the tenants. In the third decade of this century the relationship had become very strained. It may be recalled that the Champaran *Satyagraha* of Gandhiji had by then been concluded with success for the *raiyats* who were suffering in the hands of the European Indigo Planters. This event gave a great jolt to the administration, the big *zamindars* and the poor tenants. The tenants were first taught the lesson of unity and there was also a spirit of unrest and lawlessness throughout the country. The agitation in connection with Rowlatt Act, the disturbances in the Punjab, the great stir by the adoption of the Non-co-operation Movement by the Indian National Congress brought a climate that encouraged the *raiyats* to unite and even to take an aggressive attitude. The *diara* disputes, the commutation proceedings and the large number of cases under sections 144 and 145 of the Criminal Procedure Code that took place in the first few years after 1928 are suggestive. The Non-co-operation Movement made the situation more acute. There were riots attended with murder in Mr. Grant's *zamindari*. A survey and preparation of the record-of-rights in the *diara* areas was ordered with a view to the settlement of the disputes. Any Survey and Settlement proceedings are bound to raise more disputes and make the situation tense for some time at least.

In 1922-23 with the advent of the *Kisan Sabha* agitation a new phase began in the relation between the two classes. The *Kisan Sabha* movement under Swami Sahajanand Saraswati and others became vocal throughout Bihar and the grievances of the tenants and the exploitation of their landlords got widespread publication. The *Kisan* Movement spread in Saharsa district also.

The settlement of Alamnagar was completed during 1923-24. In Sonbarsa and the neighbouring villages belonging to Mr. Grant there was no trouble between the *zamindar* and tenants but between one set of tenants and another. In Supaul it was significant that the *zamindar* candidates for the Council were defeated by candidates who professed to represent the *raiyats*.

In 1935-36 the relation between the landlords and tenants entered upon a new phase owing to continued attempts made by the *Kisan Sabha* to ventilate the grievances of the tenants and the high-handedness of the landlords. In the *khasmahals* and in some of the *zamindaris* steps were taken to grant remission in rent. In 1936-37 the *Kisan Sabha* agitation continued to exercise great influence on tenants, encouraging them to resist illegal exactions. The frequent visits of the *Kisan Sabha* leaders kept the agitation alive.

In 1937 the Congress Party formed its Ministry in view of the provincial autonomy of 1935. The Congress Government took some statutory measures to ameliorate the condition of the peasants.

During the first Ministry of the Congress, it became clear that the abolition of the *zamindari* was imminent. The amendments of the Bihar Tenancy Act, 1885, in 1934, 1935 and 1937 were preliminary measures to substantiate the occupancy rights of the *raiyats*.

In 1937-38 the cultivation of *bakast* lands by the landlords which were hitherto usually cultivated by the tenants led to agrarian disputes in some estates of the district. The Bihar Restoration of *Bakast* Lands and Reduction of Arrear of Rent Act, 1938, was passed and the tension averted. In 1938-39 the *raiyats* made wholesale claim over the *bakast* lands and withheld the payment of rent. Commutation Proceedings also received a fillip. The situation remained strained during the whole year, though kept under control by constant vigilance. The policy of double settlement in several cases by the Sonbarsa estate made the situation aggravated in 1939-40.

The relations became all the more strained after the rent reduction operations. During 1940-41 the activities of the *Kisan Sabha* further aggravated the situation. The reappearance of *diara* lands in certain areas revived the old fight between the rival landlords. The *zamindars'* attitude towards their peasants was now largely one of hostility owing to the reduction of rents and restoration of *bakast* lands.

The formation of the Second Congress Ministry in Bihar in 1946 is an event of great historical importance. During the tenure of the First Congress Ministry the abolition of *zamindaris* was mooted and during the Second Congress Ministry it became a State policy. The peasants aspired to release themselves from the yoke of feudal servitude. Besides economic factors, the psychological factors were not less important because of the growing bitterness between the *zamindars* and their tenants. The expansion of education and the free flow of western democratic ideas through the press, printed literature and platforms brought in an intellectual stimulus to have a socialistic pattern of life and administration. The Congress itself had encouraged this idea.

The *zamindari* system with Permanent Settlement was a potent source of the strained relations between the tenants and the landlords. The landlords were encouraged to live a life of ease with very little interest in the tenantry and as such it was the system and not the individuals that really counted as a source of trouble. There are records to show that some of the *zamindars* of the district discharged their social obligations quite well. *Ahars* and *pynes* maintained by some of them had proved the main stay of irrigation. They often remitted a portion of the rentals due and if the tenants were in any difficulties they gave them financial help. Some of the *zamindars* had records of patriotic zeal and had founded schools, colleges, charitable institutions and libraries. Some of the

zamindars had to incur recurring expenditure for the upkeep of the schools and dispensaries they had opened in their *zamindari* areas. After the abolition of *zamindari*, the maintenance of such institutions is the responsibility of the State Government.

TENANCY LAW CHANGES.

The tenants of this district may be classified as tenure-holders, *raiya*s and under-*raiya*s. The *raiya*s hold lands on cash rent and many cultivate lands as *bhawalidars* paying rent in kind. The rights and liabilities of the tenure-holders, *raiya*s and under-*raiya*s have been given in detail in the Bihar Tenancy Act. Before 1934, there was difficulty of transferability of *raiya*ti lands. A purchaser of land either by registered sale deed or through court in execution of money decrees was at the mercy of the landlord and their *amlas* who used to recognise the transfer or refuse the same at their sweet will. Exorbitant *salami* used to be charged from the transferees by the landlords for recording recognition to the purchase and for mutating their names. Even after the payment of *salami*, the purchaser had to execute a deed of surrender with respect to the purchased land and then to take a fresh settlement of the same from the landlord at an enhanced rent. It was not unusual for a *salami* of 25 per cent to be charged over the consideration money. In many cases, the purchaser had to lose their lands because of their inability to meet the demands of heavy *salami*.

The *raiya*s also had no right to manufacture bricks or tiles or to excavate tanks or dig wells even for drinking purpose on *raiya*ti lands; nor could they erect any building without the consent of the landlord. Consent of the landlord could only be obtained by heavy *salami*, which the *raiya*s could hardly afford.

The lands held by the cultivators were to be found under the following categories:—

- (a) The *zamindars'* land either *bakast* or *zerat*,
- (b) Tenants holding lands under the landlords either on their own account or on behalf of the landlords, and
- (c) Sub-tenants holding lands under the tenants.

In this district it was often the case that in a village the major portion of the land was held by the landlords or some big tenants.

Such big landlords who could not cultivate their land all by themselves had to depend on the system of letting out their lands on *bhawli* or *batai*. While doing so they took care not to settle it permanently. They did not want any evidence to be created in favour of the *bhawalidars* so that they could claim an occupancy right in the lands. *Bhawalidars* were thus mostly at the mercy of the people from whom they held their lands. These landlords or the large cultivators were in the habit of acquiring more lands often

through rent suits and money-suits. Money-lenders also acquired lands when the loanees failed to repay and inducted *bhawalidars* on the land. Many who were the owners of lands in small holdings in the past had fallen in the categories of landless labourers or at best *bhawalidars*. Such cases were common, especially where there had been alluvial and diluvial of the area, several stretches of drought, etc., involving rents and other liabilities of the lands fall into arrears. There were villages in Saharsa district where thousands of acres of lands belonging to the tenants had passed into the hands of persons other than the original tenants who were the actual tillers of the soil.

A number of agrarian laws had to be amended or promulgated. The Bihar Tenancy Amendment Act (8 of 1934) recognised all transfers made before 1923 by sale or gift without a transfer fee and for the succeeding period a fee of 4 per cent over the consideration money was fixed as Landlords' fee. This legislation gave a much-needed relief to the *raiyyats* by giving them a statutory right in respect of the use of their lands. The Bihar Tenancy Act was further amended in the year 1938 (Bihar Act II of 1938) during the first Congress Ministry in Bihar. The *raiyyats* were given full rights in their lands and henceforward they could use their lands for all legitimate purposes and dispose of the same in a manner they liked without the consent of the landlords. Only a nominal fee or Landlords' fee had to be deposited at the time of the registration of the deed of transfer. A further improvement in the position of the *raiyyats* had been brought about by a subsequent insertion of section 23 (a) in the Bihar Tenancy Act in 1947. This confers on the occupancy *raiyyats*, a right in all trees over their holdings. They can now plant trees and bamboos, cut and appropriate the same. They can now also appropriate the flowers and fruits and other products of the trees. They can also get the rent of trees of any *bhawli* holding converted into cash rent. Any realisation of *tahrir* (illegal gratification or *abwab*) by the landlords or their agents has been made penal. Provision has been made for payment of rent by postal money order and this has practically destroyed the power of the *amlas* (subordinate staff) of the landlords to harass the *raiyyats*. All these improvements in the status and the rights of *raiyyats* have been brought about by amendment of the Bihar Tenancy Act from time to time.

The right of commutation of produce rent into cash under section 40 of the Bihar Tenancy Act has been a boon to the *raiyyats* as the prices of foodgrains in recent years have gone up considerably and it is highly profitable for the *raiyyats* to pay rent in cash.

The lot of the under-*raiyyats* under the old Tenancy Act was unenviable. They could be evicted from their lands according to the sweet will of the *raiyyats* as they enjoyed no statutory rights in the lands cultivated by them. By the amendment in the Bihar

Tenancy Act in 1938, the under-*raiyats* were granted some statutory rights under section 48A of the Act which enabled them to acquire occupancy rights in the lands cultivated by them for 12 years or more continuously. They were subsequently granted the same rights with respect to the trees and bamboos and the use of and succession to and eviction from the lands as an occupancy *raiyat*. The under-*raiyats*, however, now do not have the right to transfer their lands without the consent of their immediate landlords. There is a move, however, to get a Bill passed in the Bihar Legislative Assembly to confer this right on the under-*raiyats*.

The *bataidars* who cultivate the lands of ex-landlords or tenure-holders enjoy certain rights but the position of *bataidars* who cultivate the lands of *raiyats* is very unsafe. They have no statutory rights but there is a proposal to give such *bataidars* also the right of occupancy in the lands cultivated by them. Now that Lands Reforms Act has been brought in force and the *zamindaris* have been taken over by the State, one by one, both the *zamindars* and the tenure-holders have disappeared and there is left only one class of tenants who will cultivate the lands directly under the State.

TRAVERSE SURVEY.

The State Government decided to start traverse survey in un-surveyed areas of Kosi-affected areas in the district during 1957-58, vide letter no. 17-68/55-8. The survey was to be conducted in the entire Kosi-affected areas of the district, but due to financial stringency it was taken up only in two revenue thanas, viz., Pratapganj and Uda-Kishanganj covering about 237 villages. Accordingly, the survey in thana Pratapganj and Uda-Kishanganj covering an area of 419 square miles was taken up in November, 1957 and completed in April, 1958. Sixteen traversers were engaged to expedite the work and a sum of Rs. 1,32,000 was spent over the work.

Besides, stone pillars were embedded at the points of the traverse stations for use during revisional survey. The work of embedding the stone pillars was taken up in May, 1959 and completed in July, 1959. The total cost in embedding of stone pillars replacing pegs of traverse stations in the two thanas was Rs. 3,390.

The following statement supplied by Land Reforms Section, Saharsa, will show the details of stone pillars deposited in different thanas and police-stations in the district:—

(1) Pratapganj thana (Supaul subdivision)	500 stones.
(2) Simrahi police-station (Supaul subdivision).	500 „
(3) Karjain police-station (Supaul subdivision).	400 „

(4) Uda-Kishanganj thana (Madhepura sub-division).	..	500	stones.
(5) Alamnagar police-station	..	1,200	„
Total	..	3,100	„

The pillars were stocked at Birpur, Karjain, Raghobpur, Pratapganj, Alamnagar, Chousa and Sahsoul.

After traverse survey was made the traverse stations were plotted on the square sheets by the computers after mathematical calculation and checking in Survey Office.

There was a proposal of the State Government to locate the traverse points which were surveyed during 1957-58 on the blue print maps in 1961 and hence traverse points were shown on the blue print maps in 1962 for the revisional survey to be conducted in Saharsa district. The sheets were to be despatched to Saharsa district for being used in the revisional survey in Saharsa district but due to the postponement of Revisional Survey and Settlement Operations the sheets were not supplied. It is understood the postponement was due to financial reasons.

PRESENT SURVEY.

The first Cadastral Survey and Settlement Operations were conducted in Bhagalpur district including Saharsa during 1902-10 by Mr. P. W. Murphy, i. c. s. Since then no survey had been conducted. In the Cadastral Survey the *diara* villages were excluded from the Bengal Tenancy Act Operations, but were topographically surveyed on the 16" scale under the Survey Act. After 1902 the Kosi *diara* areas in Bhagalpur and Purnea including Saharsa were surveyed with 4" scale, boundaries were given and were not decided according to possession. This change was made because it was found that the maps of boundaries by possession at the time of their preparation were of little assistance to the courts as possession in *diara* changes rapidly.

Regarding Kosi *Diara* Survey in Saharsa it appears that the final publication was signed by the Survey and Settlement Officer, Bhagalpur, during the years 1929-31. This operation was conducted in the following revenue thanas of the old Bhagalpur district but now in Saharsa district:—

- (1) Madhepura, (2) Uda-Kishanganj, (3) Supaul, and (4) Pratapganj.

Prior to this, there was a survey by the Banaili Raj in Saharsa district which was adopted by State Government. The record-of-rights prepared by the Survey and Settlement Officer, Sreenagar and Banaili

Raj estates reveals that the operation was started in 1888 in respect of the villages in the following *parganas* of Saharsa district:—

Name of the parganas.	Name of revenue thana.	Name of the subdivision.
1. Kabkhand .. ..	.. Bangaon ..	Madhepura but now in Saharsa.
2. Uttarkhand .. ..	.. Ditto ..	Ditto.
3. Nishankhpur .. ..	.. Madhepura ..	Madhepura.
4. Dhaphar .. ..	.. Pratappanj ..	Supaul. ●

The creation of Saharsa, a separate district in 1954, marked an important phase in the old Bhagalpur district. The vesting of all the intermediaries of the district in the State in 1956 marked another important epoch in history of the land revenue administration of the district. The abolition of the *zamindaris* brought direct relation between the Government and tillers of the soil. Since the State Government stepped into the place of the ex-intermediaries the assets and liabilities of the land revenue system now vested in Government. This has necessitated to bring the record-of-rights of each of the tenants up-to-date. This object cannot be achieved without a fresh survey and settlement.

There was a proposal by State Government to conduct Revisional Survey and Settlement in the district. The operations were taken up in March, 1962 but due to financial stringency this was closed in March, 1963.

A brief summary for the Saharsa Survey and Settlement during 1962-63 is as follows:—

The Saharsa Settlement Operations were sanctioned during 1955-56 as a major settlement operation. The area notified, however, was not the entire district but two revenue thanas, namely, Pratappanj and Uda-Kishanganj. Though it was sanctioned as a major operation, the posting of Settlement Officer was delayed and till the appointment of a separate Settlement Officer, the Collector of Saharsa was the *ex-officio* Settlement Officer till February, 1962. The Settlement Officer joined in March, 1962.

Saharsa district, as is well known, has special limitation so far as communication facilities are concerned. The available transport facilities are, by and large, useful only in fair weather with severe handicaps in rainy season. This resulted in considerable difficulties in receiving the consignments in time from Buxar, Bhagalpur and Chaibasa. Within the district also, apart from the paucity of road connection, there are several channels which require ferrying across the vehicle till as late as January every year. The areas notified for survey were more or less lengthwise covering southernmost to northernmost extremities of the district, Birpur being 70 miles north and

Chausa and Alamnagar being about 70 miles south of Saharsa. The nearest survey area, namely, Sonbarsa was at a distance of 25 miles on extremely *kutch*a road with two crossings for the major portion of the year. There were no vehicles placed under the Settlement Officer for supervision of the work.

Climatic condition of the area particularly the period of rains is relevant for proper and fruitful planning of the field work and the recess work. This region is known for dust storms in the month of May and monsoon breaks soon after. Field work can be done only with extreme difficulty beyond middle of June and from July onwards most of the areas on the outskirts of Saharsa become unapproachable by road. Though from October onwards the communications are restored, some areas remain cut off till as late as December or January and they have to be negotiated with river crossing. All these factors necessitate proper phasing of field work with a bit of staggering. In 1962 the area notification was done from Government level in the last week of May just before the outbreak of rains. There was no staff then except five or six Kanungoes—not all trained in survey. It is understood there was no vehicle and even the minimum essentials for an office organisation like forms, stationery, typewriter, etc., were not received. The A. S. O. headquarters was also not posted nor had the Charge Officer the requisite powers. The blue print maps of a few non-traverse villages only were received which did not cover even a single compact and full Circle. The maps received were of villages scattered over areas of different Circles. Not a single map of the nearest Circle of Sonbarsa was received. Only a few sets of instruments were collected then from Bhagalpur and Chaibasa. There was no camp equipage also. The Deputy Director of Surveys required some time to plot the traverse station on the new maps. No field work therefore could have been possible in the month of June, 1962. The first field season obviously would have been from October-November, 1962. Almost all the preparatory arrangements of collecting camp equipage, camp furniture, forms, maps, instruments, etc., were completed, the staff was being recruited and arrangements at this level were complete to start all the nine Circles covering the two revenue thanas when the Government orders regarding postponement were received.

Probably the postponement of the Settlement Operations as an emergency will be a boon. There is a school of strong opinion that the very character of many of the areas will rapidly change now that the Kosi scheme is largely implemented. Sandy and third rate lands will become second class or even first class with the irrigation facilities. Lands that are now yielding only *marua* or maize will be producing paddy in a few years' time if proper irrigation facilities are available. Certain portions again between the two canals are liable to be flooded and for land revenue purposes will have to be specially treated. This school thinks that the Settlement Operations

now are premature and should be postponed for quite some time to allow the lands to take their shape in the normal manner now that Kosi floods are regimented.*

BIHAR LAND REFORMS ACT, 1950.

The Congress Government, after assuming office in this State, took up the question of the abolition of the intermediary interest and wanted to bring the State and the tenants closer. The Permanent Settlement of Lord Cornwallis (1793) had created a class of privileged feudal chiefs and the institution had become worn-out and was almost a dead-weight against the creation of a socialistic State. The agitation launched by the *Kisan Sabha* with the active co-operation of the Congress during the twenties and thirties of the present century had led an acuteness to the problem and had exposed the evils of the *zamindari* system. The abolition of *zamindari* became one of the burning topics of discussion in the press, platform and in the legislature. The *zamindari* system had created a wide hiatus between the tillers of the soil and the landlords and it was found difficult to bridge the gulf. Some of the ameliorative tenancy legislations, viz., commutation of produce rent into cash rent, Bihar Restoration of Bakast Lands and Reduction of Arrear of Rent Act, 1938, passed previously had already curtailed the despotic powers of the landlords and upheld the rights of the tenants, but they were only palliatives. The *zamindari* system had outlived its utility and so its abolition became essential.

There was no precedent to go by and decision had to be taken to decide the conditions under which the various interests of the landlords in their estates and tenures would vest in the State. On the basis of the decision so reached, the Bihar State Acquisition of Zamindaris Bill, 1947, was drafted and introduced in the Legislature. The nomenclature of the Bill was subsequently changed to the Bihar Abolition of Zamindari Bill and passed by Legislature in 1948. The Bill was reserved for the consideration of the Governor-General of India under the provisions of Government of India Act, 1935. After a series of discussions between the Bihar Ministry and the Central Cabinet, the Bill was referred back for amending certain provisions dealing with mineral rights and the amending Bill was accordingly introduced and was passed by the Bihar Legislature in 1949 and thereafter the Bill was again reserved for the consideration of the Governor-General which was obtained in due course and the Bill was published as an Act.

The validity of the Bihar Abolition of Zamindaris Act was challenged by certain landlords and the courts began granting injunctions. Meanwhile, it was felt that the Act did not have sufficient provisions for land reforms and hence it was decided to repeal this legislation and to introduce a more comprehensive one and the Bihar Land Reforms Bill was accordingly introduced in

* Settlement operations have been ordered to be resumed (December, 1964).

which provision was made for making over management of estates to *Gram Panchayats*, if the State Government so decided, and for formation of a Land Commission, consisting of both officials and non-officials to advise Government regarding the agrarian policy to be followed. After the Bill was passed by both Houses of Legislature, it was reserved for the assent of the President of India under Article 31 (4) of the Constitution. It received duly the assent of the President and was published as an Act.

The validity of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, was also challenged in the Patna High Court, which declared that the Act contravened Article 14 of the Constitution and was, therefore, invalid. The State Government considered the matter afresh in consultation with Government of India and it was decided that land reform, being such an important social measure, could not be further delayed on account of controversial legislations and that the Constitution should make a more specific provision so that such legislations could not be challenged. The Bill called the Constitution (First Amendment) Bill, 1951, was accordingly introduced in Parliament by the Prime Minister of India, which *inter alia* provided for certain amendments to Article 31 of the Constitution. The Bill was ultimately passed by the Parliament and was enacted with assent of the President. The Act provided *inter alia* that neither Bihar Land Reforms Act nor any of the provisions thereof would be deemed or even to have become void on the ground that it took away or abridged any of the rights conferred by any provisions of Part III, and notwithstanding any judgement, decree or order of any Court or tribunal contrary, the Act would continue to be enforced.

Some of the landlords challenged the competence of Parliament to amend the Constitution and the Supreme Court issued injunction against taking over the estates under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, till the validity of the constitutional amendment had been decided. The Supreme Court ultimately rejected the application of the landlords and unanimously held that the constitutional amendment was valid.

Some of the landlords took the matter again to the Supreme Court but the Supreme Court upheld the provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

The Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, came into force on the 25th September 1950. Steps for taking over the *zamindaris* started from November, 1951, and proceeded according to a phased programme. In the first phase large intermediary interests with a gross annual income exceeding Rs. 50,000 each vested in the State by the issue of individual notifications. According to these notifications 96 intermediary interests with gross annual asset of Rs. 50,000 and more

of Saharsa district vested in the State. The list of these estates is as follows:—

Serial no.	Name of estate.	Number of intermediaries in the State.	Year of vesting.
1	Maharajadhiraj Sir Kameshwar Singh of Raj Darbhanga	1	1951
2	Raja Raghunandan Singh, Monghyr	1	1951
3	Maharaj Sirish Chandra Nandi of Murshidabad	1	1951
4	Administrator-General of West Bengal	1	1952
5	Rai Bahadur Rudra Pratap Singh, Raj Sonbarsa	3	1952
6	Shri Bhupendra Narain Singh, Baruari Estate	2	1952
7	Seven-annas Estates, Baruari.. ..	3	1952
8	Harawat Raj Estate	3	1952
9	Sri Keshav Mohan Thakur, Bhagalpur	3	1952
10	Sri Suraj Mohan Thakur, Bhagalpur	3	1952
11	Sri Naresh Mohan Thakur, Bhagalpur	6	1952
12	Raghunandan Lal Trust	1	1952
13	Kumar Shyama Nand Singh, Banaili	19	1952
14	Kumar Krishna Nand Singh, Banaili	5	1952
15	Pandit Bhim Nath Mishra, Banaili	12	1952
16	Sri Avaya Kumar Sinha and others	9	1952
17	Sri Surendra Mohan Sinha and others	7	1952
18	Sri Sudhindra Narain Sinha and others	14	1952
19	Rani Ramabati and others, Banaili Raj	2	1952
TOTAL		96	

In the second and third phases a good number of estates were vested in the State by individual notifications; immense difficulty was experienced in acquisition of estates by process of individual notifications. The number of smaller intermediary interests in the State was considerably large, and provision was accordingly made in the Bihar Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1953 (Bihar Act XX of 1954), for taking over all the estates and tenures within a particular area by issue of a single notification. Accordingly all the remaining estates in Saharsa district were taken over by the State in 1955. There were as many as 10,441 big and small *zamindars* in the district on the eve of *zamindari* abolition.

The Land Reforms Act is the forerunner of other reforms which are on the anvil in connection with the problem of land distribution, fixation of ceiling of agricultural holdings, regulation of rent, co-operative farming, settlement of land with the landless, etc. After the complete abolition of intermediaries, it will naturally be necessary to enact tenancy reforms in order to give full security of tenure to the tenants and to stop the various types of evictions and evictments which may have been perpetrated by the ex-landlords. Some statutory measures as stated before have been taken to stop such evictions.

• AGENCY AND MODE OF MANAGEMENT.

As a result of the abolition of the *zamindari*, collection of land revenue has assumed great importance. Prior to the abolition of *zamindaris* in this State except a few *Khasmahal* estates owned by Government there was no revenue establishment of field staff below the subdivisional level. In the *Khasmahal* estates, however, the revenue administration used to be carried on by the Collector with the assistance of a small band of revenue officials, viz., the *Khasmahal* officer, *Kanungo*, *Khasmahal Tahsildar*, *Patwari* and *Gorait*, etc. The outgoing landlords and other intermediaries had their own field agency for the management of their estates. On the abolition of *zamindaris*, however, it became imperative on the part of Government to set up an adequate revenue establishment of field and a supervisory staff.

For realisation of rent and other revenue purposes the district has been divided into 210 *halkas*. A *karamchari* has been placed in charge of a *halqa*. *Halqa* is a unit of ten villages or more. The main duties of the *karamcharis* are collection of rent, maintenance of registers and accounts, submission of reports and returns, maintenance of agricultural statistics, execution of improvement works of vested estates and enquiries relating to mutations, *ad interim* payment and allied work. Several *halkas* make a circle or *anchal*. Above the rank of the *karamchari* is the Circle Inspector, one for each circle or *anchal* who makes detailed supervision over the work of the *Karamcharis*. Both *Karamcharis* and Circle Inspectors are non-gazetted Government servants.

Next in the rank is the Block Development Officer-cum-*Anchal Adhikari* Circle Officer, one for each block or *anchal* or circle. He is of gazetted rank. In Saharsa district there are 18 blocks-cum-anchals and 3 circles. The former is entrusted with both revenue and development work while the latter is confined to revenue work only. They supervise the work of the Circle Inspectors and the *karamcharis*. A Deputy Collector incharge Land Reforms and Development is in charge of land reforms and other allied work in the subdivision, i.e., one each in Sadar, Madhepura and Supaul subdivisions. He is under the general supervision and control of the Subdivisional Officer. An Additional Collector with his headquarters

at Saharsa exercises an over-all supervision and control over the detailed work of revenue administration in the district, subject to over-all control of the Collector of the district and the Commissioner of the Division. At the State level there is the Land Reforms Commissioner who is also the Additional Member of Board of Revenue. The Member, Board of Revenue, is the head of Revenue administration at State level. Thus from the *halqa* to the State level there is a network of revenue officers at different levels for revenue work.

There are one Additional Collector, three Deputy Collectors in charge of Land Reforms and Development, 18 Block-cum-Anchal *Adhikaris* and 3 Circle Officers, 21 Circle Inspectors and 216 *Karam-charis* in the district.

Under the proviso to section 13 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, *Gram Panchayats* may by general or special order, be entrusted with the management of vested estates and tenures on suitable terms and conditions.

The *Gram Panchayats* have been formed recently and have not yet covered the whole area. *Gram Panchayats* are still in the process of evolution and development and as such it was considered proper to start with the entrustment of rent collection and mutation work only to selected *Gram Panchayats* at the first instance. For this purpose, the *Gram Sevaks* are being trained in rent collection work.

The following statement will show the number of *Gram Panchayats* entrusted with rent collection work in Saharsa district:—

Year.	Sadar subdivision.	Madhepura subdivision.	Supaul subdivision.	Total.
1956-57	6	5	1	12
1957-58	6	5	1	12
1958-59	6	5	1	12
1959-60	26	17	13	56
1960-61	48	63	49	162
1961-62	62	90	67	219
1962-63	62	90	67	219

FIELD BUJHARAT OPERATIONS.

The *zamindari* abolition brought in its wake a great volume of revenue work the most important of which is the field *bujharat*. The

field *bujharat* operations were undertaken in 1954 with the object of (1) preparing a reliable rent roll, and (2) collecting information (a) for assessment of final compensation, (b) for fixation of rent on the *khas* lands of the ex-intermediaries, and (c) for settlement of available waste lands with Harijans, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. This task became all the more necessary as the *zamindars* did not make over all their *zamindari* papers like rent roll, etc. On the eve of *zamindari* abolition a large number of settlement and sales had taken place which were left unaccounted for. The local officials had been instructed that as soon as the field *bujharat* of a village is completed, the present total village area and the rental should be compared with the last settlement records, and the difference between the two should be accounted for, that the *khas* lands of the ex-intermediaries as well as other *Kabillagan* land should be assessed to rent and that the continuous *Khatian* and the tenant's ledger should be re-written on the basis of the field *bujharat*. The whole object of the field *bujharat* is thus two-fold, firstly to see that every plot of land in each village is accounted for and the rents due in respect of plots, for which rents are payable, are collected from those who are in possession; the second purpose is to collect the relevant data for assessment of compensation under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

According to the prescribed procedure the field *bujharat* work is done villagewise and each *karamchari* is in charge of the operation in his *halka* under the direct control of the Circle Officer or *Anchal Adhikari*. The *bujharat* of the *khatians* in a village is conducted in a serial order, beginning with the first tenant's *khata* having the larger holding. The work covers on examination of (i) the Tenant's *Khatian*, (ii) the *Bakast Khatian*, (iii) *Gairmazrua Malik Khatian*, and (iv) *Gairmazrua Am Khatian*.

The field *bujharat* work has been made difficult by the ex-landlords and the tenants to some extent and also because of the flood ravages removing boundaries in many cases and changing the very character of the holdings.

The table supplied by Land Reforms section, Saharsa, will show the Field *bujharat* operation in the district up to 1963—

1. Total number of villages in the district—1,353.
2. Total number of villages in which Field *bujharat*—
 - (i) Completed by *Karamcharis*—1,336.
 - (ii) Verified by Circle Inspector—1,285.
 - (iii) Verified by *Anchal Adhikaris*—1,171.

3. Progress of disposal of proceedings for assessment of rent under sections 5, 6 and 7 of Bihar Land Reforms Act—

(i) Number instituted—5,277.

(ii) Number disposed of—4,568.

(iii) Area in respect of which rent assessed—13,255.71 acres.

(iv) Total rent assessed—Rs. 38,173.50.

4. Progress of assessment of rent on *Kabillagan* lands not coming within the purview of sections 5, 6 and 7 of Bihar Land Reforms Act—

(i) Number instituted—8,363.

(ii) Number disposed of—8,038.

(iii) Area in respect of which rent assessed—5,183.43 acres.

(iv) Total rent assessed—Rs. 15,875.61.

5. Progress of commutation of rent—

(i) Number instituted—1,408.

(ii) Number disposed of—1,168.

(iii) Total cash rent fixed—Rs. 3,629.81.

6. *Jamabandi* rent—Rs. 27,25,663.40.

7. Prospective additional rent determined—Rs. 57,678.92.

8. Number of villages of which new combined *Khesra* and plot index prepared—1,163.

9. Number of villages of which new continuous *Khatian* prepared—928.

10. Number of villages of which new tenants' ledger written up—59.

11. Number of villages of which *khewat bujharat* completed—1,281.

12. Number of villages of which combined *khewat* and *khatian* completed—161.

COMPENSATION.

The Land Reforms Act had provision for payment of compensation to the landlords. *Ad interim* payments for the period from the date of vesting to the date of payment of compensation are to be made to the outgoing intermediaries under section 33 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act at 3 per cent per annum of the approximate amount of compensation not exceeding Rs. 50,000 and at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum exceeding Rs. 50,000.

The following statement supplied by Land Reforms Section, Saharsa, will show the progress of *ad interim* payments made under section 33 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, along with other statements from 1954-55 to 1962-63:—

Year.	Number of cases in which enquiry has been made.			Number of cases in which <i>ad interim</i> payments made.		
	Number of compensation cases started.	Completed.	Pending.	Number of cases in which <i>ad interim</i> payments made.	Number of cases in which <i>ad interim</i> payments made.	Number of cases in which <i>ad interim</i> payments made.
1954-55	40	5	35	5	9	9
1955-56	6,209	1,633	4,576	1,424	779	779
1956-57	6,209	4,965	1,244	3,259	779	779
1957-58	6,705	4,668	2,037	4,668	779	779
1958-59	6,705	4,668	2,037	4,668	779	779
1959-60	6,705	4,668	2,037	4,668	779	779
1960-61	*5,113	*2,661	2,452	*2,661	4,544	4,544
1961-62	5,113	2,661	2,452	2,661	4,544	4,544
1962-63	5,113	2,661	2,452	2,661	4,700	4,700

Year.	Total amount of persons to whom 50 per cent compensation made.			Total amount of 50 per cent compensation paid.		
	Number of persons to whom 50 per cent compensation made.	Rs.	Rs.	Number of persons to whom 50 per cent compensation made.	Rs.	Rs.
1954-55	40	22,983.19	NH	NH	NH	NH
1955-56	6,209	1,20,000.00	NH	NH	NH	NH
1956-57	6,209	4,98,654.00	NH	NH	NH	NH
1957-58	6,705	5,00,000.00	NH	NH	NH	NH
1958-59	6,705	3,70,884.53	NH	NH	NH	NH
1959-60	6,705	5,00,000.00	NH	NH	NH	NH
1960-61	*5,113	4,99,125.48	1,958	142,73,872.61	NH	NH
1961-62	5,113	4,10,552.43	413	19,03,419.72	NH	NH
1962-63	5,113	4,24,369.34	874	112,33,180.66	NH	NH

* The reduction in the number of compensation cases has happened as a result of amalgamation of some old cases spread over several estates.
 † These include the money given in bonds and adjustments made towards outstanding Government dues.

RECENT AGRARIAN MOVEMENT (BHOODAN).

The present *Bhoodan* movement which has been launched by Shri Vinoba Bhave, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi is not purely an agrarian movement but a synthesis of social, economic and mental revolution. It aims to solve the agrarian, social and economic disparity of the nation by peaceful means. Shri Vinoba Bhave wants to bring a sort of parity between 'haves' and 'haves not' by peaceful method. The lands donated in *bhoodan* are settled with the landless agricultural labourers.

To facilitate the *bhoodan* work the Government passed the Bihar *Bhoodan Yagna* Act, 1954, which provides for donation of lands in connection with the *Bhoodan Yagna* initiated by Shri Acharya Vinoba Bhave and settlement of such lands with landless persons. A statutory committee, known as the Bihar *Bhoodan Yagna* Committee, has been established under section 3 of the Act to administer all lands vested in the Committee for the purpose of *Bhoodan Yagna*.

The following statement will show the progress made in the district up to March, 1963:—

(1) Area of land donated for <i>Bhoodan Yagna</i> Committee	39,137 acres.
(2) No. of families to whom land was given	6,000
(3) Area of land distributed	10,608 acres.
(4) <i>Danpatras</i> filed by the Committee	24,847
(5) <i>Danpatras</i> confirmed	4,508
(6) <i>Danpatras</i> rejected	20,249
(7) <i>Danpatras</i> pending	90
(8) Subsidy grant	Rs. 71,804.75 P.
(9) Loan	Rs. 23,963.25 P.

With a view to safeguard the right, title and interest of the *Bhoodan Yagna* Committee in the donated lands instructions were issued to the District Officers, stressing the need for early disposal by the Revenue Officers of the *Danpatras* by confirmation or super-session, as the case may be. Secondly, pecuniary help in form of subsidy and loan had been given to holders of *bhoodan* land for purchase of agricultural implements, oxen and seed, etc., for the cultivation of land.

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE (SAHARSA).

The table below supplied by Treasury Office, Saharsa, will show the Receipts in the district from 1954-55 to 1962-63:—

Receipts.

Serial no.	Items.	1	2	3	4	5
		1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.		
1	Central Excise	12,114	21,573	22,118	Rs.	
2	Land Revenue	9,76,143	25,08,688	28,32,121		
3	State Excise	3,25,881	2,97,385	4,20,788		
4	Stamps	19,62,145	4,24,457	4,03,421		
5	Registration	1,25,747	1,55,368	1,80,596		
6	Sales Tax	Not available.	Not available.	Not available.		
7	Other Taxes and Duties	4,44,442	5,10,365	5,21,931		
8	Administration of Justice	8,264	16,627	18,321		
9	Fees	356	224	321		
10	Police	54,724	58,443	61,342		
11	Education	10,295	12,312	15,341		
12	Medical	35,681	39,363	42,341		
13	Public Health	5,100	10,277	11,311		
14	Agriculture	18,454	21,433	23,142		
15	Animal Husbandry	19,184	21,204	23,109		
16	Co-operation	Not available.	Not available.	Not available.		
17	Industries	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		
18	Stationery and Printing	2,234	2,432	2,842		
19	Miscellaneous	91,970	1,02,311	1,43,215		
20	Extraordinary receipts	4,237	8,542	10,348		
21	Interest	80,503	1,01,981	1,41,832		
22	Income-tax	Not available.	Not available.	39,827.12		
23	Postal	Ditto	Ditto	7,82,917.32		

Receipts—contd.

Serial no.	Items.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Central Excise	..	..	17,979.61	14,113.10	13,747.86			
2	Land Revenue	..	..	11,29,137.30	20,91,534.17	24,76,947.42			
3	State Excise	..	..	3,29,086.00	2,95,187.31	3,19,484.00			
4	Stamps	..	..	5,02,390.64	4,19,117.68	5,38,612.11			
5	Registration	..	..	2,20,159.00	2,19,916.00	2,08,983.00			
6	Sales Tax	..	..	5,50,940.00	4,94,468.00	3,95,429.00			
7	Other Taxes and Duties	..	..	7,01,504.76	6,57,728.53	6,30,113.45			
8	Administration of Justice	..	..	21,598.55	11,839.67	13,950.60			
9	Jails	..	..	552.52	430.04	414.68			
10	Police	..	..	43,935.57	43,801.36	44,471.33			
11	Education	..	..	32,472.98	34,279.01	37,203.61			
12	Medical	..	..	49,687.09	49,227.04	52,312.34			
13	Public Health	..	..	16,380.27	16,804.36	17,312.41			
14	Agriculture	..	..	75,663.44	1,49,241.46	1,77,976.72			
15	Animal Husbandry	..	..	21,081.67	27,257.07	25,160.48			
16	Co-operation	..	..	532.50	1,248.87	1,506.87			
17	Industries	..	..	2,284.82	2,797.70	4,106.91			
18	Stationery and Printing	..	..	4,554.76	2,537.50	5,531.86			
19	Miscellaneous	..	..	76,794.20	93,784.56	1,04,351.12			
20	Extraordinary receipts	..	..	32,098.98	36,828.23	42,121.41			
21	Interest	..	..	1,22,221.58	1,10,028.92	1,10,814.84			
22	Income-tax	..	..	44,512.47	51,630.28	62,310.87			
23	Postal	..	..	8,94,819.47	11,53,114.90	17,41,012.10			

Receipts—concl.

Serial no.	Items	1960-61.	1961-62.	1962-63.
1	Central Excise	18,668.77	21,227.48	23,445.19
2	Land Revenue	35,98,205.45	37,48,301.15	39,50,314.33
3	State Excise	3,75,998.24	3,76,125.00	4,14,098.20
4	Stamps	6,70,662.17	6,93,451.29	7,24,138.49
5	Registration	2,59,729.00	3,01,478.00	2,99,165.00
6	Sales Tax	4,90,669.15	5,10,332.24	5,30,418.45
7	Other Taxes and Duties	4,18,258.74	4,32,154.18	4,53,121.48
8	Administration of Justice	18,282.40	20,101.31	22,301.42
9	Jails	474.19	532.48	612.88
10	Police	51,476.05	53,472.15	54,513.48
11	Education	45,603.06	47,301.76	48,302.18
12	Medical	54,413.47	57,312.01	59,810.04
13	Public Health	17,413.21	19,301.43	20,402.73
14	Agriculture	2,49,893.56	2,51,871.43	2,71,942.19
15	Animal Husbandry	23,340.17	24,567.92	26,312.18
16	Co-operation	1,671.86	2,142.14	2,201.41
17	Industries	21,730.69	23,841.09	24,201.31
18	Stationery and Printing	3,828.34	4,112.78	4,174.14
19	Miscellaneous	2,98,612.38	3,12,142.19	3,21,421.21
20	Extraordinary receipts	25,133.13	27,142.21	29,341.42
21	Interest	1,00,913.72	1,13,421.81	1,24,138.31
22	Income-tax	74,915.43	91,889.39	1,04,556.64
23	Postal	21,08,218.19	32,02,676.38	34,11,201.41

1	2	9	10	11
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.