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Q2(c)

Analyse the major components of Land Reform Acts. Show their effectiveness in curbing rural inequality.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Rural and Agrarian Social Structure

Rural and Agrarian Social Structure: The idea of Indian village and village studies; Agrarian social structure - evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.

Core demand of the question

- Analyse the major components of **Land Reform Acts**. Show their effectiveness in curbing rural inequality
- Keep regional variation

Revision summary

Components were intermediary abolition, tenancy, ceilings, and redistribution.

Abolition worked most; ceilings worked least.

Barga shows tenancy can shift bargaining when recorded.

Rural inequality changed shape toward rich peasants, not toward the landless.

Caste-land overlap limited the egalitarian promise.

Flow diagram

Zamindari abolition -> Rich peasant

Tenancy -> Mixed record

Ceilings -> Weak redistribution

Conclusion

- Effective against a colonial rentier form. Limited against proprietary caste agrarian power.

Land reforms curbed the zamindar layer and legalised many tenants. They did not equalise the rural poor. Effectiveness is high on intermediaries, low on labour and ceilings.

Facts & figures**Zamindari abolition**

The most widely implemented component after independence.

Operation Barga

West Bengal's recording of bargadars as a tenancy success case.

Land ceiling

Statutory cap whose surplus rarely reached the poorest in most states.

A. R. Desai

Read reform as bourgeois strengthening of occupancy peasants.

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