

Impact of land acquisition on agriculture in India: A descriptive analysis

Mukesh Kumar

Ph.D. Research Scholar [Economics], J.J.T. University Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, India

Abstract

Land acquisition is a big issue in India at present. The government acquires the land for public purpose or for the development of infrastructure. Compulsory land acquisition creates a problem for the farmers because the fertile land is acquired. It affects the production of agricultural products. Indian economy is many agriculture based economy. So many agricultural products are exported to other countries but the policy of land acquisition affects negatively to the production and it is possible that India's exports of agricultural products will decline in future. If the fertile land will be acquired then how it is possible that India exports the products produced by the land. The production will be low and India will import the food-grains in future. The paper focuses on the effects of land acquisition on agricultural production and tries to know the effects in future on the basis of current situation.

Keywords: land acquisition, special economic zones

1. Introduction

Land acquisition is a process in which the government acquires the land for the purpose of development of the infrastructural facilities, industrialization and urbanization. The government provides compensation to the affected people and the facility of rehabilitation and resettlement. Land acquisition in India is governed by the land acquisition act 2013 which came into force in 2014 and implemented in 2015. The land is acquired according to the land acquisition act 2013 for public purpose i.e. purpose relating to naval, military, air force, defense of India or safety of the people, for infrastructure projects, projects for the affected people, housing for poor people, improvement of villages and urban area or for residential purpose for landless people, for public private partnership projects and for private companies. The power to take the land from the individuals is according to the idea of eminent domain.

The doctrine of eminent domain states if the act of the sovereign involves public interest. The doctrine empowers the sovereign to acquire private land for the public purpose, provided the public nature of the usages can be demonstrated beyond doubt. The doctrine is based on the following two Latin maxims—*Salus populi suprema lex* [welfare of people is the paramount law], *Necessitas publica major est quam* [public necessity is greater than private necessity].

The constitution of India originally provided the right to property under Articles 19 and 31. Article 19 guaranteed that all have the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property. Article 31 stated that no person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law. It also indicates that the compensation would be paid to a person whose property has been taken for the public purpose.

Delayed projects due to mass unrest have caused a damaging effect to the growth and development of companies and the economy as a whole. Earlier states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh had been an attractive place for investors, but the present day revolts have shown that land acquisition in some states poses problems.

The consequences of land acquisition in India are manifold. The empirical and the theoretical studies on displacement through the acquisition of land by the government for development projects have so far focused on the direct and immediate adverse consequences of land acquisition.

Most of the analytical as well as the descriptive accounts of the immediate consequences of land acquisition for development projects draw heavily from Michael-induced displacement. These eight risks are very much direct and basic in nature which are landlessness, joblessness, marginalization, loss of access to common property source, increased morbidity and mortality, food insecurity, homelessness and social disarticulation.

But apart from these direct and immediate effects of land acquisition, there are subtle and indirect effects of these coercive and centralized legal procedures which have a bearing on various decentralized and participatory democratic processes and institutions of the state power. Land reforms and the Panchayati Raj institutions are two most important areas which are being vitiated by land acquisition. There has been a rising number of political and social protests against the acquisition of land by various industrialists. They have ranged from Bengal, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh in the recent past.

The acquisition of 997 acres of land by Tata Motors in Bengal in order to set up a factory for the cheapest car in India was protested. At least a decade before the single episode similar events occurred in West Bengal, although the opposition party and civil society organization remained silent at that time. Similarly the Sardar Sarovar Dam project on the river Narmada was planned on acquired land through the project was later canceled by the World Bank and more.

The land acquisition act 1894 allowed the government to acquire private land. It is the only legislation pertaining to land acquisition which though amended several times has failed to serve. Its purpose under the 1894 act displaced people where only liable for monetary compensation linked with market value of the land in question which was still quite minimal considering circle rates are often misleading.

Land acquisition related conflicts during the past reforms period in India has shown three distinctive tendencies-technocracy and bundle of rights, power land regulation nexus and disappearing commons

The current Narendra Modi lead National Democratic Alliance government driven land acquisition Amendment bill in the Lok Sabha on 10 March 2015 has seen a tough resistance from key position parties in India who have called the proposed amendments anti farmers and anti-poor.

The proposed amendments remove requirements for approval from farmers to proceed with land acquisition under five broad categories of projects. While the bill was passed in Lok Sabha, it still needs approval from the Rajya Sabha, where the current government does not have a majority, for the proposed amendments to become effective.

1.1 Alternatives

One of the alternative proposals to land acquisition is leasing the land from landowners for a certain lease period. Proponents cite how land acquisition policies by government unwittingly encourage rampant land speculation making the projects expensive since huge portion of investment would be need to be allocated for land acquisition costs.

According to them policies of land acquisition gave way to political cronyism where land is acquired cheaply by securing favors from local government and sold to industries at steep markup prices. Leasing land may also support sustainable project development since the land to be returned to the landowners at the end of the lease period in a condition similar to its original form without considerable environmental degradation.

1.2 Objective of the study

The main objective of the study is to know about the effect of land acquisition on agricultural production. The other objective to study the effect of land acquisition on farmers and affected people whose land was acquired by the government.

1.3 Explanation

The development of India is continuously growing since independence. The agriculture production is also increased after independence. The main objective of the first five year plan is improvement the agriculture production. India's food-grains have more than doubled over the decades to a record 264 million tons in the fiscal year 2014. But the country needs to produce more because the population of the country is increasing fastly. More than a quarter of population is estimated below poverty line that is not gets foods.

But the agriculture production affected so much by the land acquired by the government. The land can be acquired only for public purpose but the compulsory land acquisition is affected badly the agricultural production because the land acquired is fertile.

To show the effect of the land acquisition on the production we can see the situation of some states. Haryana, Punjab and Maharashtra took as a sample for the study.

1.4 Haryana

The total geographical area of the state is 4.42 million hectares which is 1.4 percent of the total geographical area of

the country. The cultivation area is 3.7 million hectares which is 84 percent of the geographical area of the state.

Under the land acquisition act 2013 of Haryana, the compensation of the acquired land should be twice the market value of the land. The land acquired fastly in Haryana for the Haryana urban development authority for the development of the urban areas. The land acquired is very fertile and directly affected the overall production of food grains in Haryana. No doubt the urban area developing continuously but it affected negatively to the agricultural production. Many projects are implemented in Haryana. The atomic power plant in progress and the other electricity plant is working. Both are situated on fertile land and harmfully affected to the production of food grains.

The four line highway is the current example of land acquisition in Haryana. So many trees are destroyed and the production on acquired land is completely closed forever. The land near to the cities is acquired for the industries. The whole fertile land near to the boundary of Gurugram city is acquired because this district is known for the industries. All infrastructural facilities are available there so the new investors are invested so much and the government helped to them.

The area near to the NCR is acquired by the government. The development of that area is on the peak but the opportunity cost of that area is very high and harmful for the future. The crop land is reduced so the question is aroused that where we produce the food grains.

The land acquisition is the main issue in Haryana since 10-15 years. The previous government acquired so much land for the industries. The industrialists are benefited but the land owners are affected badly by the process of land acquisition. The farmers are lost their livelihood and become workless.

The green revolution effects positively but the land acquisition affects negatively to the production. When the land is acquired by the government then where we apply the green revolution.

1.5 Punjab

In Punjab, 70 to 80 percent of the farmers fall in the category of small and medium farmers, which five acres or less land. Agriculture land is the only livelihood for these farmers of Punjab. It is claimed that the exemption of clauses like consent of 80 percent land owners and a social impact assessment in the new act would snatch away their livelihood.

1.6 Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government has acquired 1.92 lakh hectares of land-4.4 times the size of Mumbai over nearly 15 years. These details are comes from the latest data compiled by the state government. Information on land acquisition is rarely made available for public security.

Most of the acquired land is agricultural and bulk of it has been earmarked for irrigation projects. Irrigation project account for almost 76 percent of the land acquired during this periods, while industry accounts for just 4.4 percent of the land was allotted to road works while 1.74 percent for the railways. Of the remaining land 0.67 percent was earmarked for hospitals and 3.3 percent come under a miscellaneous category.

The farmers of Vidarbha region suicides, has seen the largest chunk of acquisition. Of the 1.92 lakh hectares land, almost 37 percent of the land was from Vidarbha region. Marathwada region was next, with 28 percent of the land acquired.

Nagpur division has seen the largest land acquisition for industry in the last 15 years. The division accounts of 35 percent of the 26967 hectares acquired for the industry. Officials said that in recent years the state government has hiked the compensation offered to the farmers.

Special economic zone and land acquisition in India

The land acquired for the SEZs is very fertile. 237 SEZs in 19 states have been approved by the center government and 63 have already been notified and 23 SEZs are operational. Total amount of land to be acquired across India is 150000. This land is typically multi cropped is capable of producing close to 1 million tons of food grains. These zones are started after 1991 and the acquired land is mostly fertile cultivated land. No discussion takes place and the parliament passed the law easily.

2. Conclusion

Indian economy is manly agriculture based economy because the agriculture sector gives employment to the most of the people. Approximately 60 percent population of the country gets their livelihood from the agriculture sector. The contribution of the agriculture sector in GDP was very high after the independence and it increased at the time of green revolution. But the contribution decreased at present. So many reasons behind it and the land acquisition is also the reason of decreased agriculture production. Land acquisition is a necessary condition for the infrastructure facilities but the problem is that the fertile land is acquired and it affects badly to the agriculture production. If the process of land acquisition is continuously growing then no cropping land will left for the future.

The government should apply the alternate of the land acquisition of fertile land. The projects should be implemented but the fertile land should not be acquired.

3. References

1. m.hindustantimes.com.../Punjab
2. m.timesofindia.com/Maharashtra
3. The land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement bill, 2011.
4. www.dailygkcapsule.com
5. Controversy over land acquisition bill: all you need to know.
6. Key changes proposed in the land acquisition ordinance.
7. [Http://articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com](http://articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com)