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**SURVEY OF SURPLUS LAND ALLOTTEES
UNDER THE MAHARASHTRA
AGRICULTURAL LANDS
(CEILING ON HOLDINGS) ACT, 1961**

MAHARASHTRA STATE: SOLAPUR DISTRICT

G. R. MULLA

GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The subject of ceiling on land holdings is as old as land reforms in India. The extreme uneven distribution of land, with nearly a quarter of the households in the country having no land at all, and another one-fifth owning less than one acre each, provides all the reasons for the use of the ceiling enactment as a means of redressing such a skewed distribution of land. Long before Independence the Indian National Congress had declared itself in favour of progressive land reforms. The Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee set up in 1949, drew, for the first time in India, pointed attention towards the need for a ceiling on the holding of agricultural land by a person. It said, "For individual farming as there is a lower limit, there should be upper limit too. We feel that to avoid social injustice there should be a reasonable relation between the economic holding and the maximum size of holding which an individual peasant can be allowed to cultivate."¹ In the First Five-Year Plan, therefore, the Planning Commission recommended imposition of a ceiling on land holdings in the States. It has been stated clearly that, "In relation to land (as also in other sectors of economy) individual property in excess of any norm that may be proposed has to be justified in terms of public interest, and not merely on grounds of individual rights or claims. We are, therefore, in favour of the principle

¹ The All-India Congress Committee; Report of the Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee; New Delhi, 1949, p. 22.

that there should be an upper limit to the amount of land that an individual may hold.² However, the Planning Commission did not expect that this measure would yield any significant acreage for redistribution. The Panel on Land Reforms set up by the Planning Commission in 1955, reaffirmed the ceiling principle and asserted that for the purpose of ceiling fixation, the aggregate area of all the members of a family should be the determining factor.

The Second Five-Year Plan also endorsed the same approach stated in the First Plan. It said, "For building up a progressive rural economy, it is essential that disparities in the ownership of land should be greatly reduced. In view of the existing pattern of distribution and size of agricultural holdings, redistribution of land in excess of a ceiling may yield relatively limited results. Nevertheless, it is important that some effective steps should be taken in this direction during the Second Five-Year Plan so as to afford opportunities to landless sections of the rural population to gain a social status and to feel a sense of opportunity equally with other sections of the community."³ The Second Plan also went on record that a reasonable ceiling should equal "about three family holdings" and it was left entirely to the State Governments, to decide whether the ceilings should apply on an individual or family basis.

The Standing Committee of the National Development Council decided in 1957 that the States which had not yet enacted necessary legislation should do so by the

² Planning Commission; The First Five-Year Plan; Government of India; 1952, p. 188.

³ Planning Commission; Second Five-Year Plan; Government of India, 1956, p. 178.

end of March 1959 and the laws should be implemented within a period of about three years. The Indian National Congress passed a resolution in 1959 urging the State Governments to enact ceiling legislation expeditiously. As a result of these policy directions most of the State Governments, including that of Maharashtra, enacted ceiling laws by 1961.

In the case of the Maharashtra State, the draft Bill of Ceiling on land holdings was first published on 4th August 1959; but due to the impending reorganization of the then State of Bombay, its consideration was postponed. Prior to this draft Bill, the provisions relating to ceiling on land holdings were incorporated in the respective Tenancy Acts for Western Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Marathwada. These provisions, however, were never put into operation and were repealed in 1961. After the formation of the present State of Maharashtra, the issue of ceiling on land holdings was again taken up. The former Bill on Ceiling on land holdings was subsequently revised and was passed by both the Houses of Legislature in April 1961. The new Act, called the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) Act, 1961, was brought into force with effect from 20th January 1962.

1.1 The Maharashtra Ceiling Act

The Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) Act 1961, puts a ceiling on the total cultivated or operated land holding by a person either as owner or as tenant, and not on the total owned land holding. The Act laid down that with effect from 26th January 1962, no person shall hold land for cultivation in excess of the ceiling area. The ceiling was specified for different local areas in each district of the State. For purposes of fixing the ceiling, all agricultural land was classified into four groups:

- (a) Perennially irrigated land;
- (b) Land irrigated for two seasons;
- (c) Land irrigated for one season; and
- (d) Dry crop land.

In the case of lands falling in groups a, b and c, the ceiling limits, before the amendment of 1975, were fixed uniformly for all areas of the State at 18, 27 and 48 acres respectively. For dry crop lands the ceiling limit was put differently for different local areas. It varied between 66 and 126 acres. All land held by a person in excess of the ceiling area was to be declared as surplus land. Provision was made in the Act to ensure that the objectives of the ceiling law were not defeated by effecting transfers and partition of land in anticipation of the Act. The Act provides that all transfers and partitions made between 4th August 1959 i.e. the day on which the original ceiling bill was published and the appointed day i.e. 26th January 1962, were to be deemed to have been made to circumvent the Act, unless the land holder proves to the contrary. The ceiling limit was to be applied not only to the lands held by a person on the appointed day but also to all new acquisitions.

In 1975 an amendment Bill called the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Lowering of Ceilings on Holdings) and (Amendment) Act 1972 (No. XXI of 1975) was enacted by the Government of Maharashtra, with the objective of lowering the maximum limit for ceiling on the holding of agricultural lands in the State. As per this amendment all agricultural land in the State is classified into five classes now and the ceiling limit is fixed for each class. The classes of agricultural land and ceilings fixed for each of them are as under:

(a) Perennially irrigated land	18 acres
(b) Land irrigated for two seasons	27 acres
(c) Land irrigated for one season	36 acres
(d) Paddy lands in paddy areas	36 acres
(e) Dry crop land	54 acres

The amendment of 1975 has made a provision for determining ceiling area with regard to family unit by clubbing all the lands held separately or jointly by members of the family unit. The 'family unit' has been defined as a person, his wife/wives and his minor sons and minor unmarried daughters. Whether a son or daughter is minor or major is to be decided with reference to the commencement date of 2nd October 1975. The "commencement date" is also considered relevant to decide, the position of the land holding, the total number of members in a family unit, and to put restrictions on transfers and acquisitions.

Compensation for the acquisition of surplus land is to be paid by the Government of Maharashtra at the price expressed as some multiple of the assessment of the land per acre of dry crop land in each local area of the State. We shall look into the details of compensation paid for the surplus lands acquired under the Act in the following Chapter.

The surplus land was to be distributed among people according to a list of priorities laid down in the Act. The Act provides:

(1) If the surplus land belonged to a person who, by resuming land from his tenant before 2nd October 1975 had rendered the tenant landless, such surplus land was first to be offered to the tenant.

(2) If any surplus land formed part of one or more compact blocks, then such surplus land was first to be offered to the landlord who had leased it out but had not exercised his right of resumption under the Tenancy Act.

(3) Of the remaining surplus land (excluding lands referred to above) 50 per cent was reserved for distribution to landless persons from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and landless persons belonging to Nomadic Tribes notified by the State Government.

(4) The rest of the total surplus land was offered ~~to~~ in the following order of priority:

- (a) Landless tenant residing either in the village where the surplus is situated or within a radius of eight kilometers;
- (b) A person who had leased his land to an undertaking referred to in Section 28, who is a resident of the taluka in which the surplus land is situated and whose net annual income does not exceed Rs. 4000/-.
- (c) Serving members of the armed forces and ex-servicemen; and
- (d) Other landless persons.

The Act further provides that while effecting distribution of the declared surplus land, it should be seen that so far as possible the total holding of the allottee after grant of the surplus land does not exceed one hectare of land falling under class (a), or one and half hectares of land falling under class (b), or two hectares of land falling under class (c), or (d), or three hectares of land falling under class (e). The occupancy price payable in respect of surplus land granted, is to be the same as the compensation calculated for that land, and is to be paid at the most in 15 equal annual instalments. The surplus land granted cannot be sold or otherwise transferred or partitioned without the permission of the Collector, except for purpose of mortgage with the Government or a Co-operative Land Development Bank for securing a loan.

1.2 Objectives of the Enquiry

The Estimates Committee of the Maharashtra Legislature in its Report for the year 1977-78, recommended that an evaluation of the programme of the implementation of the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling of Holdings) Act, 1961, be made with the following objectives in view:

"(1) to assess the quality of lands allotted i.e. whether they are cultivable or otherwise; where the lands are not cultivable whether they can be brought under cultivation by undertaking some developmental operations;

(2) to recommend the steps that could be taken to assist the allottees in the selection of seed etc. and to provide them with facilities for borrowing and ploughing of land with a view to increase the agricultural production from the land;

(3) to ascertain and recommend the facilities (such as irrigation facility) which could be provided to the allottees for developing the land and what step could be taken for the purpose; and

(4) to assess the overall success of the scheme, particularly with reference to whether there is any marked improvement in the economic conditions of the allottees."

The present study was undertaken by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, at the instance of the Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra, as per their Resolution No. EVA-1077-14-DivII dated 4th July 1978, in pursuance of the above noted points of reference. The following excerpts may be quoted from the write-up for the present study of evaluation of the implementation of the Act prepared by the Revenue and Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra, and appended with the resolution to elaborate the objectives of the study.

"The revised Land Ceiling Act was brought into force with effect from 2nd October 1975. Under this Act, till the end of August 1977, 1,40,767 hectares of land have been declared surplus; out of which 1,08,382 hectares have been distributed to 72,375 allottees. Nearly 60 per cent of the land has been distributed to landless persons belonging to backward classes".

The progress reports indicate that about 3500 hectares of the land cannot be distributed as it is uncultivable. Again all the lands that have been declared surplus and distributed are not of the same quality. While some of these lands are cultivable and of quite a good quality, the others may require developmental operations for bringing the land under cultivation. The allottees of the land also, by and large, belong to the economically weaker section of the Society and do not possess necessary implements etc. for bringing the lands allotted to them under cultivation. Care has already been taken to make the allottees members of the village co-operative societies, so as to enable them to obtain loans from the co-operative financing agencies. A programme of borrowing and ploughing the lands granted to the allottees with the assistance of village Sakhar Karkhana, tractor owners etc. was also taken up in 1976 Kharif Season."

"The success or otherwise of the implementation of the Land Ceiling Act will depend upon -

- (1) Whether the allottees have been able to bring the lands allotted to them under cultivation.
- (2) Whether the measure has resulted in improving the economic condition of the allottees.
- (3) Whether the measure has ultimately resulted in increasing the food production."

The write-up has further stressed that the study would have to be undertaken with reference to the four objectives recommended by the Estimates Committee. The present study, therefore, attempts to examine the implementation of the Act with reference to the four objectives stated earlier, in the Solapur district of the Maharashtra State.

1.3 Selection of the Sample

By the end of October 1976, the total area declared as surplus in the whole of Maharashtra State was around 2,23,404 hectares, under both, the "Principal" and the "Revised" Land Ceiling Act. Of this, about 1,56,522 hectares were finally distributed to 88,173 allottees in the State. The remaining area of 66,882 hectares was not taken possession of and hence was not available for distribution, as the land was involved in appeals etc. which were pending still. The Divisionwise and district-wise distribution of the surplus land declared and distributed to different allottees under the Revised and the Principal Act, are given in Tables 1.1 to 1.3. It may be noted from table 1.3 that the average distributed surplus land per allottee under both, the Principal and the Revised Act varied between 1.31 and 2.00 hectares in the four divisions of the State. The inter-district variations in the average surplus land distributed per allottee was also, more or less, of the same order.

It was decided to select one district each from the four Divisions of the State to undertake a detailed enquiry into the distribution of the surplus land. Accordingly we selected Solapur district from the Pune Division, where the number of allottees who secured the surplus lands was the highest (4618) in the Division and the surplus land distributed till 31st October 1976 was

Table 1.1 : Surplus area declared and distributed under the Principal Act

District	Area declared surplus	Surplus area distributed	No. of allottee	Area per allottee
Bombay S.D.	-	-	-	-
Thana	4,236	2,765	2,821	0.98
Kulaba	4,217	2,229	2,248	0.99
Ratnagiri	646	228	117	1.95
Nasik	1,583	711	270	2.63
Dhule	1,002	632	329	1.92
Jalgaon	1,668	1,230	450	2.73
Total	13,352	7,795	6,235	1.25
Ahmednagar	4,315	2,753	1,189	2.32
Pune	6,121	3,967	1,816	2.18
Satara	4,691	2,942	927	3.17
Sangli	2,205	1,994	1,215	1.64
Solapur	3,704	2,196	881	2.49
Kolhapur	4,099	1,946	1,307	1.49
Total	25,135	15,798	7,335	2.15
Aurangabad	3,668	2,655	1,300	2.04
Parbhani	6,440	1,245	429	2.90
Beed	1,632	1,590	620	2.56
Handed	1,256	528	255	2.07
Omanabad	3,745	2,114	538	3.93
Total	16,761	8,132	3,142	2.59
Buldhana	2,359	2,018	872	2.31
Akola	9,878	6,421	2,245	2.86
Amravati	7,528	5,135	2,564	2.00
Yezmal	10,783	9,034	2,873	3.14
Wardha	6,037	3,907	1,648	2.37
Nagpur	3,223	2,076	722	2.88
Bhandara	928	643	484	1.33
Chandrapur	2,871	1,810	862	2.10
Total	43,607	31,044	12,270	2.53
Grand Total	98,855	62,769	28,982	2.17

Table 1.2 : Surplus area declared and distributed under the Revised Act

District	Area declared surplus	Surplus area distributed	No. of allottees	Area per allottee
Bombay S.D.	29	-	-	-
Thana	4,665	3,909	3,346	1.17
Kulaba	4,439	2,928	2,693	1.09
Ratnagiri	6,880	5,604	3,727	1.50
Rasik	2,721	2,105	1,339	1.57
Dhule	1,649	1,380	805	1.71
Jalgaon	1,537	1,163	841	1.38
Total	21,920	17,089	12,751	1.34
Ahmednagar	5,080	4,387	2,565	1.71
Pune	5,191	4,183	2,668	1.57
Satara	1,892	1,351	654	2.07
Sangli	2,351	2,284	1,829	1.43
Solapur	7,182	6,956	3,737	1.87
Kolhapur	1,402	1,070	935	1.14
Total	23,098	20,231	12,388	1.63
Aurangabad	7,462	6,232	3,285	1.90
Parbhani	7,891	6,764	4,456	1.52
Beed	7,881	5,986	3,565	1.68
Kanded	4,363	2,992	1,769	1.69
Osmanabad	7,731	6,835	3,932	1.74
Total	35,328	28,809	17,007	1.69
Buldhana	4,672	3,439	856	4.02
Akola	6,638	4,255	2,450	1.74
Amravati	6,378	3,355	2,306	1.45
Yeotmal	13,440	8,681	6,060	1.43
Wardha	3,580	1,860	1,752	1.06
Nagpur	3,187	2,171	1,435	1.51
Bhandara	3,032	1,578	1,470	1.07
Chandrapur	3,281	2,285	716	3.19
Total	44,208	27,624	17,045	1.62
Grand Total	1,24,554	93,753	59,191	1.58

Table 1.1 : Surplus area declared and distributed under the Principal and the Revised Act

District	Area declared surplus	Surplus area distributed	No. of allottees	Area per allottee
Mombay S.D.	29	-	-	-
Thana	8,901	6,674	6,167	1.08
Kulaba	8,656	5,157	4,941	1.04
Ratnagiri	7,526	5,832	3,844	1.52
Nasik	4,304	2,816	1,609	1.75
Dhule	2,651	2,012	1,134	1.77
Jalgaon	3,205	2,393	1,291	1.85
Total	35,272	24,884	18,986	1.31
Ahmednagar	9,395	7,140	3,754	1.90
Pune	11,312	8,150	4,484	1.81
Satara	6,583	4,293	1,581	2.71
Sangli	4,556	4,278	3,044	1.41
Solapur	10,886	9,152	4,618	1.98
Kolhapur	5,501	3,016	2,242	1.34
Total	48,233	36,029	19,723	1.83
Aurangabad	11,150	8,887	4,585	1.94
Parbhani	14,331	8,009	4,885	1.64
Beed	9,513	7,576	4,185	1.81
Nanded	5,619	3,520	2,024	1.74
Osmanabad	11,476	8,949	4,470	2.00
Total	52,089	36,941	20,149	1.83
Buldhana	7,031	5,457	1,728	3.16
Akola	16,511	10,676	4,695	2.36
Amravati	13,906	8,490	4,870	1.74
Yeshwantnagar	24,223	17,715	8,933	1.32
Wardha	9,617	5,767	3,400	1.70
Nagpur	6,410	4,247	2,157	1.97
Bhandara	3,960	2,221	1,954	1.14
Chandrapur	6,152	4,095	1,578	2.60
Total	87,810	58,668	29,315	2.00
Grand Total	2,23,404	1,56,522	88,173	1.77

as large as 9,152 hectares. The total land declared as surplus in the Solapur district was as large as 10,826 hectares. These were the figures supplied to us by the Revenue and Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra, Bombay. The latest figures which we obtained from the District Collectorate at Solapur were slightly different. We found that the total distributed surplus area till 31st August 1978 was around 10,668 hectares and this was distributed to 5,855 allottees in the district. The talukewise distribution of the distributed surplus land under the Principal and the Revised Land Ceiling Acts and the number of allottees are presented in Table 1.4.

It was thought reasonable to restrict the study only to those talukas which together contained at least 80 per cent of the total allottees in the district. Accordingly we selected a sample of the following eight talukas, which reported a substantial number of the allottees and taken together accounted for 85 per cent of the total allottees in the district:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| (1) North Solapur | (5) Madha |
| (2) South Solapur | (6) Kalsiras |
| (3) Barshi | (7) Karmala |
| (4) Akkalkot | (8) Sangola |

It may be seen from Table 1.4 that except South Solapur taluka, in all other sample talukas, the number of allottees securing surplus land under the Revised Land Ceiling Act was much larger than those who received surplus land under the Principal Land Ceiling Act. This was obviously because of the lower ceiling enforced under the Revised Land Ceiling Act. As the ceiling on land was brought much low under the Revised Act, more surplus land was made available for distribution to a larger number of landless families in the district. In the sample talukas,

Table 1.4 : Surplus land distributed under the Principal and the Revised Act in different talukas of the Solapur district till 31.8.1978

Taluka	No. of villages	Revised Act		Principal Act		Total		Average area per allottee
		No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	
North Solapur	23	285	449	69	85	354	534	1.51
South Solapur	49	496	647	560	821	1056	1468	1.39
Barshi	74	843	1149	130	376	973	1525	1.57
Akkalkot	46	368	411	139	237	507	648	1.28
Madha	66	379	747	31	62	410	809	1.97
Malsiras	46	639	1489	254	500	893	1989	2.23
Karnala	65	389	820	63	177	452	997	2.20
Sangola	46	275	594	55	210	330	804	2.44
Mohol	56	279	604	73	258	352	862	2.45
Mangalwedha	31	165	378	86	138	251	516	2.06
Pandharpur	39	168	371	109	145	277	516	1.86
Total	541	4286	7659	1569	3009	5855	10668	1.82

therefore, the number of allottees securing surplus land under the Revised Act was nearly three-fourths of the total allottees. Only about one-fourth of the total allottees were reported to have secured surplus land under the Principal Act.

In order to select a sample of villages for the present study, we collected figures for the number of allottees for each village in the eight sample talukas, from their respective Tehsil Records. These villages were then arranged in a descending order, according to the number of allottees and further stratified into three groups, viz., those containing (1) 1 to 5 allottees; (2) 6 to 15 allottees; and (3) above 15 allottees. It was desirable to select villages from each of the above groups as there was a possibility that the extension agencies might have paid more attention to the villages containing a large number of allottees and much less attention to the others. We decided to select villages from each group in such a manner that the selected villages in a group would contain at least 10 per cent of the allottees in that group. The number of villages to be selected from each group, was determined on the basis of the total number of allottees in each group of villages and the average number of allottees per village in the same group. The selection of the required number of villages from a group was made at random. The number of allottees in the villages, selected in the above manner made up around 10 per cent of the total allottees in each group of villages and consequently 10 per cent of the total allottees in the selected taluka. We decided to study all allottees in the selected villages.

While conducting the field investigations, however, we found that the actual number of allottees particularly

in the sample villages from Madha, Sangola, Karmala and Akkalkot talukas, fell much short of their number recorded in the Tehsil Records supplied to us. Secondly, some of the allottees in the sample villages could not be contacted as they had temporarily left their villages in search of work to the neighbouring districts. Because of these two facts, the total number of allottees from the sample villages who could be contacted for the present study, fell short of the total number of allottees chosen as sample from the Tehsil Records. Thus, the total number of allottees who were contacted and studied during our field investigation came to 571; while the total number of the sample allottees selected from the Tehsil Records was 720. However, the total number of allottees who were contacted and studied, accounted for about 10 per cent of the total number of allottees in the Solapur district. The field investigation was carried out during January-May 1979.

1.4 Grant of Financial Assistance

With a view to assist the allottees to take to efficient cultivation of the surplus land assigned to them, the Government of India, formulated a Central Sector Plan Scheme. The financial assistance contemplated under this scheme was at the rate of Rs. 250/- per hectare of the surplus land for each of the first two seasons to enable the allottees to meet their immediate requirements of seed, fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural implements etc. This assistance was, however, not admissible for the purchase of bullocks. In addition to this crop assistance, a development assistance at the rate of Rs. 500/- per hectare was available for land shaping, land levelling, contour bunding etc. In the case of the development assistance, 50 per cent of the amount of

assistance was to be treated as loan and 50 per cent by way of grant. The financial assistance under this scheme was not admissible to the areas covered by Special Schemes such as Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency, the Drought Prone Area Programme, the Command Area Development Agency, the Integrated Area Development Scheme (Paga Yojana), etc. In so far as the grant or subsidy was concerned 50 per cent thereof was reserved for the allottees of the weaker section i.e. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vinukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes.

The Government of Maharashtra decided to avail of the aforesaid Central Scheme to the maximum extent possible and accordingly instructed the District Collectors. As per these instructions, each allottee of surplus land was to be immediately made a member of the village co-operative society. Since the assistance admissible under the Central Scheme was not adequate to cater to the entire requirement of the allottees and since in any case the allottee would have to look to the Primary Society after the first two seasons for his credit needs, the Government decided that the crop assistance admissible under the Central Scheme should be administered through the Primary Co-operative Society and the assistance should be given in kind to the extent possible. As regards the development assistance, the Government of Maharashtra decided to sanction it on its merit by the Land Development Bank through the village co-operative society up to a ceiling cost of Rs. 500/- per hectare and within the overall funds available. The release of this type of assistance was to be made in two instalments and the second instalment would be released only after the Primary Society's certificate that the first instalment was fully utilized for

the land development purposes. On completion of the work the primary society would certify the proper utilization of the funds released and 50 per cent of the amount would be treated as subsidy. The amount which was treated as loan would be recovered by the Cooperative Society.

From the records which we obtained from the District Collectorate at Solapur, it appears that in 1976-77, about Rs. 7.28 lakhs were distributed as crop assistance to the allottees of surplus land. No development assistance was granted to any allottee in this year. In the next year, however, the crop as well as development assistance were provided to the allottees in the district. The total amount of crop assistance granted in this year i.e. 1977-78, stood at Rs. 6.31 lakhs, and the development assistance, at Rs. 50,000/-. Thus, the total amount of assistance came to Rs. 6.81 lakhs for this year. The talukwise details of the financial assistance given ⁱⁿ to the two years, 1976-77 and 1977-78, are presented in Table 1.5.

Besides financial assistance, the Government of Maharashtra ensured, through its Department of Agriculture that proper technical advice was given to the allottees in the matter of selection of agricultural implements and the development of land. The Agricultural Department was further instructed to organise special training programmes to promote proper standard of cultivation among the allottees. If the training programme was organised outside the village, transport cost and subsistence was provided at a rate not exceeding Rs. 20/- per allottee. It was considered a primary responsibility of the Gram Sevaks and the Agricultural Extension Officers, to look after and guide the allottees of surplus land, at all stages of development and cultivation of the land and selection of inputs and implements.

Table 1.5 : Financial assistance given to the allottees of surplus land in 1976-77 and 1977-78

Taluka	1976-77		1977-78			
	Crop assistance		Crop assistance		Development assistance	
	No. of allottees	Amount	No. of allottees	Amount	No. of allottees	Amount
North Solapur	135	38,942	64	18,622	10	5,000
South Solapur	251	67,259	249	70,352	4	3,000
Barshi	410	1,02,825	437	1,17,325	-	-
Akkalkot	332	87,504	386	1,04,245	44	17,000
Kadha	113	41,222	134	46,515	-	-
Malsiras	218	79,603	131	32,205	10	5,000
Karmala	216	72,645	158	57,045	5	5,000
Sangola	156	67,992	178	81,333	10	5,000
Kohol	182	78,227	225	58,574	17	5,000
Mangalwedha	88	37,599	17	6,544	--	-
Pandharpur	132	54,782	93	38,240	10	5,000
Total	2233	7,28,600	2072	6,31,000	110	50,000

DECLARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS LAND

In this chapter, we propose to examine the main aspects of the Land Ceiling Act and their implementation in the Solapur district, to serve as a background for the later analysis of the collected data of the allottees from the sample villages.

From the implementation point of view, the Act can be broadly divided into four stages:

- (1) Declaration of surplus land of a person/family unit holding land in excess of the ceiling limit;
- (2) Acquisition by Government such surplus land from the surplus land holders;
- (3) Distribution of the acquired surplus land in the prescribed order of priority; and
- (4) Handing over the possession of the distributed land to the allottees.

It is likely that at each of these four stages of implementation of the Act, some errors of commission or omission might have occurred in the Solapur district. We, therefore, take each stage of implementation of the Act separately and examine it in some details to point out different interpretation given to the Act by different sections of the people. Once the surplus land is handed over to the allottees, its development and cultivation constitute a different part of the subject which we propose to study in the following chapters.

2.1 Declaration of Surplus Land

In order to determine the surplus nature of the land holding of a person/family unit and to declare it so, the

"Under Section 12(2)(1) the surplus holders and the family units are required to furnish to the Collector of the district, the returns giving details of all lands held by them during the period from 5th August 1959 to 25th February 1962, according to the Principal Act and during the period from 26th September 1970 to 2nd October 1975 according to the Revised Act. Failure to submit the returns in time or a submission of a false return by a person/family unit is liable to be penalised by imposing a fine. When a return is received directly or through the Tahasildar, it would be first entered in the District Register of Returns. To scrutinise such returns and to determine surplus land, Tribunals are appointed by the Collector, practically for each taluka or block in the district. The returns received are sorted out Tribunalwise, and forwarded to the concerned Tribunal for further action under Sections 14 to 21 of the Act. On receipt of the returns by the Tribunal, these are entered in the Register for Enquiries. After making preliminary scrutiny of the returns, the Tribunal enquires into the various issues, such as, transfers or partitions of land, share of a person or member of a family unit, acquisition of land after the commencement date etc. After considering all these issues the Tribunal concludes about the extent of surplus, if any, in the holding of a person/family unit. When land in excess of ceiling is found, the Tribunal informs its decision to the land holder and expects him to state the land to be retained by him under Section 16 and to furnish his choice of land to be declared as surplus in Form VII prescribed by Rule 7."

In Solapur district we could get data about the returns filed by the landlords under the Principal as well as the Revised Land Ceiling Act. We have presented these data in Tables 2.1 and 2.2. It may be noted from table 2.1 that the Collector of the Solapur district had

Table 2.1 : Returns filed and enquired and total area declared surplus till 31.12.1978 under the Principal Land Ceiling Act

Taluka	Total No. of re- turns received	No. of re- turns in which no land was found surplus	No. of re- turns in which land was declar- ed surplus	No. of re- turns for which en- quiries were completed	Total land declared as surplus	Average sur- plus land per surplus landholder
North Solapur	33	29	4	33	85	21.3
South Solapur	67	47	20	67	1078	53.9
Barshi	158	133	25	158	587	23.5
Akkalkot	50	40	10	50	237	23.7
Madha	43	32	11	43	89	8.1
Malsiras	388	310	78	388	1027	13.2
Karmala	170	151	19	170	378	19.9
Sangola	60	44	16	60	379	23.7
Mohol	61	45	16	61	355	22.2
Mangalwedha	44	32	12	44	138	11.5
Pandharpur	59	43	16	59	198	12.4
Total	1133	906	227	1133	4451	19.6

Table 2.2 : Returns filed and enquired and total area declared surplus till 31.12.1978 under the Revised Land Ceiling Act

Taluka	Total No. of returns received	No. of returns in which no land was found surplus	No. of returns in which land was declared surplus	Total No. of returns in which enquiries were completed	No. of returns for which enquiries were pending	Total land declared as surplus (hectares)	Average surplus land per surplus landholder
North Solapur	342	288	54	342	-	528	9.78
South Solapur	640	512	98	610	30	661	6.74
Barshi	852	704	139	843	9	1289	9.27
Akkalkor	532	471	61	532	-	474	7.77
Madha	857	752	105	857	-	728	6.93
Malsiras	979	747	205	952	27	1676	8.17
Karmala	1039	876	155	1031	8	838	5.41
Sangola	714	621	89	710	4	705	7.92
Mohol	647	550	93	643	4	632	6.80
Mangalwedha	688	621	67	688	-	401	5.99
Pandharpur	605	525	69	594	11	492	7.13
Total	7895	6667	1135	7802	93	8424	7.42

received 1133 returns filed under the Principal Act by the end of December 1972. Out of these, as many as 906 were the cases where the landholdings were not found to be above the ceiling limit laid down in the Principal Act. Naturally no surplus land was found in these cases as per the Principal Act. In the remaining 227 cases, however, the landholdings were found in excess of the ceiling limit and about 4451 hectares of land was declared surplus under the Principal Act. The average surplus area for surplus landholder came to about 20 hectares for the district as a whole. The average surplus area, varied widely between eleven talukas of the district. It was the lowest, 8.1 hectares in Madha taluka and the largest, 53.9 hectares in South Solapur taluka.

The total number of returns filed under the Revised Act was quite high as the ceiling limit was considerably brought down. It was reported that the Collector had received as many as 9,895 returns filed under the Revised Act by the end of December 1978. Out of the total number of returns, as many as 85 per cent were the cases in which the landholdings were found to be not exceeding the ceiling limit laid down in the Revised Act. So, no surplus land could be found in these cases. The remaining cases, however, were the cases of the surplus landholders, whose landholdings were found in excess of the ceiling limit. Of these 1228 cases of the surplus landholders, 1135 cases were finally decided and surplus land was finally declared. The remaining 93 cases were still pending as the decision of surplus land taken by the Surplus Land Determination Tribunals, were not acceptable to the landlords, and some of them had gone in appeal to the Maharashtra Revenue Tribunal against the decisions. Some of the other landlords had chosen to file writ petitions in the High Court

or the Supreme Court. The surplus land involved in these cases was around 242 hectares, which could not be considered as land finally declared as surplus and available for distribution. The talukawise distribution of such land is given below:

<u>Taluka</u>	Area of surplus land which could not be distributed (in hectares)
(1) South Solapur	17
(2) Barshi	22
(3) Akkalkot	43
(4) Sangola	99
(5) Mangalwedha	24
(6) Pandharpur	37
	Total
	242

So, by the end of December 1978, the total land finally declared as surplus and available for distribution under the Revised Act stood at 8,424 hectares. The average surplus area per surplus landholder came to 7.42 hectares for the district as a whole. This average, however, does not reflect the wide variations in the surplus areas per surplus landholder in different talukas of the district. It may be noted from the table that the average surplus land per surplus landholder was the largest i.e. 9.78 hectares in the North Solapur taluka and the lowest i.e. 5.41 hectares, in Karnala taluka. The highest area of surplus landholder was comparatively lower i.e. 8.17 hectares.

The total surplus land finally declared and available for distribution under the Principal and the Revised Act was about 12,875 hectares for the district as a whole. The average surplus area per surplus landholder came to about 19.06 hectares under the Principal Act, and 7.42 hectares under the Revised Act.

Reference to the returns filed with the Collector of the Solapur district and declaration of surplus land calls for some indication of details of the widely known case of a big surplus landholder from Mandrup village in the South Solapur taluka. This particular landlord owned about 2242 acres of land in eleven villages in the South Solapur taluka, before the enactment of the Principal Act. As required under the Principal Act, he filed his returns with the Collector in 1962, but it appears that the entire case of this particular landlord, was misplaced and could not be traced till 1975. He did not file any returns any more under the Revised Act. As the entire case was missing, no enquiry about surplus land could be conducted and no decision about his surplus land could be taken and the entire landholding of the surplus landholder remained in fact with him till 1975. On the declaration of Emergency in the country in 1975 the case papers of this landlord were uncovered in the Collector's Office itself and an immediate decision was taken to the effect to declare 1976 acres of his land as surplus. But before this surplus land could be distributed to different allottees, the Surplus Landholder went in writ petition to the High Court and secured a stay order against distribution of his surplus land. The State Government took nearly one year to evict this stay order. In October 1976, the High Court evicted its stay and the surplus land was made available for distribution.

Immediately after the decision of the High Court the executive machinery was put into motion. The Assistant Collector, Solapur Division, Solapur, was directed to take immediate steps for distribution of the land declared as surplus. Accordingly, the then Additional Tahsildar, South Solapur taluka, fixed the distribution

programme of the declared surplus land at different villages as under:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Name of village</u>
(1) 24-11-1976	Wadakbal, Hanmurgi and Wangi
(2) 25-11-1976	Chinchpur and Mandani
(3) 30-11-1976	Vinchur and Gunjegaon
(4) 3-12-1976	Bolkavathe
(5) 7-12-1976	Karkal and Lawangi
(6) 8/9-12-1976	Mandrup

Thus, the surplus land measuring about 1976 acres was formally distributed to 421 allottees from the above stated eleven villages. The process of distribution of the surplus land would have been complete, if the Assistant Tahsildar had directed the Circle Inspector/the Talathi to give physical possession of the distributed land to the 421 allottees. But he did not do it. Instead he started an enquiry into the eligibility of the allottees regarding their income, landed property etc. after finalising the distribution of the surplus land. He could not complete the enquiry work till 13-12-1976, on which day he went on leave preparatory to his retirement. In the meantime the surplus landholder filed an appeal in the Supreme Court and secured another stay order against the distribution of the surplus land. In view of this stay order of the Supreme Court, the possession of all the surplus land distributed to the 421 allottees could not be effected till the day of our investigation i.e. 13-12-1979 and the entire surplus land was still under the possession of the surplus landholder. Issues regarding this case were raised in the State Legislative Assembly on 20th July 1977 during the discussion on the budget grants, and it was alleged that the enquiry in this case as well as the handing over of possession of the surplus land to the

allottees concerned, was deliberately delayed by the Revenue machinery in the Solapur district. We have presented this case as an illustration of how the big landlords manage to keep their surplus lands under their own possession as long as possible and how the executive machinery apparently play into their hands and becomes an accessory.

The above case was unique in many respects in the entire district. In other cases of surplus landholders, the returns filed by them did not disappear from the Collector's records, but the calculations of surplus land were so done as to be more in favour of the landlords. We found that in some of the cases the acreage under "pot kharab", roads, and "nala pad" etc., were unduly inflated so that, land in excess of the ceiling limit declined and the surplus landholders were able to retain much of their landholdings. A typical case in this regard may be given of a landlord from Soregaon village in North Solapur taluka. The total landholding of this particular landlord, as per the village records (Khata No. 22 in Soregaon) was of 135 acres and 18 gunthas, divided into 5 plots. The details of these plots as recorded in the village form Nos. VII and XII, Record of rights, were as under:

	Survey No.	Area A. G.	Pot Kharab A. G.	Cultivable area A. G.	Assessment
(1)	170	5-10	0-05	5-05	1.43
(2)	224/1	36-27	2-10	34-17	37.00
(3)	224/2	28-23	-	28-23	26.87
(4)	224/3	36-23	3-20	33-03	42.06
(5)	224/4	28-15	1-00	27-15	28.62
	Total	135-18	6-35	128-23	135.98

The family of the landlord comprised of the minor holder, minor sister, their mother and one major sister. As per the village records the total area under "pot kharab" was 6 acres and 35 gunthas. According to the Rules of the Agricultural Land Ceiling Act, "Pot Kharab" land up to 5 acres only could be excluded from the total land holding. This means if we exclude 5 acres of "Pot kharab" land from the total area we get 130 acres and 38 gunthas from which the surplus was to be calculated. Taking into consideration the members in the family, the minor landholder was entitled to retain 54 acres of his land and the rest, 76 acres and 18 gunthas were all to be taken as surplus. But the calculations and declaration of the surplus land made by the Special Deputy Collector were different. The Deputy Collector had classified 23 acres and 18 gunthas as the area under "Pot kharab, nala pad" and Soregaon-Dongaon road, when, as pointed out earlier, only the "Pot kharab" land of 6 acres and 35 gunthas was mentioned in the village records. Wherefrom the areas under "nala pad" and Soregaon-Dongaon road were taken was not explained anywhere in the case. After deducting 23 acres and 18 gunthas, a holding of 112 acres was available and a net surplus of 58 acres was declared by the Special Deputy Collector after retaining 54 acres of individual ceiling limit therefrom. So, the surplus area declared by the Deputy Collector, was 58 acres, whereas the actual surplus land in this case, calculated on the basis of the village records, came to 76 acres and 18 gunthas. The surplus landholder managed to retain more than 18 acres of his landholdings with himself, over and above 54 acres, which he was entitled to under the Revised Act.

As pointed out earlier, such cases though not many, were reported in all the sample talukas of the district. However, the total number of such surplus landholders in each taluka and the area of surplus land involved in such

cases could not be ascertained. Wherever we came across such cases in the official records and during our investigation, we made a note of them and have presented some as illustrations which may help to draw some broad inferences. As regards declaration of surplus land, the cases we noted, indicated very broadly that the executive machinery was more sympathetic towards surplus landholders in general.

2.2 Acquisition of Surplus Land

Once the surplus land is declared by the Surplus Land Determination Tribunal/Special Deputy Collector, the landholder is informed to state the land to be retained for himself under Section 16 and to furnish his ~~his~~ choice of land in Form VII prescribed by Rule 7. This means the surplus landholder has the choice of land which he wants to retain for himself and select land which he wishes to surrender to the Government as surplus land. The Act provides that wherever necessary the surplus landholder may prepare a map of the area which he desires to surrender as surplus. He may take help from the village officers to prepare such a sketch, which may enable him to prescribe his choice in the matter.

This particular provision of the Act giving full choice to the surplus landholder to surrender whichever land he desired to, had created many complications in the Solapur district. The surplus landholders had obviously taken full advantage of the choice given to them and had surrendered only the lowest quality lands or even uncultivable lands as surplus. An interesting case was reported in this connection at Pudhani village in the Akkalkot taluka. In this village a surplus landholder had a landholding of 63.14 hectares (Khata No. 143) and was required to surrender about 6.48 hectares of his land as surplus under the Revised Land Ceiling Act. The landlord agreed

to the decision given by the Surplus Land Determination Tribunal of the Akkalkot taluka about the surplus land which he had to surrender but acted cleverly while exercising his choice of land to be surrendered. He surrendered 6.48 hectares from his largest plot of 28 hectares and chose such a piece from this land that it formed a central area of the big plot. So the surrendered area was all surrounded by his own land retained in the big plot. The possession of the surrendered land was taken by the authorities. It was distributed to the five allottees in the village in 1976. When the allottees went to cultivate the plots allotted to them, the surplus land holder raised an occasion of complaint and did not allow them to enter his land. The allottees went to the village officials and later to the Tahasildar with a request to provide for an approach road to their allotted plots but in vain. When we visited the Akkalkot taluka for our investigation the case of these allottees was still pending with the Tahasildar and the surplus land surrendered by the landlord was still under his cultivation. Thus, the surplus landholder succeeded, at least for the time being, in retaining the physical possession of his entire landholding with himself, even after the declaration and distribution of the surplus land surrendered by him on paper according to the Revised Act.

It appears from the above case and other cases that all sorts of ingenuities were brought into play by the surplus landholders in order to save themselves from surrendering their surplus areas or to postpone giving actual possession of the surplus lands and keep the same under one's own cultivation as long as possible. Most of the surplus landholders had taken full advantage of the section 16 of the Ceiling Act and had surrendered only inferior lands. Some of them went to the extent even did not of duping the Government by surrendering areas under

roads, canals etc. For example, we may refer to the case No. CR 241 of Lawang village in the Malsiras taluka. The facts of this case are reproduced here in brief. The particular landlord from Lawang village was declared surplus holder to the extent of 25 gunthas under the Special Deputy Collector's order given on 11-4-75. The landholder exercised his choice of retaining the land under Section 16 of the Ceiling Act and stated before the Deputy Collector on 9-4-1975 that the strip of land measuring 25 gunthas out of S.No. 35/2A which was cultivable and perennially irrigated as shown in red in the sketch, might be taken over as surplus land. Accordingly, the Deputy Collector passed the order and directed the Additional Tahasildar to take over possession of the said land under Section 21(2). This land was allotted to one peasant applicant from the same village. While handing over the possession to the allottee the Circle Officer, observed that there was a canal and service road in the said strip of land and that there was very little land ~~the land~~ left for cultivation. The Additional Tahasildar was then directed to inspect the site personally and verify the facts. The sketch drawn by the Additional Tahasildar and his inspection report showed that only an area measuring 552' x 8' i.e. about 3 gunthas was under cultivation, while the remaining part of the delimited land, was under canal and service road and could not be brought under cultivation. From the above stated facts it appears that the surplus landholder, in surrendering the land to the Government had clearly tricked it and surrendered 22 gunthas of land which could not be brought under cultivation. The same land was again included in the enquiry under ^{the} Revised Act and he was declared non-surplus on 18-8-1976. Once the land was delimited under the Principal Act, there was no reason to include the same under the Revised Act. It was, therefore, decided that this particular case might be taken

up in revision by the Government and remanded back to the Deputy Collector for obtaining fresh choice of land from the surplus landholder.

We have presented these two cases of extreme type where attempts were made to deceive the Government while surrendering the surplus areas. Besides these and such other cases, there were quite a number of cases which we came across during our investigation, where the surplus landholders had taken full advantage of the Section 16 of the Revised Land Ceiling Act and had surrendered only low quality and uncultivated lands as surplus areas. It is quite natural for the surplus landholders to surrender uncultivated area as surplus to the extent possible under the provisions of the Act, when the choice of land to be surrendered is fully given to them. The extent of uncultivated area surrendered as surplus in the district could not be ascertained from the data supplied to us by the district Collectorate. In the case of the sample villages, however, we could calculate the proportions of uncultivated areas surrendered as surplus to the total surplus land and these are presented in Chapter III. It appears that in most of the sample villages, a large chunk of the area surrendered as surplus was from the uncultivated area. The proportion of such area to the total surplus was as high as 80 per cent in some of the sample villages from Malsiras, Barahi, Karmala and Akkalkot talukas. In view of the larger surplus area accruing from the uncultivated land, it was inevitable that the large number of allottees received only such lands which could not be cultivated even by the big surplus landholders.

2.3 Distribution of Surplus Land

Once the declaration of surplus land is done by the Surplus Land Determination Tribunal/Special/Deputy Collectors further steps for its disposal are taken by the Surplus Land

Distribution Tribunal appointed in each taluka or block. On receipt of the statement of surplus land from the Tahasildar, the Distribution Tribunal under the Revised Act is first required to consider reservation of 50 per cent of the surplus land for distribution to landless persons belonging to Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes and persons from Nomadic Tribes, 'Vimukta Jatis' and other backward classes as modified by the Government for that purpose. The Chairman of the Tribunal is to draw a detailed programme fixing the date on which and the place at which applications would be received for the grant of land; the date, time and place at which the applications would be considered. Such a programme is to be given wide publicity by issue of public notice and by beat of drum in the village in which the surplus lands are situated and also in the villages within a radius of eight kilometers of such villages. As far as possible seven days' time is allowed for filling such applications from the date of issue of the public notice. The detailed procedure as to the scrutiny of the applications received and selection of allottees has been prescribed under Rules (7), (8) and (9) of the Act. As provided thereunder, the whole programme regarding selection of allottees is to be completed in one sitting. After the final list of allottees is drawn up and announced, the Chairman of the Tribunal authorises the Circle Inspector for taking over possession of surplus land and handing over the same to the allottees.

In table 2.3 we present the data about the areas declared surplus and distributed to different allottees in the eleven talukas of the Solapur district, under the Principal and the Revised Act. It may be noted from the table that ^{under} the Principal Act, 4,451 hectares of land was declared surplus, of which 3,009 hectares or 67.6 per cent could be distributed to 1569 allottees. The rest of the

Table 2.1 : Surplus land declared and distributed under the Principal and the Revised Land Ceiling Act in Solapur district

Taluka	Principal Act				
	Declared surplus land	Distributed surplus land	Number of allottees	Percentage of distributed to declared land	Average distributed land per allottee
North Solapur	85	85	69	100.0	1.23
South Solapur	1078	821	560	76.2	1.47
Barshi	587	377	130	64.1	2.89
Akkalkot	237	237	139	100.0	1.71
Madha	89	62	31	69.7	2.00
Malsiras	1027	500	251	48.7	1.99
Karnala	378	177	63	46.8	2.81
Sangola	379	210	58	55.4	3.62
Mohel	355	258	73	72.7	3.53
Mangalwedha	138	138	86	100.0	1.60
Pandharpur	198	145	109	73.2	1.33
Total	4451	3009	1569	67.6	1.92

Table 2.3 : (contd.)

Taluka	Revised Act					Total				
	Declar- ed sur- plus land	Distri- buted surplus land	No. of allot- tees	Percen- tage of distri- buted to de- clared land	Average distri- buted land per allottee	Declar- ed sur- plus land	Distri- buted surplus land	No. of allot- tees	Percen- tage of distri- buted to de- clared land	Average distri- buted land per allottee
North Solapur	528	449	285	85.0	1.58	613	534	354	87.1	1.51
South Solapur	661	647	496	97.9	1.30	1739	1468	1056	84.4	1.39
Barshi	1289	1149	843	89.1	1.36	1876	1525	972	81.3	1.57
Akkalkot	474	415	372	87.6	1.11	711	652	511	91.7	1.28
Madha	728	747	379	98.5	1.97	817	809	410	95.3	1.97
Malsiras	1678	1399	639	83.4	2.19	2705	1899	890	70.2	2.13
Karmala	838	820	389	97.9	2.11	1216	997	452	82.0	2.21
Sangola	705	592	274	84.0	2.16	1084	802	332	74.0	2.42
Mohol	632	614	283	97.2	2.17	987	872	356	88.3	2.46
Mangalwedha	401	378	165	94.2	2.29	539	516	251	95.7	2.06
Pandharpur	492	371	168	75.4	2.21	690	516	277	74.8	1.86
Total	8426	7581	4293	90.0	1.77	12977	10590	5862	82.3	1.81

surplus land measuring about 1,442 hectares could not be distributed. Of this, 777 hectares could not be distributed in view of the stay orders given by the High Court/Supreme Court/Maharashtra Revenue Tribunal; and 665 hectares were totally uncultivable and were required to be notified under Section 27(1). In three talukas viz. North Solapur, Akkalkot and Mangalwedha, the entire area which was declared surplus was distributed to different allottees. In the remaining eight talukas, however, the entire surplus area could not be distributed mainly because of the stay orders secured by the surplus landholders. The distributed area was therefore lower than the declared surplus in these talukas. It may be noted from the table that there were wide variations in the proportions of the distributed to the declared surplus areas in these eight talukas. Such a proportion was the lowest (46.8 per cent) in the Karmala taluka and the highest (76.2 per cent) in the North Solapur taluka. In Karmala taluka the proportion was low mainly because a large chunk (201 out of 378 hectares) of its declared surplus was involved in the stay orders given by the Maharashtra Revenue Tribunal. In Malsiras taluka also the case was more or less the same, but its reason was different. In this taluka about 499 hectares out of the total 1027 hectares declared as surplus were uncultivable and so notified under the Section 27(1). The average distributed area per allottee came to about two hectares for the district as a whole. It is worth noting that the average distributed area per allottee was above three hectares in Sangola and Mohol talukas only. In the remaining talukas it was comparatively low.

Under the Revised Act, about 8,424 hectares of land was declared surplus of which 7,581 hectares were distributed to 4,293 allottees in the district till the end of December 1978. This meant about 90 per cent of the total declared

surplus was distributed already. A comparatively small area of 873 hectares could not be distributed in view of the stay orders given by the High Court/Supreme Court and the Maharashtra Revenue Tribunal and because of the land being uncultivable. It was reported that 117 allottees refused to take possession of 265 hectares of the distributed land as it was all uncultivable. It may be seen from the table that in all the eleven talukas, the proportion of the distributed land to the areas declared surplus was more than 80 per cent. In some of the talukas like Kadha, South Solapur, Karmala and Mohol the proportions was as high as 97 to 98 per cent. It appears that the distribution of the declared surplus land was certainly better under the Revised Act than that under the Principal Act. This might be because of the Emergency declared in the country in 1975. The average distributed area per allottee under the Revised Act came to about 1.77 hectares for the district as a whole. Between different talukas of the district the average distributed area varied from 1.11 hectares in the Akkalkot taluka to 2.29 hectares in the Mangalwedha taluka.

The total land declared surplus under the Principal and the Revised Act came to 12,875 hectares. Of this, 10,590 hectares or about 82 per cent was distributed to 5,862 allottees in the district. It may be noted from the table that except in Malsiras, in all other talukas nearly three-fourths and more of the declared surplus was already distributed to different allottees. The average distributed land per allottee came to 1.81 hectares.

As mentioned earlier the distinguishing feature of the Revised Act is the reservation of 50 per cent of the declared surplus land for distribution to landless persons from Schedule castes, schedule tribes, Eozadic tribes and 'Vimukt Jatis'. In tables 2.4 and 2.5 we present the distribution of the allottees belonging to these castes, ex-servicemen

Table 2.4 : Distribution of the allottees and surplus land allotted to them under the Principal Act

Taluka	Scheduled castes		Scheduled tribes		Vimukta jatis		Nomadic tribes		Ex-servicemen and Servicemen		Others		Total	
	Allottees	Area	Allottees	Area	Allottees	Area	Allottees	Area	Allottees	Area	Allottees	Area	Allottees	Area
North Solapur	20	30	-	-	15	9	-	-	19	29	15	17	69	85
South Solapur	200	276	4	4	22	36	19	22	111	178	204	305	560	821
Barshi	38	120	17	37	10	8	-	-	13	43	52	168	130	376
Akkalkot	34	64	14	30	12	24	2	3	11	22	66	94	139	237
Madha	17	34	11	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	31	62
Malsiras	112	187	3	4	8	15	-	-	52	94	76	200	251	500
Karnala	18	38	4	8	1	2	3	4	20	82	17	43	63	177
Sangola	18	50	-	-	-	-	3	6	14	31	23	123	58	210
Mohol	29	94	-	-	-	-	1	2	23	81	20	81	73	258
Mangalwedha	26	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	50	40	47	86	138
Pandharpur	45	58	-	-	3	4	2	4	41	54	18	25	109	145
Total	557	992	53	104	71	98	30	41	324	664	534	1110	1569	3009

Table 2.5 : Distribution of allottees and the surplus land allotted to them under the Revised Act

Taluka	Scheduled castes		Scheduled tribes		Vinykta jatis		Nomadic tribes		Ex-servicemen and Servicemen		Others		Total	
	Allot-tees	Area	Allot-tees	Area	Allot-tees	Area	Allot-tees	Area	Allot-tees	Area	Allot-tees	Area	Allot-tees	Area
North Solapur	104	177	1	3	25	25	1	1	74	108	80	135	285	449
South Solapur	168	220	-	-	56	77	13	14	94	119	165	217	496	647
Barshi	376	472	-	-	41	58	20	31	155	204	251	384	843	1149
Akkalkot	137	140	3	5	23	34	-	-	74	85	135	151	372	415
Madha	165	315	3	4	29	56	3	7	114	229	65	136	379	747
Malsiras	267	637	-	-	49	126	38	68	110	239	175	329	639	1399
Karnala	173	362	3	7	40	82	14	29	27	57	132	283	389	820
Sangola	132	282	-	-	15	34	14	31	76	156	37	89	274	592
Mohol	139	317	1	2	6	14	4	8	37	83	96	190	283	614
Mangalwedha	42	96	-	-	14	32	37	90	46	100	26	60	165	378
Pandharpur	76	170	-	-	11	26	2	5	58	124	21	46	168	371
Total	1779	3188	11	21	309	564	146	284	865	1504	1183	2020	4293	7581

and servicemen, and others, along with the areas of surplus land allotted to them. It may be noted from these tables that the number of allottees from the Schedule tribes was very small - 53 and only 11 under the Principal and the Revised Act respectively. This was because the number of families belonging to the Scheduled tribes ^{was} not large in the Solapur district itself. In tables 2.6 to 2.8 we group together all the allottees belonging to Scheduled castes and tribes and see what proportion of the total surplus land was distributed to them in each taluka. In these tables, therefore, we classify the allottees in three groups:

(1) Scheduled castes, Tribes etc; (2) Ex-servicemen and servicemen, and (3) others. We could not get the castes of the ex-servicemen and servicemen from the data given to us at the district Collectorate. So it is likely that some of the ex-servicemen and servicemen might also belong particularly to Scheduled castes and the proportion of distributed land to the Scheduled caste persons might change to that extent. It may be noted from the table § 2.7 that in the first four talukas, viz. North Solapur, South Solapur, Barshi and Akkalkot, the proportion of surplus land distributed to persons from the Scheduled castes and Tribes, etc. was somewhat less than the reservation (50 per cent) prescribed under the provisions of the Revised Act. In the rest of the talukas, however, this proportion was more than 50 per cent of the total distributed surplus. It was as high as 59.4 per cent in the case of the Malsiras taluka and 51.1 per cent in the Madha taluka. For the district as a whole, about 53.5 per cent of the total declared surplus was distributed to persons belonging to the Scheduled castes and Tribes etc. These proportions might change to some extent depending on the castes of the ex-servicemen and servicemen. However, by and large, one may conclude that the persons from the Scheduled castes and Tribes, etc.

Table 2.6 : Surplus land distributed to the allottees from Schedule Castes, Tribes, Ex-servicemen and others under the Principal Act

Taluka	Schedule Castes, Tribes etc.			Ex-servicemen and servicemen			Others			Total		
	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area
North Solapur	35	39	45.9	19	29	34.1	15	17	20.0	69	85	100.0
South Solapur	245	338	41.2	111	178	21.7	204	305	37.1	560	821	100.0
Barshi	65	165	43.9	13	43	11.4	52	168	44.7	130	376	100.0
Akkalkot	62	121	51.1	11	22	9.3	66	94	39.6	139	237	100.0
Nadha	28	55	88.7	-	-	-	3	7	11.3	31	62	100.0
Malsiras	123	206	41.2	52	94	18.8	76	200	40.0	251	500	100.0
Karmala	26	52	29.4	20	82	46.3	17	43	24.3	63	177	100.0
Sangola	21	56	26.7	14	31	14.8	23	123	58.5	58	210	100.0
Mohol	30	96	37.2	23	81	31.4	20	81	31.4	73	258	100.0
Mangalwedha	26	41	29.7	20	50	36.2	40	47	34.1	86	138	100.0
Pandharpur	50	66	45.6	41	54	37.2	18	25	17.2	109	145	100.0
Total	711	1235	41.0	324	664	22.1	534	1110	36.9	1569	3009	100.0

Table 2.7 : Surplus land distributed to the allottees from Schedule Castes, Tribes, Ex-servicemen and others under the Revised Act

Taluka	Schedule Castes, Tribes etc.			Ex-servicemen and Servicemen			Others			Total		
	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area
North Solapur	131	206	45.9	74	108	24.1	80	135	30.0	285	449	100.0
South Solapur	237	311	48.0	94	119	18.5	165	217	33.5	496	647	100.0
Barshi	437	561	48.8	155	204	17.8	251	384	33.4	843	1149	100.0
Akkalkot	163	179	43.1	74	85	20.5	135	151	36.4	372	415	100.0
Madha	200	382	51.1	114	229	30.7	65	136	18.2	379	747	100.0
Malsiras	354	831	59.4	110	239	17.1	175	329	23.5	639	1399	100.0
Karnala	230	480	58.5	27	57	7.0	132	283	34.5	389	820	100.0
Sangola	161	347	58.6	76	156	26.4	37	89	15.0	274	592	100.0
Mohol	150	341	55.5	37	83	13.5	96	190	31.0	283	614	100.0
Mangalwedha	93	218	57.6	46	100	26.5	26	60	15.9	165	378	100.0
Pandharpur	89	201	54.2	58	124	33.4	21	46	12.4	168	371	100.0
Total	2245	4057	53.5	865	1504	19.8	1183	2020	26.7	4293	7581	100.0

Table 2.6 : Surplus land distributed to the allottees from Schedule Castes, Tribes, Ex-servicemen and others under the Principal and the Revised Acts

Taluka	Schedule Castes, Tribes etc.			Ex-servicemen and Servicemen			Others			Total		
	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area	Allottees	Area	Percentage to total area
North Solapur	166	245	45.9	93	137	25.6	95	152	28.5	354	534	100.0
South Solapur	482	649	44.2	205	297	20.2	369	522	35.6	1056	1468	100.0
Barshi	502	726	47.6	168	247	16.2	303	552	36.2	973	1525	100.0
Akkalkot	225	300	46.0	85	107	16.4	201	245	37.6	511	652	100.0
Madha	228	437	54.0	114	229	28.3	68	143	17.7	410	809	100.0
Malsiras	477	1037	54.6	162	333	17.5	251	529	27.9	890	1899	100.0
Karmala	256	532	53.4	47	139	13.9	149	326	32.7	452	997	100.0
Sangola	182	403	50.2	90	187	23.3	60	212	26.5	332	802	100.0
Mohol	180	437	50.1	60	164	18.8	116	271	31.1	356	872	100.0
Mangalwedha	119	259	50.2	66	150	29.1	66	107	20.7	251	516	100.0
Pandharpur	139	267	51.7	99	178	34.5	39	71	13.8	277	516	100.0
Total	2956	5292	50.0	1189	2168	20.5	1717	3130	29.5	5862	10590	100.0

appeared to have received their due share in the surplus land distributed under the Revised Act.

Under the Principal Act, as we know, there was no such reservation. Even then the proportion of the distributed surplus area to the persons from the Schedule castes and tribes etc. was not very low. It was about 41 per cent for the district as a whole. Between the talukas in the district, however, there was wide variation. It may be seen from table 2.6 that it varied between 26.7 per cent in Sangola taluka and 88.7 per cent in Madha taluka. It appears from the two tables (Nos. 2.6 and 2.7) that the persons from Schedule castes and Tribes etc. received major portion of the surplus distributed under the Revised Act as against the major portion going to ex-servicemen and others under the Principal Act. If we add up the distributed areas under the Principal and the Revised Act, we get that exactly 50 per cent of the total declared surplus in the district was distributed to the allottees belonging to Schedule castes and Tribes etc., and the rest to ex-servicemen and servicemen, and persons from other castes. (See table 2.8).

During our investigation we found that there were many complaints of malpractices involved in the distribution of surplus land. We observed that in many of the villages the detailed procedure of distribution of the surplus land as given in the Revised Act was not strictly followed. Even the major provisions of the Act were at times overlooked. We observed that in some of the sample villages many of the allottees were total outsiders and were not entitled to receive the surplus land in the sample villages. They were not resident even within the radius of 8 kilometers from the village where the surplus land was situated. In this regard the distribution of surplus land at Kegaon, a sample village in the North Solapur taluka provides an interesting case.

Kegaon is situated at a distance of about 19 kilometers to the west of the Solapur city. About 11.40 hectares of surplus land in this village was distributed to 9 allottees. All the nine allottees were from the Solapur city. None of the nine allottees was either from Kegaon village or from villages within a radius of 8 kilometers of Kegaon. It was not possible to understand how applications from the total outsiders who were neither from Kegaon nor from within a radius of 8 kilometers were considered for the surplus land at Kegaon. Likewise we could not understand how the surplus land at Kegaon could be distributed to the applicants from the Solapur city, which is not within a radius of 8 kilometers from Kegaon. And such allotment was done when actually there were 26 applicants for the surplus land from Kegaon itself and 132 applicants from villages within a radius of 8 kilometers of Kegaon. Of the 26 applicants from Kegaon, 20 were from the persons belonging to Schedule/Castes and Schedule/Tribes. None from these persons, nor from the 158 applicants, who according to the Land Ceiling ^{Act} ~~law~~ were legally eligible for the surplus land at Kegaon, could get any surplus land. And the land was distributed to families from the Solapur City. How could the applications of the families from the Solapur city which were not even eligible to apply for the surplus land at Kegaon could be entertained and allotment of the surplus land was made to them? We were told by the applicants at Kegaon that the meeting of the Surplus Land Distribution Tribunal was held at Kegaon itself and the surplus land was distributed by lots, which were drawn in the presence of the applicants. It was difficult to believe that none out of the 158 applicants, nor a single one from the Schedule/Castes and Schedule/Tribes, could come up in the draw while all the nine families from the Solapur city could be drawn up in the lots and proved

fortunate to get the surplus land distributed at Kegaon. When we pursued this matter with the Additional Tahasildar of North Solapur taluka for some days, the cat came out of the bag. The modus operandi was very simple and almost silly. The Additional Tahasildar explained to us that all the procedure was followed strictly according to the provisions of the Act up to the point of drawing lots. Lots were drawn but while announcing the successful applicant's name the Chairman of the Tribunal, instead of reading the name written on the drawn chit, read the name from the list of allottees already prepared and kept ready with him. Thus the names of nine allottees from the Solapur city were announced and allotted the surplus land at Kegaon. It is more important to note that out of these nine allottees, four were from the Collector's and Tahasildar's office, one serving as a driver on Government vehicle and the other three, as peons.

In connection with the distribution of surplus land, another serious case which we came across during our investigation in Solapur district may be mentioned here. It was the case of a clerk serving in the Animal Husbandary Section of the Zilla Parishad Solapur, who had managed to secure surplus lands in three different names at three different villages in South and North Solapur talukas. The details of the surplus lands secured by him were as under:

<u>Taluka</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>Area in hectares</u>	<u>Get No.</u>
(1) South Solapur	Mauje Ule	1.66	39
(2) South Solapur	Kimbergi	1.06	Not given
(3) North Solapur	Shelgi (Hippergl)	1.00	76/IC

This case could come to light only because of an anonymous application sent to the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who received it in September 1976 and directed the Secretary to make enquiry about the facts stated in the application.

The directive for enquiry ultimately came down to the Additional Tahasildar, South Solapur Taluka, who enquired into the case and found that the allegations made in the anonymous application were true. He found that the person concerned was serving as a clerk in the Animal Husbandry Section at Mauje Warkute in the Karnala Taluka. He had managed to secure surplus land at Mauje Ule in the name of his wife, and the allotted land was in his possession. At another village called Nimbergi, he had secured surplus land in the name of his brother's wife, but he had not taken its possession till the date of enquiry. At Shelgi village he had managed to secure surplus land in the name of Shri. Anjanayya Krishnayya Kalal. The Additional Tahasildar found that there was no person of this name at Shelgi or in any other neighbouring villages. It was revealed that the clerk concerned had secured the surplus land at Shelgi under the fictitious name and was cultivating it for some time. After the completion of enquiry, the Collector sent his report to the Divisional Commissioner and ~~the~~ suggested the institution of departmental action against the clerk concerned. The Commissioner had pointed out in his reply that "the clerk concerned is not a gasetted officer and hence the action has to be taken by the Collector himself." This was the stage of the case when we got its report on 12th February 1979. The surplus land allotted to the clerk concerned was still with him till the day of our visit.

The two cases cited above are adequate enough to denote the seriousness of the malpractices followed in the distribution of surplus land in the Solapur district.

2.4 Handing Over Possession of Distributed Land

As noted earlier, once the final list of allottees is drawn up and announced, the Chairman of the Surplus Land Distribution Tribunal authorises an Officer, not below the

rank of Circle Inspector or Revenue Inspector as an Authorised Officer for handing over the possession of surplus land to the allottees. The Chairman also announces the date, time and place at which the possession of the surplus land would be handed over to the selected allottees by the Authorised Officer. As soon as the final list of the selected allottees is received, the Authorised Officer issues a public notice that he intends to hand over possession of surplus land on the date announced by the Chairman of the Surplus Land Distribution Tribunal. On the announced date he hands over the possession of surplus land to the selected allottees and gets the undertaking in Form V prescribed under Rule 11, executed from the allottees. The authorised officer then returns the proceeding to the Tahasildar in charge of the Taluka in which the lands are situated. The Tahasildar thereafter makes necessary entries in the Register of Disposal of Surplus Land. This is briefly the procedure prescribed in the Act for handing over possession of surplus land to the selected allottees.

In table 2.9 we present the data regarding the allottees put in possession of the surplus land distributed under the Principal and the Revised Act. It may be noted from the table that all the allottees who received land under the Principal Act, were put in possession of their respective plots of surplus area and the necessary entries were made in the Records of Right. Thus, all the formalities as regards distribution of surplus land were completed for all the allottees under the Principal Act and there was not a single case pending in the Solapur district.

The task under the Revised Act was also almost complete. It may be seen from the table that out of the total number of allottees reported under the Revised Act, about 95 per cent were put in possession of their respective land and only 5 per cent had remained to be given possession of land.

Table 2.9 : Allottees declared and put in possession of the allotted lands under the Principal and the revised Act

Taluka	Principal Act			Revised Act				Total			
	Number of allottees declared	Allottees put in possession of land	Allottees entered in record of rights	Number of allottees declared	Allottees put in possession of land	Allottees who refused to take possession of land No. Area in hectares	Allottees entered in Record of Rights	Allottees entered as members of Village Societies	Number of allottees declared	Allottees put in possession of land	Allottees entered in Record of rights
North Solapur	69	69	69	285	265	17 40	265	265	354	334	334
South Solapur	560	560	560	496	496	- -	496	496	1056	1056	1056
Barshi	130	130	130	843	722	40 69	687	666	973	852	817
Akkalkot	139	139	139	372	372	- -	343	316	511	511	482
Nadha	31	31	31	379	379	- -	366	366	410	410	397
Malsiras	251	251	251	639	601	36 108	601	480	890	852	852
Barmala	63	63	63	389	389	- -	389	389	452	452	452
Dangola	58	58	58	274	241	19 36	241	241	332	299	299
Bohol	73	73	73	283	283	- -	279	279	356	356	352
Mangalwedha	86	86	86	165	165	- -	142	138	251	251	228
Pandharpur	109	109	109	168	163	5 12	163	163	277	272	272
Total	1569	1569	1569	4293	4076	117 265	3972	3799	5862	5645	5541

Of these 217 or 5 per cent allottees, 117 had refused to take possession of lands allotted to them as they found that the lands were mostly uncultivable. The area of lands involved in these cases was about 25 hectares. In the case of the remaining 100 allottees, the possession could not be handed over as the surplus landholders had filed writ petitions in the High Court/the Supreme Court and secured stay orders against the distribution of their surplus land. The talukawise data presented in the table point out that in six talukas viz. South Solapur, Akkalkot, Madha, Karmala, Mohol and Mangalwedha, all the allottees of surplus land were put in possession of their respective land. The task could not be completed in the remaining five talukas like, North Solapur, Barshi, Malsiras, Sangola and Pandharpur. In these talukas, only 3 to 15 per cent of the allottees remained to be put in possession of the surplus land allotted to them. The number of allottees who refused to take possession of the allotted land as it was all uncultivable, was comparatively larger in Barshi (4) and Malsiras (36) talukas. The surplus land involved in these cases was also larger in the above two talukas.

At the aggregate level, about 96 per cent of the total allottees under the Principal and the Revised Act, were put in possession of the allotted surplus land and only 4 per cent, had remained to be given such possession. It may be seen from the table that the necessary entries of about 95 per cent of the total allottees had also been completed by the end of December 1978. So all the legal formalities of distribution of surplus land were completed for most of the allottees under the Principal and the Revised Act in the Solapur district.

It is surprising to note that malpractices were prevalent even at the stage of handing over possession of the allotted surplus land in some of the sample talukas. An

interesting case in this regard was reported at Pangaon village in the Barshi taluka. In this village a landlord was declared surplus landholder to the extent of 60 acres by the Surplus Land Determination Tribunal, Barshi, under its order No. CLG(Pangaon) 40 & 25/75 dated 21-2-1976. This order was confirmed by the Maharashtra Revenue Tribunal, Pune, under No. MRT/SR/66/75 dated 29-4-1976. The surplus landholder was therefore required to surrender 60 acres of his land. He exercised his choice for retention of his land under Section 16 of the Act. The dispute arose in respect of Survey No. 22 belonging to the surplus landholder. The S.No. 22 admeasuring 44 acres and 14 gunthas beyond a stream was retained for himself. He had clarified his choice in Form No. VII that he desired to retain 7 acres 14 gunthas at the southern side of S.No. 22, where a mango grove and jambhul trees were standing. On the basis of his declaration the Surplus Land Determination Tribunal declared the remaining area measuring 37 acres at the northern portion as surplus in Form No. VIII. The same impression was carried forward in the Form No. IX issued by the Circle Inspector. But while taking possession and handing it over to the allottees the Circle Inspector handed over the southern portion of the S.No. 22, where the mango and jambhul trees were standing. This was evident from the sketch map produced by the Circle Inspector and was also supported by the Panchanama dated 22-3-77. The land was personally inspected by the District Collector on 19-7-1977. It was reported that the Circle Inspector had a vested interest and hence he took possession of land on the southern side and handed it over to the allottees amongst whom there were his relatives. The dispute about this land was still on, when we visited Barshi taluka on 25th February 1979.

Such cases, though not many, were reported in some of the sample talukas. But the total number of such cases and the total area of surplus land involved in them, could not be ascertained because of various reasons. The case presented above was found in the official records at the district collectorate and we have presented it here as an illustration. It can give a broad idea of how malpractices could be effectively adopted even at the stage of handing over possession of surplus land to the allottees.

2.5 Compensation

Compensation for any land acquired by the Government for the purposes of the Land Ceiling Act, was awarded to the surplus landholders, in the Solapur district, at the following rates:

- (1) 200 times the assessment per hectare but not exceeding Rs. 1000/- per hectare of dry land;
- (2) 400 times the assessment per hectare but not exceeding Rs. 5000/- per hectare of land irrigated perennially by flow irrigation;
- (3) 300 times the assessment per hectare but not exceeding Rs. 5000/- per hectare of land irrigated for two seasons;
- (4) 250 times the assessment per hectare but not exceeding Rs. 5000/- per hectare of land irrigated for one season.

Under Section 26 of the Revised Act, the amount of compensation, may be paid in transferable bonds carrying interest at three per cent per annum. Bonds are of two classes - one being payable during a period of twenty years from the date of issue by equated annual instalment of principal and interest; and the other being redeemable at par at the end of a period of twenty years from the date of issue. It is left to a surplus landholder receiving compensation to choose payment in one or other class of bonds or partly in one class and partly in another. If the amount of compensation or any of its part, could not be

paid in bonds, it is to be paid in cash in marginal cases.

In table 2.10 are presented the cases of compensation, areas of surplus land involved in such cases and the amounts of compensation awarded to surplus landholders in the Solapur district. Under the Principal Act, about Rs. 2.15 lakhs were awarded in 146 cases for 2,419 hectares of surplus land. The average amount of compensation per hectare came to Rs. 88.7. Of the total amount of compensation awarded under the Principal Act, Rs. 1.81 lakhs or about 84.5 per cent had been actually paid to the surplus landholders till 31st December 1978. Out of the total actually paid, Rs. 1.77 lakhs or about 98 per cent, was paid in the form of bonds and the remaining amount of Rs. 3,955/- or only 2 per cent of the total was paid in cash.

The total amount of compensation awarded under the Revised Act was apparently much bigger as the number of cases and the surplus areas declared under this Act were quite large. It may be seen from the table that the total amount of compensation awarded under the Revised Act stood at Rs. 11.88 lakhs for 6,169 hectares of surplus land declared from 949 cases. The average amount of compensation came to Rs. 193 per hectare of surplus land. The total amount of compensation actually paid till ^{the} end of the year 1978, was considerably small. It was hardly 16 per cent of the total amount of compensation awarded under the Revised Act. Most of the amount of compensation paid till 1978, was in the form of twenty-year bonds and only Rs.3000/- or 1.5 per cent of the total, was paid in cash.

The total amount of compensation awarded under the Principal and the Revised Act came to 14.02 lakhs, of which only 3.76 lakhs or 26.8 per cent had actually been paid by the end of 1978. Most of the paid compensation was given in the form of bonds and only a small amount of Rs. 6,955/- or hardly 2 per cent of the total was paid in cash.

Table 2.10 : Compensation awarded under the Principal and the Revised Act

Taluka	Principal Act				
	Number of compensation cases		Enquiries into cases completed		Compensation awarded
	Number of cases	Area involved	Number of cases	Area involved	
North Solapur	4	85	4	85	14,306
South Solapur	21	1063	18	812	28,255
Barshi	25	586	17	357	23,220
Akkalkot	10	237	10	237	25,858
Madha	11	89	6	24	7,770
Malsiras	73	1027	50	270	39,462
Karnala	19	378	10	81	21,701
Sangola	16	198	11	172	15,746
Mohol	16	273	4	181	11,445
Mangalwedha	11	138	11	138	20,437
Pandharpur	16	198	5	62	6,427
Total	222	4272	146	2419	2,14,627

Table 2.10 : (contd.)

Taluka	Revised Act.					Total				
	No. of compensation cases		Enquiries into cases completed		Compensation awarded	No. of compensation cases		Enquiries into cases completed		Compensation awarded
	No. of cases	Area involved	No. of cases	Area involved		No. of cases	Area involved	No. of cases	Area involved	
North Solapur	54	528	50	281	36,000	58	613	54	366	50,306
South Solapur	98	664	93	590	1,68,271	119	1727	11	1402	1,96,526
Barshi	167	1248	88	491	1,02,079	192	1834	105	848	1,25,299
Akkalkot	71	454	71	454	1,67,930	81	691	81	691	1,93,788
Kadha	100	658	72	362	84,868	111	747	78	386	92,638
Malsiras	164	1488	140	1346	91,308	237	2515	190	1616	1,30,770
Karmala	141	837	140	740	1,11,170	160	1215	150	821	1,32,871
Sangola	93	725	80	556	1,77,323	109	923	91	728	1,93,069
Mohol	85	604	85	598	1,09,570	101	877	89	779	1,21,015
Mangalwedha	73	404	68	373	74,548	84	542	79	511	94,985
Pandharpur	62	378	62	378	65,030	78	576	67	440	71,457
Total	1108	7988	949	6169	11,88,097	1330	12260	1095	8588	14,02,724

CHAPTER III

SAMPLE ALLOTTEE FAMILIES

We propose to present in this chapter the major characteristics of the sample allottees from the eight talukas selected for the Study. In the major characteristics, we include their castes, family size, proportion of earners, educational standard, their relationship with land and the previous landlord prior to the allotment of surplus land. We also present in this chapter, the data regarding the livestock and the agricultural implements owned by the sample allottees before and after the allotment of surplus land. The analysis of this data may serve as a background for the later study of the surplus land allotted to these families.

3.1 Surplus Land Distributed and the Allottees

As stated earlier the distribution of surplus land, under the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling of Holdings) Act 1961, was done in two phases. The two phases are distinguished as distribution under the "Principal Act" and the "Revised Act". The "Principal Act" i.e. the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) Act 1961 came into force on 26th January 1962 and the first phase of surplus land distribution began from the enforcement date of 26th January 1962 and continued up to 2nd October 1975, when the relevant amendments in respect of the ceiling area and also the distribution of the surplus land came into operation. The Principal Act was amended "by Maharashtra 21 of 1975" and was referred to as the Revised Act. The second phase of distribution of surplus land thus began from the commencement date of 2nd October 1975 of the Revised Act and is still continued. The ceiling area prescribed under the Principal Act varied between 66 and 140 acres of dry crop land. Under the Revised Act,

not only was the ceiling limit on landholding lowered but a uniform ceiling was prescribed for all the regions in the State. Thus the Revised Act did away with the variations in ceiling area of dry crop land for various "local areas". Under the Revised Act the ceiling limit was lowered to 36 acres for paddy lands in the paddy regions and to 54 acres for other dry crop lands all over the State. Section 27 of the Principal Act was also substituted "by Maharashtra 21 of 1975" and the maximum area allocable to individual allottee was drastically reduced to 3 hectares of dry crop lands. So, the lowering of the ceiling limit on landholding and reducing the maximum area allocable to an individual allottee are the two major distinguishing features of the Revised Act. We have therefore attempted to present the data of the declared and distributed surplus land in the selected talukas separately for the "Principal Act" and the "Revised Act" (See tables 3.1 and 3.2). At the village level, however, such a separate treatment was not practicable as the cases of allotment of surplus land and the area of surplus land distributed under the Principal Act were very small, at times negligible in some of the sample villages. So, as far as the sample villages are concerned, we present a total picture of the surplus land distributed under the Principal and the Revised Act.

It is evident from table 3.1 that surplus land under the Principal as well as the Revised Act was found in 54 per cent of the total number of the existing villages in the eight selected talukas. In the rest of the villages no surplus area was available. This meant the surplus land was declared and distributed in slightly more than half of the total number of villages in the selected talukas. The total area of surplus land distributed under the Principal and the Revised Act came to about 9399 hectares as on

Table 3.1 : Surplus land declared and distributed under the Principal and the Revised Act in the selected talukas

Taluka	Total vi- llages in taluka	Vi- llages of surplus land	Percen- tage of surplus land vi- llages to total	Principal Act				Revised Act				Total			
				Surplus land declar- ed	Surplus land distrib- uted	No.of allot- tees	Average area per allot- tee	Surplus land declar- ed	Surplus land distrib- uted	No.of allot- tees	Average area per allot- tee	Surplus land declar- ed	Surplus land distrib- uted	No.of allot- tee	Average area per allottee
North Solapur	43	24	55.8	144.75	144.75	69	2.10	358.17	358.17	285	1.26	502.92	502.92	354	1.42
South Solapur	80	43	53.7	140.02	140.02	83	1.69	1469.79	1469.79	1082	1.36	1609.81	1609.81	1165	1.38
Sarshi	129	74	57.4	392.49	391.90	130	3.01	1123.40	1123.40	830	1.35	1515.89	1515.30	960	1.58
Ahalkot	118	47	39.8	569.23	569.23	146	3.90	954.94	954.94	350	2.73	1524.17	1524.17	496	3.07
Madha	96	47	49.10	89.58	62.26	31	2.01	678.48	678.48	351	1.93	768.06	740.74	382	1.91
Malsiras	75	48	64.0	445.38	395.53	184	2.15	1487.31	1486.95	639	2.33	1932.69	1882.48	823	2.29
Karmala	96	60	62.5	136.87	136.87	63	2.17	762.58	762.58	370	2.06	899.45	899.45	433	2.08
Sangola	68	41	60.3	146.54	146.54	50	2.93	591.32	577.09	270	2.14	737.86	723.63	320	2.26
Total	705	384	54.5	2064.86	1987.10	756	2.63	7425.99	7411.40	4177	1.77	9490.85	9398.50	4933	1.90

Table 3.2 : Surplus land declared and distributed under the Principal and the Revised Act in the Sample Villages from the Selected talukas

Taluka	No. of sample villages	(Area in hectares)											
		Principal Act				Revised Act				Total			
		Area declared surplus	Surplus area distributed	No. of allottees	Average area per allottee	Area declared surplus	Surplus area distributed	No. of allottees	Average area per allottee	Area declared surplus	Surplus area distributed	No. of allottees	Average area per allottee
North Solapur	7	64.10	64.10	22	2.91	118.80	94.30	82	1.15	182.90	158.40	104	1.52
South Solapur	5	54.04	54.04	28	1.93	121.37	110.67	89	1.24	175.41	164.71	117	1.41
Barshi	8	16.81	16.81	8	2.10	156.69	156.69	113	1.39	173.50	173.50	121	1.43
Akkalkot	6	5.06	5.06	1	5.06	168.90	168.90	65	2.60	173.96	173.96	66	2.64
Madha	6	6.18	6.18	1	6.18	103.72	101.95	60	1.70	109.90	108.13	61	1.77
Malsiras	6	48.12	48.12	21	2.29	170.00	170.00	91	1.87	218.12	218.12	112	1.95
Karmala	6	11.53	11.53	5	2.31	141.67	130.06	64	2.03	153.20	141.59	69	2.05
Sangola	6	19.61	19.61	10	1.96	101.54	101.54	60	1.69	121.15	121.15	70	1.73
Total	50	225.45	225.45	96	2.35	1082.69	1034.11	624	1.66	1308.14	1259.56	720	1.75

31st December 1978. Of this, only 1987 hectares or 21 per cent of the total was distributed to 756 allottees under the Principal Act. All the rest (7412 hectares or 79 per cent of the total) was distributed under the Revised Act. This clearly shows the effect of lowering the ceiling limit under the Revised Act. As the ceiling limit was lowered more surplus land could be found under the Revised Act. It is important to note that the area of surplus land found under the Revised Act was nearly four times larger than the total surplus area found under the Principal Act in the selected talukas. The taluka-wise figures of surplus land show that the difference between the area found surplus under the Principal and the Revised Act was much greater in some of the talukas like South Solapur, Madha, Karmala and Sangola. As far as the number of allottees is concerned, it was obviously quite high under the Revised Act than that under the Principal Act. It may be noted from the table that of the total of 4,933 allottees, as many as 4,177 or about 85 per cent were reported under the Revised Act, and only 756 or about 15 per cent, under the Principal Act. In the case of individual talukas as well, the number of allottees was much larger under the Revised Act than that under the Principal Act. This meant that because of the amendments brought about "by Maharashtra 21 of 1975", not only was more surplus land found but it was also distributed to greater number of allottees in the selected talukas. As the maximum area allocable to individual allottee was drastically reduced, more number of allottees could be given surplus land under the Revised Act. Obviously, the average surplus area per allottee was comparatively smaller than that under the Principal Act. It may be noted from the table that for all the eight talukas taken together the average area per allottee was about 1.77 hectares

under the Revised Act and 2.60 hectares under the Principal Act. The same can be observed in the case of individual talukas as well. The average area per allottee in the selected talukas varied between 1.26 and 2.73 hectares under the Revised Act; while under the Principal Act, it varied between 1.69 and 3.90 hectares. Thus, larger area of surplus, greater number of allottees, and smaller average area per allottee, formed the three major features of the Revised Act and all of them indicate that the Revised Act was certainly an improvement over the Principal Act.

The three features of the Revised Act can be observed from Table 3.2 as well, wherein the data about the sample villages from the selected talukas, are presented. It may be seen from the table that the total area of surplus land under the Principal and the Revised Act stood at 1,259 hectares distributed to 720 allottees in the 50 sample villages. Of this only 225 hectares or about 18 per cent was distributed under the Principal Act and the rest (1,034 hectares or 82 per cent) was distributed under the Revised Act. The area of surplus land found under the Revised Act in the sample villages, was nearly five times bigger than the surplus area found under the Principal Act. The talukewise figures of surplus land found in the sample villages also denote the same phenomenon. The surplus land found under the Revised Act was invariably larger than that of the Principal Act in all the sample villages from the selected talukas. It may be seen from the table that in the sample villages from the talukas like Earshi, Akkalkot, Madha, Karmala and Sangola, the surplus land distributed under the Principal Act was almost negligible in comparison with that under the Revised Act. As was the case of surplus land, so was the case of the number of allottees which wholly depended on the extent of surplus area. The number of allottees under

the Revised Act was more than six times greater than that of the allottees under the Principal Act. The average area per allottee in the sample villages was obviously smaller (1.66 hectares) under the Revised Act than that (2.35 hectares) under the Principal Act. The average area per allottee in the sample villages from the talukas, varied from 1.15 to 2.60 hectares under the Revised Act and from 1.93 to 6.18 hectares under the Principal Act. Thus, the data, both for the selected talukas and for the sample villages from the selected talukas indicate clearly that the Revised Act was more effective in its operation than the Principal Act.

3.2 Allottees

As mentioned earlier, 720 allottees were selected for the present study, from a sample of 50 villages in the eight selected talukas. The procedure followed for selection of talukas and villages is described in Chapter I. Our objective was to study all the allottees in the sample villages i.e. 720 allottees, but we could not contact all of them as some could not be located at all and some were not available in their village at the time of our enquiry. In Table 3.3 we give the talukawise distribution of the allottees who could be contacted and those who could not be contacted in the sample villages. It is evident from the table that we could cover 571 or about 80 per cent of the total allottees in the sample villages and 149 or about 20 per cent of the total could not be contacted in spite of our best attempts. It was found that two main factors were responsible for this : (1) Taluka & village lists of allottees in different villages provided to us were faulty; and (2) allottees who did not stay in the village where the allotted surplus land was situated. We shall discuss in brief these two factors separately.

Table 3.3 : Number of allottees who were contacted and who could not be contacted in the sample villages

Taluka	No. of villages	Number of allottees according to taluka records	Number of allottees according to village lists	Number of allottees who were contacted	Number of allottees who could not be contacted as per village lists	Proportion of allottees who could not be contacted
North Solapur	7	178	104	92	12	11.5
South Solapur	5	147	117	114	3	2.6
Barshi	8	109	121	109	12	9.9
Akkalkot	6	65	66	53	13	19.7
Madha	6	54	61	35	26	42.6
Malsiras	6	93	112	62	50	44.6
Karnala	6	64	69	58	11	15.9
Sangola	6	63	70	48	22	31.4
Total	50	773	720	571	149	20.7

(1) Taluka and Village Lists:

We found that at each taluka office where the registers were maintained, one was for the land allotted under the Principal Act and the other for the land distributed under the Revised Act. It must be mentioned here that in all the Tahasildars' offices of the selected talukas, the registers were kept uncared for. In some of the talukas they were also incomplete. It was disturbing to note that the registers dealing with an important aspect of land and its distribution should have been kept in such unkempt condition. As a result we found a number of discrepancies in the total number of allottees given in the records of the district Collectorate and the registers available at the Tahasildar's office. (See tables 1.4 and 3.1). For example, in South Solapur taluka, the total number of allottees under the Principal Act in the records of the district Collectorate, was as high as 5601 and at the Tahasildar's office, the number listed was as low as 83 allottees. Similar was the case in the Malsiras taluka. In this taluka the total number of allottees under the Principal Act given in the records at the Collector's office was 254, but at the Tahasildar's office ~~we~~ we could get a list of 184 allottees only registered under the Principal Act. The same kind of discrepancies was noticed in the case of the Revised Act as well, the records of which were more recent. For example, in the South Solapur taluka again, the total number of allottees under the Revised Act, was 496, as per the Collector's records, while at the Tahasildar's office, it was as high as 1082. In other talukas also the total number of allottees under the Revised Act, supplied to us by the two offices did not tally but the differences were not very large.

The same kind of discrepancy appeared to have percolated from the taluka records to the village records (see Table 3.3). For example, in the North and South Solapur talukas, the total number of allottees in the sample villages, as noted in the village records was far less than their number recorded in the taluka records. The opposite was the case in the other remaining talukas. The total number of allottees in the sample villages as listed in the village lists was higher than their number recorded at the Tahasildar's office. However, the discrepancy was not very large in the case of the sample villages from Ankalkot, Karmala and Sangola talukas. It appeared from the taluka and the village records that such a discrepancy had crept in mainly because of the three factors: (1) double counting of allottees under the Principal and the Revised Act; (2) Benami allotments; and (3) delay in the correction of records. In the first category, all the cases of allottees were found to be recorded twice under the Principal as well as the Revised Act. The total number of such cases in the selected talukas was 16, of which 6 were in Karanta and Soregaon villages from the North Solapur taluka; 7 in Nimbargi and Kasegaon villages from the South Solapur taluka and the remaining 3 in Chakore and Giravi villages from the Malsiras taluka. In the second category we found that some of the allottees as recorded in the Tahasildar's office could not be traced at all in the sample villages. No one in the sample village could guide us to the persons bearing the names given in the taluka lists. Such was the case of 6 allottees in Karamba village from North Solapur taluka and 16 allottees in Nimbargi village from the South Solapur taluka. In other talukas such cases were not found. The third category is purely of administrative delays in correcting the records of allottees

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kept at the taluka and the village office. For example, in some cases the surplus land already allotted to the allottees was taken back and restored to the surplus landholders who obtained a stay order from the High Court/Maharashtra Revenue Tribunal etc. against the distribution of their surplus areas. The names of such allottees were taken off from the village lists but not from the taluka records. In some other cases the converse had occurred. The net result of both was a discrepancy in the total number of allottees in the sample villages noted at the taluka and the village levels. Such cases were reported in almost all the selected talukas and their total number was also comparatively large (56 allottees). Of this 15 cases were reported in the sample villages from the North Solapur taluka; 11, from the South Solapur taluka; 10 from Barshi taluka; 1, from the Malsiras taluka; 8, from the Akkalkot taluka and 3, from the Sangola taluka.

(2) Absentee Allottees:

Besides, the above stated discrepancies, there were some other allottees, who had correctly appeared in the taluka and the village lists, but we could not contact them and collect the required data for our study, during the period of our investigation. We could not meet these allottees because of several reasons: The important reasons, however, were four:

- 1) migration of allottees; (54 allottees),
- 2) possession of the allotted surplus land not received; (21 allottees),
- 3) native village far off from the village of the allotted surplus land; (49 allottees) and
- 4) death of allottees (3 allottees).

Thus, we could not contact 54 allottees in the sample villages as they had left the village either provisionally

or permanently in search of employment. Of these, 21 allottees were from the sample villages from the North Solapur taluka, 13, from the South Solapur taluka, 11, from the Malsiras taluka and 9 from the Sangola taluka. We could not collect the required data from 21 allottees as possession of the allotted surplus land was not handed over to them till the date of our enquiry. These 21 allottees were from the sample villages in Akkalkot (6); Madha (5); Malsiras (4); Karnala (3); and Sangola (3) talukas. In 49 cases the allottees did not stay in the village where the allotted surplus land was situated. They stayed in the neighbouring villages, in some cases, in far off places like Ahmednagar, Pandharpur, Daund, etc. and it was not practicable for us to contact them for our study. Of the 49 cases, 19 were reported in the sample villages from the North Solapur taluka; 10, from the South Solapur taluka; 8, from the Malsiras taluka; 7, from the Barshi taluka and 5, from the Sangola taluka. It is difficult to understand how the surplus land could be allotted to some of these allottees staying in far off places like Ahmednagar, Daund, etc., when the Act specifically prescribes that the surplus land should be distributed to families within the village of the surplus land or within a radius of 8 kilometers. The three cases under the last reason of death of allottee were reported from the sample villages in Barshi (2) and Madha (1) talukas. These three allottees had died after the allotment of the surplus land and their widows refused to give any data required for our study.

3.3 Allottees in Sample Villages

In Table 3.4 we give the villagewise distribution of the allottees who were contacted and the required data were collected from them for our study. These allottees (571) ultimately constitute the final sample of allottees

Table 3.4 : Allottees in the sample villages and surplus land allotted to them in the sample villages

Taluka	Village	Number of allottees	Area of land	Average area
North Solapur	Karaba	28	58.45	2.09
	Tireh	18	28.43	1.58
	Kalman	16	21.91	1.37
	Soregaon	15	45.05	3.00
	Barphal	6	24.79	4.13
	Kegaon	5	6.65	1.33
	Phogaon	4	5.72	1.43
	Total	92	191.00	2.08
South Solapur	Nimbargi	80	97.75	1.22
	Kasegaon	20	24.05	1.20
	Harur	9	12.12	1.35
	Aherwadi	3	3.63	1.21
	Kusur	2	2.03	1.02
	Total	114	139.58	1.22
Marshi	Sasure	47	61.10	1.30
	Yawali	18	28.77	1.60
	Umbarge	15	25.42	1.69
	Uphale Dumale	10	10.75	1.08
	Keogaon	6	13.51	2.25
	Cholenje	5	7.25	1.45
	Koregaon	5	6.90	1.38
	Barole	3	4.19	1.40
	Total	109	157.89	1.45
Akkalkot	Badole Bk.	22	41.43	1.88
	Devikavathe	10	20.00	2.00
	Chapalgaon	9	12.20	1.36
	Boregaon	7	12.79	1.83
	Babalod	4	3.70	0.93
	Boroti Bk.	1	1.00	1.00
	Total	53	91.12	1.72
Madha	Mhaisgaon	14	40.28	3.02
	Akole Kd.	8	16.67	2.08
	Madshinge	4	11.50	2.88
	Upalwate	4	8.86	2.22
	Mungshi	3	9.28	3.09
	Padsali	2	2.26	1.13
	Total	35	88.85	2.54
Malsiras	Girawi	17	42.92	2.52
	Chakore	13	30.92	2.38
	Bijawadi	12	18.03	1.50
	Shingorni	12	29.13	2.43
	Khalawe	5	12.04	2.41
	Islampur	3	4.08	1.36
	Total	62	137.12	2.21
Karmala	Kandar	27	56.77	2.10
	Jinti	10	23.48	2.35
	Naogaon	9	16.52	1.84
	Madshivane	6	11.90	1.98
	Kugaon	4	9.08	2.27
	Nimgaon	2	3.42	1.71
	Total	58	121.17	2.09
Sangola	Latewadi	15	33.83	2.26
	Manegaon	14	26.26	1.88
	Hingarge	7	12.28	1.75
	Meddingi	5	11.61	2.32
	Chopadi	5	7.44	1.49
	Pare	2	4.20	2.10
	Total	48	95.62	1.99
Grand Total		571	1022.35	1.79

for the analysis of the present enquiry. The area of surplus lands allotted to these allottees in each of the sample villages is also given in the table. The table is self explanatory. The average area of surplus land per allottee was exceptionally high in the case of the allottees in Soregaon (3.00 hectares) and Darphal (4.13 hectares) villages from the North Solapur taluka; and in Mhalagaon (3.02 hectares) and Mungahi (3.09 hectares) from the Madha taluka. This was mainly because, under the Principal Act large areas of surplus land (between 5 and 7 hectares) were allotted to some of the allottees in these villages. In all other sample villages in the selected talukas the average area of surplus land per allottee varied between 1 and 2.52 hectares. This was within the limits laid down in the Revised Act.

3.4 Size of Allotted Land Holding

Section 27(7) of the Revised Act stipulated that the upper limit to granting land would be 3 hectares of dry crop land falling under sub-clause (e) of clause 5 of Section 2. However, when actual distribution of surplus land was about to be undertaken, the Government of Maharashtra by its Circular No. ICH 1376/5993-L7 (Revenue and Forest Department) dated 29th January 1976, made it clear that the limits given for distribution of surplus land to allottees in respect of lands under different sub-clauses of clause 5 of Section 2 were the upper limits and it is open to Surplus Land Distribution Tribunal to allot land less than the above limits whenever it is found essential to do so. It seems that the Government expected most of the allottees to get approximately 2 hectares or 5 acres of surplus land.

In Table 3.5 is given the distribution of the allottees in the sample villages from the selected

Table 3.5 : Distribution of sample allottees according to their sizes of the allotted surplus land

Taluka	Upto 0.50 h.		0.51 to 1.00h.		1.01 to 1.50 h.		1.51 to 2.00 h.		2.01 to 2.50h.		2.51 to 3.00 h.		Above 3.00 h.		Total	
	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area
North Solapur	-	-	5	3.40	37	44.92	8	13.39	31	69.35	1	2.65	10	57.29	92	191.00
South Solapur	-	-	10	9.49	94	110.82	8	13.56	1	2.04	-	-	1	3.67	114	139.58
Barshi	2	0.80	21	19.87	49	64.34	13	21.06	24	51.82	-	-	-	-	109	157.89
Akkalkot	-	-	5	4.70	9	12.20	33	60.73	5	10.35	-	-	1	3.14	53	91.12
Nadha	-	-	1	0.80	2	2.58	6	10.36	12	29.77	9	27.00	5	18.34	35	88.85
Malsiras	2	0.67	6	5.08	4	5.16	11	21.57	18	44.01	21	60.63	-	-	62	137.12
Karmala	-	-	2	1.27	2	2.94	24	45.67	22	50.28	8	21.01	-	-	58	121.17
Sangola	-	-	2	1.56	4	5.33	20	35.22	15	34.09	7	19.42	-	-	48	95.62
Total	4 0.70	1.47 0.14	52 9.11	46.17 4.52	201 35.19	248.29 24.29	123 21.54	221.56 21.67	128 22.42	291.71 28.53	46 8.06	130.71 12.79	17 2.98	82.44 8.06	571 100.00	1022.35

talukas, by the size of area of surplus land allotted to them. It may be seen from the table that majority of the allottees, almost 97 per cent, were allotted surplus land below 3 hectares each. There were only 17 allottees who were allotted more than 3 hectares of surplus land each. The total area of surplus land distributed to these allottees came to 8.06 per cent of the total surplus distributed in all the sample villages. As against this, there were only four cases, two each in Barahi and Malsiras talukas, where the allottees were given very small area of below half a hectare each. We found that the surplus land allotted to the two allottees in the Malsiras taluka was canal irrigated; while in the Barahi taluka, it was all dry but likely to go under seasonal irrigation from the local tank. Barring these extreme cases on both sides of the average, we find that there was much concentration of allottees in the three size groups of - 1.01 to 1.50 hectares; 1.51 to 2.00 hectares and 2.01 to 2.50 hectares. These three groups of size holding taken together cover about 79 per cent of the total number of allottees and about 75 per cent of the total surplus land distributed in the sample villages. This meant more than three-fourths of the total allottees had received 1 to 2.50 hectares of surplus land and the total surplus area distributed to them also came to about three-fourth of the total surplus. Considering the total number of applicants for land and the quality of surplus land available, the distribution of surplus area in the sample villages appears to be within the purview of the Act. The quality of surplus land distributed in the sample villages was generally poor as only inferior lands were surrendered by the surplus landholders. This was to be naturally expected when the choice of land to retain for self cultivation and to surrender as surplus, was entirely left to the surplus landholders.

It was but natural that surplus landholders retained good quality land for themselves and surrendered only inferior land as surplus. The land revenue data available for some of the surplus lands surrendered in the sample villages brings out this fact very clearly. We observe from the available data that as the land revenue per acre increases, the surplus area surrendered to the Government decreases. This means the better the quality of land, the smaller was the area surrendered as surplus. This was as we expected to happen particularly when the choice of land to be surrendered as surplus was entirely left to the surplus landholders.

3.5 Castewise Classification of the Allottees

As pointed out in Chapter I, the Revised Act laid special stress on distribution of surplus land to Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes and backward classes by reserving 50 per cent of the surplus for the landless persons from these classes. In view of such reservation the castewise analysis of the allottees and the surplus land distributed to them gets added importance. ^{In} Tables 3.6 and 3.7, therefore, we present the castewise distribution of the allottees in the sample villages and the surplus land allotted to them. Table 3.6 which gives only castewise classification of the total allottees in the sample villages is self explanatory. It shows that nearly three-fourths of the total allottees in the sample villages, were from the backward castes. Of the remaining allottees, 17.69 per cent belonged to other Hindu castes, and 7.36 per cent were Muslims. Amongst the backward castes, the Scheduled castes formed a dominant group claiming about 43.60 per cent of the total allottees, and within the group of the Scheduled caste allottees, Mahars were in majority (56 per cent of the total allottees from

Table 1.6 : Castewise classification of the allottees in the sample villages

Taluka	Scheduled Castes			Sche- duled Tribes	Noma- die Tribes	Other back- ward Castes	Other Hindu Castes			Muslims	Total		
	Mahar	Mang bhar	Cham- bhar				Total	Brah- min	Mara- tha			Linga- yat	Total
North Solapur	24	9	2	35	2	3	21	4	16	6	22	9	92
South Solapur	22	10	6	38	2	17	31	1	11	4	16	10	114
Barshi	29	21	3	53	-	9	11	-	24	3	27	9	109
Akkalkot	21	2	5	28	-	1	6	-	2	6	8	10	53
Madha	4	8	3	15	1	2	13	-	4	-	4	-	35
Malsiras	6	24	-	30	-	-	23	1	8	-	9	-	62
Karmala	17	11	-	28	-	3	13	-	10	-	10	4	58
Sangola	16	3	3	22	-	-	21	-	5	-	5	-	48
Total	139	88	22	249	5	35	139	2	80	19	101	42	571
				43.60	0.88	6.13	24.34				17.69	7.36	100.00

Table 3.7 : Castewise classification of the allottees and surplus land allotted to them

Taluka	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes			Nomadic Tribes			Other Backward Castes			Other Hindu Castes			Muslims			Total		
	No. of allottees	Area	Average area	No. of allottees	Area	Average area	No. of allottees	Area	Average area	No. of allottees	Area	Average area	No. of allottees	Area	Average area	No. of allottees	Area	Average area	No. of allottees	Area	Average area
North Solapur	35	74.19	2.12	2	3.65	1.83	3	2.35	0.78	21	61.32	2.92	22	41.03	1.87	9	8.46	0.94	92	191.00	2.08
South Solapur	38	40.61	1.23	2	2.18	1.14	17	19.29	1.13	31	40.78	1.32	16	18.11	1.13	10	12.61	1.26	114	139.58	1.22
Barshi	53	79.99	1.51	-	-	-	9	13.76	1.53	11	14.79	1.34	27	34.45	1.28	9	14.90	1.66	109	157.89	1.45
Akkalkot	28	48.63	1.74	-	-	-	1	1.00	1.00	6	10.70	1.78	8	12.05	1.51	10	18.74	1.87	53	91.12	1.72
Madha	15	34.51	2.30	1	1.58	1.58	2	3.49	1.75	13	34.76	2.67	4	14.51	3.63	-	-	-	35	88.85	2.54
Malsiras	30	68.16	2.27	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	56.88	2.47	9	12.08	1.34	-	-	-	62	137.12	2.21
Karmala	28	60.05	2.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	28.60	2.20	10	18.27	1.83	4	8.12	2.03	58	121.17	2.09
Sangola	22	40.12	1.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	45.66	2.18	5	9.82	1.96	-	-	-	48	95.62	1.99
Total	249	452.26	1.82	5	7.41	1.48	35	46.02	1.31	139	293.51	2.11	101	160.32	1.59	42	62.83	1.50	571	1022.35	1.79
	43.60	44.24	-	0.88	0.72	-	6.13	4.60	-	24.34	28.71	-	17.69	15.68	-	7.36	6.15	-	100.00	100.00	-

the Scheduled castes). The allottees belonging to Scheduled tribes were only 5 or less than one per cent of the total. Scheduled tribes were very small in number in the Solapur district as such. Amongst the allottees belonging to Nomadic Tribes, Pardhis were relatively more in number (27 out of 35 allottees). In other Hindu castes, Marathas formed a dominant group, claiming about 79.2 per cent of their total allottees. Surprisingly, two Brahmin allottees were reported in this group, one each in South Solapur and Malsiras taluka.

It is evident from table 3.7 that the allottees belonging to the backward castes were the major beneficiaries of the distribution of surplus land in the sample villages. As mentioned above they were about three-fourths of the total allottees and claimed more than three-fourths of the total surplus area distributed in the sample villages. This was, more or less, true for all the selected talukas. Thus, it appears that backward caste had quite a fair share of the distribution and more than what was reserved for them. Despite the provision of reservation of surplus land for distribution to backward castes there is nothing in the Act that they are not entitled to receive land out of the unreserved area so long as such lands were awarded to them after meeting the priorities and various provisions in Section 27 of the Revised Act. Since there were no complaints regarding distribution on these grounds their getting land out of the unreserved area appears to have been in order.

It may be noted from the table that there was not much variation in the average area per allottee of different caste groups. The variation was between 1.31 hectares per allottee from Nomadic Tribes and 2.11 hectares per allottee from the other backward castes.

3.6 Family Members in Allottee Families

The total population of the 571 allottee families in the sample villages from the selected talukas was 2,976 persons at the time of our enquiry in 1979 (Table 3.8). Of the total population, 1625 or 54.60 per cent were males and 1,351 or 45.40 per cent, females. The average size of family for the total allottees was about 5.2 persons. It did not vary much for different talukas selected for the study. It varied between 4.6 in the South Solapur taluka and 5.9 in the Barahi taluka. The total number of adult persons (above 15 years of age), who constituted the working force, were 1,770 or about 60 per cent of the total population. The average numbers of such adult persons per family came to 3.1 for all the selected talukas. The talukawise averages of such persons did not vary much. It was 2.8 persons in the South Solapur taluka and 3.2 persons in the Karmala taluka. From these figures it appears that on an average three adult persons were available for work in the allottee families from the sample villages.

3.7 Literacy of Family Members

In table 3.9 we give the talukawise figures of literates in the male and female population of the allottee families in the sample villages. It may be noted from the table that 876 persons in the total population of the allottee families were literate. The rest had not received any formal education as such. Of the total literates more than three-fourths (76.83 per cent) were males and less than one-fourth (23.17 per cent) were females. Half of the total literates in the allottee families were educated up to 7th standard and the remaining half, 5th standard and above. The number of females educated above 5th standard was only 70 or 14.48 per cent

Table 3.6 : Population and family size of the allottee families

Taluka	Number of allottee families	Population			Average size of family	Males above 15 years	Females above 15 years	Total persons above 15 years	Average number of persons above 15 years per family
		Males	Females	Total persons					
North Solapur	92	267	213	480	5.2	158	121	279	3.0
South Solapur	114	296	234	530	4.6	174	146	320	2.8
Barshi	109	337	310	647	5.9	212	182	394	3.6
Akkalkot	53	144	132	276	5.2	85	74	159	3.0
Madha	35	90	76	166	4.7	51	49	100	2.9
Malsiras	62	161	151	322	5.2	96	86	182	2.9
Karmala	58	172	132	304	5.2	102	84	186	3.2
Sangola	48	148	103	251	5.2	84	66	150	3.1
Total	571	1625	1351	2976	5.2	962	808	1770	3.1
		54.60	45.40	100.00		54.35	45.65	59.48	

Table 1.9 : Literacy in the population of the allottees

Taluka	Number of allottee families	Total population	Literates				Total literates			Average No. of literate persons per family
			Upto 4th Standard		5th Standard and above		Males	Females	Total	
			Males	Females	Males	Females				
North Solapur	92	480	56	35	74	15	130	50	180	1.96
South Solapur	114	530	53	41	81	24	134	65	199	1.75
Barshi	109	647	67	24	61	12	128	36	164	1.50
Akkalkot	53	276	19	4	20	2	39	6	45	0.85
Madha	35	166	16	13	22	4	38	17	55	1.57
Malsiras	62	322	32	9	37	7	69	16	85	1.37
Karnala	58	304	31	3	29	1	60	4	64	1.10
Sangola	48	251	33	4	42	5	75	9	84	1.75
Total	571	2976	307	133	366	70	673	203	876	1.53

of the total literate females. The talukawise figures of literates show that the level of literacy was relatively better in the sample families from talukas like North and South Solapur, Madha and Sangola. It appears from the table that on the whole the literacy level of the persons in the allottee families was low. This was as we expected because a majority of the allottee families in the selected talukas belonged to the backward castes and were economically poor.

3.8 Earners Members

Table 3.10 gives the distribution of earners, males and females, in the allottee families from the sample villages. It appears from the table that the total number of persons who were economically active in the allottee families stood at 1,426. On an average, 2.40 earner members were available per allottee family in the sample villages. The average number of earners per family did not vary much amongst the selected talukas. However, it was exceptionally higher (3.32 persons) only in the Barahi taluka. In the other remaining talukas, it varied between 2.05 and 2.79 earners per allottee family.

3.9 Agricultural Experience

It appears from table 3.11 that majority of the allottees in the sample villages (83 per cent) had experience and some knowledge of agriculture, either as owner or tenant cultivator, attached farm servant, casual labourer, etc. Only 100 allottees or 17 per cent of the total reported to have no knowledge of agriculture prior to the allotment of the surplus land. The proportion of the allottees who were familiar with agriculture either as owner of land or as tenant cultivator prior to the allotment of surplus land was comparatively very small. There were only 21 or about 4 per cent of the total

Table 3.10 : Earners in the population of the allottee families

Taluka	Number of allottee families	Total population	Male earners	Female earners	Total earner persons	Average number of earners per family
North Solapur	92	480	140	70	210	2.28
South Solapur	114	530	146	88	234	2.05
Barshi	109	647	209	153	362	3.32
Akkalkot	53	276	85	63	148	2.79
Nadha	35	166	51	29	80	2.29
Malsiras	62	322	85	62	147	2.37
Karmala	58	304	92	44	136	2.34
Sangola	48	251	75	34	109	2.27
Total	571	2976	883	543	1426	2.49

Table 3.11 : Allottees having knowledge of agriculture prior to allotment of surplus land

Taluka	Owners		Tenants		Saldar	Casual agricultural labourer	Watchmen	Allottees having no knowledge of agriculture	Total
	No. of owner allottees	Area	No. of tenant allottees	Area					
North Solapur	3	4.00	7	6.17	18	46	-	20	92
South Solapur	1	0.80	-	-	7	69	-	37	114
Barshi	2	4.21	1	2.28	5	91	4	6	109
Akkalkot	2	1.40	-	-	-	49	-	2	53
Madha	2	4.213	-	-	2	27	-	4	35
Malsiras	5	12.91	-	-	1	43	-	11	62
Karmala	1	1.00	1	1.60	1	51	1	3	58
Sangola	5	6.85	-	-	4	22	-	17	48
Total	21	35.30	9	10.05	38	398	5	100	571
	3.68	-	1.58	-	6.65	69.70	0.88	17.51	100.00

allottees, who owned 35.30 hectares of land even before the allotment of the surplus land, and were familiar with the traditional techniques of cultivation. The number of tenant cultivators was also only nine (1.58 per cent) who had leased in 10.05 hectares of land and had experience of agriculture prior to the allotment of surplus land. Most of the tenant cultivators (7 out of 9) were reported from the sample villages in the North Solapur taluka. Barring these 30 allottees, the rest of the sample allottees did not cultivate any land for themselves, prior to the allotment of the surplus land. However, many of them had experience of cultivation as they worked as casual labourers or as attached farm servants in the sample villages. It may be noted from the table that the majority of the allottees, 398 or about 70 per cent of the total worked as casual labourers and had the experience and knowledge of agriculture on that count. The number of seldars or attached farm servants was comparatively small, only 38 or about 6.65 per cent. There were five allottees who knew cultivation technique as they had worked as watchmen on the farms of the big landlords in the sample villages. The remaining hundred allottees or about 18 per cent of the total did not have any knowledge of agriculture, prior to the allotment of the surplus land. Most of these allottees were ex-servicemen who had spent their life mainly in the Army services, and knew very little about agriculture as such. Another important group of allottees having no knowledge of cultivation of land was that of the allottees belonging to the Nomadic Tribes, most of whom were the "Fase Pardhis". These allottees had never settled anywhere permanently and had no opportunity to work on any farm. Even so, they were allotted surplus lands so that they develop interest in cultivation of land and settle down in the village where the allotted land was situated.

It was observed from the data that 37 allottees of the total, were familiar with the surplus lands allotted to them. In some of these cases, the lands which were previously leased in by the allottees were declared as surplus lands and the Government had allotted the same lands to the same persons who were cultivating them as tenants. Five cases of such tenants were reported, four, in the North Solapur and one in the South Solapur taluka. The surplus land allotted to them was about 5.37 hectares. Similar was the case of 17 other allottees who were previously working as attached farm servants with the landlords whose surplus land was allotted to them. Of these, 17 cases, 9 were reported in Barshi taluka; 3, each in South Solapur taluka and Karmala taluka and 2, in Malsiras taluka. The area of surplus land allotted to these attached farm servants was about 19.57 hectares. The remaining 15 cases were of the allottees who had some relationship with the landlords whose surplus land was allotted to them. Six of these cases were reported in North Solapur taluka, 5, in Barshi taluka; 3, in Karmala taluka and one in Madha taluka. The area of surplus land allotted to these relatives of the previous landlords was about 17.23 hectares. Barring these 37 allottees, the rest of the allottees in the sample village (53% or about 9% per cent) had no familiarity with the specific plots allotted to them.

3.10 Present Land Holding of the Allottees

The present landholding of the allottee families in the sample villages consisted of owned land and/or leased in land, allotted surplus land and land purchased by the allottees in the post-allotment period. The present landholding areas held by the allottees in the sample villages are given in table 3.12. It may be seen from the table that 21 allottees in the sample villages were

Table 3.12 : Present land holding of the allottees in the sample villages

Taluka	Owned land		Allotted land		Loaded in land		Purchased land		Total landholding		Average land holding per allottee
	No. of allottee families	Area	No. of allottee families	Area	No. of allottee families	Area	No. of allottee families	Area	No. of allottee families	Area	
North Solapur	3	4.00	92	191.00	2	9.40	-	-	92	204.40	2.22
South Solapur	1	0.80	114	139.58	2	6.00	-	-	114	146.38	1.28
Barshi	2	4.21	109	157.89	-	-	-	-	109	162.10	1.49
Akkalkot	2	1.40	53	91.12	-	-	-	-	53	92.52	1.75
Madha	2	4.13	35	88.85	-	-	-	-	35	92.98	2.66
Malsiras	5	12.91	62	137.12	-	-	1	0.22	62	150.25	2.42
Karmala	1	1.00	58	121.17	-	-	-	-	58	122.17	2.11
Sangola	5	6.85	48	95.62	-	-	1	0.20	48	102.67	2.14
Total	21	35.30	571	1022.35	4	15.40	2	0.42	571	1073.47	1.88

already landholders prior to the allotment of surplus land and the land owned by them was around 35.30 hectares. Most of these allottees (14 out of 21 allottees) had received surplus land under the Principal Act, which had provision for allotment of surplus land to small landholders. Of the allottees who owned lands at the time of allotment, all except one case in North Solapur taluka, met the requirements as a small landholder and were thus eligible for allotment of the surplus land under the Principal Act. The exceptional case was that of a landowner who owned more than two hectares of land at the time of allotment and was still considered as small landholder and was given 1.75 hectares of the surplus land. The seven allottees who were given surplus land under the Revised Act were all ineligible cases as they were all landowners of more than one hectare of dry crop land and could not meet the definition of a landless person under Section 2(17) of the Revised Act.

It may be seen from the table that four allottees, two each in North and South Solapur talukas had leased in land to the extent of 15.40 hectares in addition to the allotment of surplus land. Similarly, two allottees, one in Malsiras taluka and another in Sangola taluka could purchase about half a hectare of land each and added it to their total landholding. Considering all the land held by the allottees in the sample villages, the average land holding per allottee showed a slight increase (from 1.79 to 1.88 hectares) over and above the average area of the allotted surplus land. Obviously, the increase in the average land holding was greater in those talukas where more owned land was reported. For example, we may note the average area per allottee in Malsiras, North Solapur and Sangola talukas.

3.11 Livestock

As we have seen earlier, majority of the allottees in the sample villages were landless persons and were normally not expected to keep any livestock for want of assured fodder availability. However, some of the allottees did report some livestock mainly cows, buffaloes and goats. A few of them reported some bullocks as well. Many of the allottees who reported holding of bullocks were the small land holders even before the allotment of surplus land. Four of them were tenants, and owned six bullocks at the time of allotment of surplus land. In table 3.13 we present the livestock holding of the allottees before and after the allotment of surplus land. It was expected that the main interest of the allottees would be in acquiring draught cattle for tillage of the allotted lands and the acquisition of other cattle would be of secondary importance. It may be seen from the table that the number of allottees owning bullocks and the number of bullocks owned was on the increase after the allotment in all the talukas except Sangola, where no allottee reported holding of any bullock before and after the allotment of surplus land. For all the talukas taken together, the number of allottees owning bullocks had increased from 24 to 48 and the bullocks owned by them, from 47 to 79. Even though the number of bullock owning allottees had doubled after the allotment of surplus land, they formed a small proportion to the total number of allottees in the sample villages and the draught cattle was quite inadequate to meet the tillage requirements of the surplus lands distributed to the allottees. Majority of the allottees, therefore, were dependent on the cultivating families in the sample villages for meeting their tillage needs. Timely tillage of the allotted land was a problem for majority of the allottees in the sample

Table 3.13 : Livestock owned by the allottees before and after the allotment of land

Taluka	Bullecks		He-buffaloes				Cows		She-buffaloes							
	Before		After		Before		After		Before		After					
	No. of families	No. of bullocks	No. of families	No. of bullocks	No. of families	No. of he-buffaloes	No. of families	No. of he-buffaloes	No. of families	No. of cows	No. of families	No. of she-buffaloes				
North Solapur	10	22	13	26	1	1	2	3	9	11	12	15	1	2	12	15
South Solapur	3	6	5	9	-	-	-	-	9	12	14	17	11	12	28	28
Barshi	3	5	12	18	-	-	-	-	16	20	25	31	8	12	17	24
Akkalkot	1	2	3	6	-	-	-	-	4	5	5	6	2	4	3	6
Madha	2	4	2	4	-	-	1	2	1	4	3	6	1	1	2	2
Malsiras	2	3	5	6	-	-	1	1	16	16	21	21	4	5	5	7
Karmala	3	5	8	10	2	2	3	3	20	24	19	23	2	2	4	4
Sangola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	13	15	16	4	4	7	10
Total	24	47	48	79	3	3	7	9	87	205	114	135	33	42	78	96

Table 3.13 : (contd.)

Taluka	Young stock				Goats				Sheep			
	Before		After		Before		After		Before		After	
	No. of families	No. of young ones	No. of families	No. of young ones	No. of families	No. of goats	No. of families	No. of goats	No. of families	No. of sheep	No. of families	No. of sheep
North Solapur	6	8	19	22	7	19	22	54	-	-	-	-
South Solapur	10	13	32	35	11	45	26	115	-	-	-	-
Barshi	2	3	10	12	19	84	40	135	2	35	2	84
Akkalkot	3	3	7	8	9	28	13	46	-	-	-	-
Kadha	-	-	-	-	4	25	11	39	-	-	-	-
Malsiras	1	1	11	12	7	8	11	20	1	2	3	29
Karmala	4	5	8	9	14	58	19	49	1	4	2	34
Sangola	4	5	4	5	16	24	23	40	3	32	3	95
Total	30	38	91	103	87	281	165	498	7	73	10	242

villages. They were required to adjust the tillage of their allotted lands to the availability of bullocks according to the convenience of bullock owners in the village.

As mentioned in Chapter I, the ~~1976~~ Central Sector Assistant Scheme did not contemplate any advance of loan and subsequent subsidy for the purchase of bullocks by the allottees under the Revised Act. The area of surplus land granted to individual allottees under the Revised Act was so small that howsoever one might wish, it was not possible to maintain a pair of bullocks, for the necessary tillage operations. The capacity of a pair of bullocks, as noted by the Maharashtra Government Revenue and Forest Department Resolution No. ICH 1375/57403-L7 dated 7th April 1976, was to tend to approximately 6 hectares or 15 acres of dry crop land. Considering the pattern of distribution of surplus land under the Revised Act, the Government, therefore, suggested that groups of allottees should be encouraged to obtain jointly a medium term loan from the co-operatives to purchase a pair of bullocks, and for this purpose the allottees should be allowed to jointly offer the security of land allotted to them. This recommendation does not seem to have been accepted and followed by either of the parties - the allottees or the co-operatives; nor was it pursued seriously by the State Government. As a result a majority of the allottees under the Revised Act remained without owning any bullock and were wholly dependent on the bullock-owning cultivators in the village for the tillage of their allotted lands. By way of exception, it may be noted from table 3.14 that only 13 allottees in the sample villages could purchase draught cattle after the allotment of surplus land. Of these, 12 allottees had borrowed Rs. 7,980 from the co-operative societies and

Table 3.14 : Investment in draught cattle

Taluka	Relative		Society		Total	
	Number of borrowers	Amount	Number of borrowers	Amount	Number of borrowers	Amount
Barshi	1	1,000	3	700	4	1,700
Akkalkot	-	-	2	1,200	2	1,200
Malsiras	-	-	1	300	1	300
Karmala	-	-	6	5,780	6	5,780
Total	1	1,000	12	7,980	13	8,980

bought 12 pairs of bullocks, costing on an average Rs.665 per pair of bullock. The remaining allottee had borrowed Rs. 1,000 from his relative and bought a pair of bullocks needed to cultivate his allotted land.

3.12 Agricultural Implements

The Government of India, as stated in Chapter I, formulated a Central Sector Plan Scheme to provide financial assistance to the allottees under the Revised Act, to enable them to undertake efficient cultivation of the surplus land assigned to them. Under this Scheme the crop assistance of Rs. 250/- per hectare was inclusive of assistance for agricultural implements also. But, in November 1976, the Commissioner of Co-operation brought to the notice of the Government that "purchase of agricultural implements is not a purpose which can be covered under seasonal agricultural operations for which short term credit is also dispensed by the primary credit societies in the State". As a result, the Government was, pleased to direct that, the item "agricultural implements" should be treated to have been deleted from the items for which financial assistance was admissible under the scheme. So no financial assistance was available for agricultural implements and the allottees under the Revised Act were on their own.

In table 3.15 we give the distribution of major agricultural implements with the allottees in the sample villages from the selected talukas. It is evident from the table that ploughs, harrows and seed drills with the allottees, were so small in numbers, that it was impossible for the allottees to meet by themselves all the cultivation needs of the total allotted land. As a result a majority of the allottees in the sample villages were dependant on the other cultivators for the use of the

Table 3.15 : Agricultural implements owned by the allottees before and after the allotment of land

Taluka	Iron plough				Wooden plough				Harrow			
	Before		After		Before		After		Before		After	
	No. of families	No. of iron ploughs	No. of families	No. of iron ploughs	No. of families	No. of wooden ploughs	No. of families	No. of wooden ploughs	No. of families	No. of harrows	No. of families	No. of harrows
North Solapur	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	8	11	11	14
South Solapur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	4
Barshi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	6
Akkalkot	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Madha	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2
Malsiras	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3
Karmala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2
Sangola	-	-	2	2	--	--	--	-	1	1	2	2
Total	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	4	18	22	31	35

contd.

Table 3.15 : (Contd.)

Taluka	Seed drill				Bullock cart				Oil engine pump set			
	Before		After		Before		After		Before		After	
	No. of Famili- ies	No. of seed drills	No. of famili- ies	No. of seed drills	No. of famili- ies	No. of bullock carts	No. of famili- ies	No. of bullock carts	No. of famili- ies	No. of pump sets	No. of famili- ies	No. of pump sets
North Solapur	7	7	9	10	4	4	5	5	-	0	-	-
South Solapur	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barshi	1	1	5	5	1	1	4	4	-	-	-	-
Akkalkot	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madha	2	2	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Malsiras	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3
Karnala	1	1	1	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Sangola	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Total	15	15	23	24	6	6	14	14	3	3	4	4

necessary implements. And obviously, the implements were made available to the allottees only during spare time and according to convenience of the owners of implements. This fact naturally affected the timely tillage of the allotted land under cultivation. As against this poor background of the absence of major agricultural implements there were four glaring cases, three in Kalsiras taluka and one in Sangola taluka, which reported ownership of oil engine pump sets. The three allottees in Kalsiras taluka had the pump sets even prior to the allotment of surplus land. They had leased in some irrigated land and were small sugarcane growers themselves and hence could instal oil engine pump sets on wells for irrigation. The tenancy of their lands was off the record and they could proclaim themselves as landless persons and could claim surplus land in the village. The allottee in Sangola taluka, however, had acquired the oil engine pump set after the allotment of land and was financed by a nationalised bank for that purpose.

Another important fact about the agricultural implements was their possession by the sample allottees even prior to the allotment of surplus land. It is quite true that most of the allottees were landless persons and only a few of them had lands either owned or leased-in even prior to the allotment of surplus lands. Almost all the implements reported as held prior to the allotment of surplus land were with the small land holders having some land previous to the grant of surplus land.

As stated earlier no financial assistance from the Central Sector Plan Scheme or the State Government, was available for the allottees to buy agricultural implements. A few of the sample allottees, however, could manage to

purchase implements like harrows, seed-drills, etc. after the allotment of land (See table 3.16). Their proportion to the total number of allottees was negligible. It may be seen from the table that many of these allottees had managed to buy the implements from their own funds. Some of them were financed by the co-operative societies. There were only two cases where financing was done by one of the nationalised banks. One case of the allottee acquiring an oil engine pump set from the money provided by a nationalised bank is already referred to. Another case of an allottee who had acquired a bullock cart from the finances advanced by a nationalised bank was reported in Karnala taluka.

Table 3.16 : Investment in agricultural implements according to sources of finance

Taluka	Harrow		Seed drill				Bullock cart			Oil engine pump set						
	Own funds		Society		Own funds		Society		Own funds	Society	Bank	Bank				
	No. of families	Amount	No. of families	Amount	No. of families	Amount	No. of families	Amount	No. of families	Amount	No. of families	Amount				
North Solapur	2	70	1	40	1	30	1	50	1	700	1	900	-	-	-	-
South Solapur	5	190	-	-	4	210	-	-	2	1500	1	900	-	-	-	-
Madha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	400	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malsiras	1	40	1	40	-	-	1	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	650	-	-	1	1200	-	-
Sangola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5250
Total	8	300	2	80	5	240	2	100	5	3250	2	1800	1	1200	1	5250

CHAPTER IV

ALLOTTED SURPLUS LAND AND ITS CULTIVATION

In the present Chapter, we propose to deal with the surplus lands allotted to the allottees in the sample villages. We will make an attempt to assess the quality of the allotted lands, whether they are cultivable or otherwise; and if they are cultivable, whether they are brought under cultivation by undertaking some developmental operations. We will look into the measures undertaken by the allottees and other agencies to bring the allotted lands under cultivation and the expenditures incurred over them. Where the allotted lands are not brought under cultivation we will look into the reasons thereof and explore the possibilities of bringing them under cultivation and the measures necessary for the same.

4.1 Possession of the Allotted Land

As mentioned earlier, more than three-fourths of the total allottees in the sample villages were allotted surplus lands under the Revised Act i.e. after 2nd October 1975; and only a few (15 per cent of the total) under the Principal Act i.e. before October 1975. Obviously, majority of the allottees in the sample villages had received the possession of their allotted surplus lands from 1975 onwards. A classification of these allottees according to the year of their getting possession of the allotted land is given in Table 4.1. It may be noted from the table that most of the allottees (510 or about 90 per cent of the total) had received the possession of the allotted surplus lands ⁱⁿ ~~to~~ the year of allotment itself. As we have noted earlier, the decisions

Table 4.1 : Classification of the allottees according to the year of getting possession of the allotted land

Year of Possession Year of Govt. Order	North Solapur					South Solapur					Barshi					Akhalkot								
	Be-fore 76	75-76	76-77	77-78	78-79	Total	Be-fore 76	75-76	76-77	77-78	78-79	Total	Be-fore 76	75-76	76-77	77-78	78-79	Total	Be-fore 76	75-76	76-77	77-78	78-79	Total
Before 1975	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	5	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
1975-76	-	-	21	6	-	27	-	6	5	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1976-77	-	-	33	6	-	39	-	-	30	2	-	32	-	-	64	-	-	64	-	-	44	-	-	44
1977-78	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	11	3	14	-	-	-	31	-	31	-	-	-	6	1	9
1978-79	-	-	-	-	21	21	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	54	17	21	92	3	8	35	13	5	114	6	-	64	31	8	109	-	-	44	6	1	53

(Contd.)

Table L.1 : (contd.)

Year of Proces- sion Year of Govt. Order	Madia					Malsiras					Karnala					Sangola								
	Be- fore	75- 76	76- 77	77- 78	78- 79	Total	Be- fore	75- 76	76- 77	77- 78	78- 79	Total	Be- fore	75- 76	76- 77	77- 78	78- 79	Total	Be- fore	75- 76	76- 77	77- 78	78- 79	Total
Before 1975	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1975-76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1976-77	-	-	32	2	-	34	-	-	32	-	-	62	-	-	50	-	-	50	-	-	43	-	-	43
1977-78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5
1978-79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	32	2	-	35	-	-	32	-	-	62	-	-	50	-	-	50	-	-	43	2	3	46

of allotment of the surplus land to the specific persons were taken mostly at the taluka places by the Surplus Land Distribution Tribunals appointed for the purpose. In some instances, the Tribunals had met at some important villages and had distributed the surplus lands in the nearby areas. It was reported that once the decisions of the Tribunals were finalised the orders of allotment of land were sent to the allottees and within a period of three to six months thereafter, possessions of the allotted lands were handed over to the respective allottees. This had happened in the case of nearly 90 per cent of the allottees in the sample villages. However, there were a few allottees, who could not get possession of the land in the year of allotment and they had to wait for a year or two. The total number of such allottees ^{was 57 or about 9 per cent of the total allottees} in the sample villages. Of these, 45 allottees had received the possession of the allotted land one year after the allotment order and the remaining six, two years after the allotment order. Such a delay ⁱⁿ handing over the possession of the allotted land was mainly due to the stay orders obtained from the High Court/Maharashtra Revenue Tribunal, etc. by the surplus landholders against the distribution of their surplus lands.

Another important point to be noted from the table is that most of the distribution of the surplus land was done in the year 1976-77. It may be seen that the total number of allottees who were allotted the surplus land and who received the possession of their land in 1976-77 was as high as 416 or about 81.5 per cent of the allottees receiving lands in the year of allotment. The remaining allottees had received the possession of their allotted lands in 1977-78 (11.2 per cent) and in 1978-79 (6.1 per cent). This means most of the allottees in the sample villages had the allotted surplus lands with

them for two to three years before our investigation. The period of two to three years may be considered as adequate to bring the allotted lands under cultivation, provided they are cultivable.

It was reported that most of the allottees who were in possession of the land at the time of our enquiry did not generally face any difficulty in cultivating the allotted lands after getting their possession. It was only in eight cases, - three in Sangola taluka; two each in South Solapur and Madha talukas; and one in North Solapur taluka; that the allottees had to struggle for some time $\frac{1}{2}$ in order to establish their possession on the allotted lands. In seven of these cases the previous owners of the surplus land were not happy with the redistribution of their land and raised many objections to the cultivation of the allotted land by the allottees. In the remaining case the previous owner of the surplus land wanted to recover the price of the land from the allottee in single instalment and so had objected to its cultivation by the allottee. These objections, however, were successfully removed by the village officials and the local leaders and all the allottees in the sample villages could establish their possession of the allotted land and could bring it under their cultivation.

Another interesting point to be noted here is that six allottees in the sample villages reported that they were required to spend some amount in order to get the possession of their allotted land. Of these cases, two each were reported in North Solapur, Sangola and Malsiras talukas. Four of them were required to pay Rs. 500/- each to the Talathi to secure possession of the allotted land. The remaining two from the Malsiras taluka were

required to pay Rs. 200/- each, to the Talathi for the same purpose. While it may be said that the six cases, formed a very small number compared to the total number of allottees in the sample villages, we do not know the actual extent of the practice.

4.2 Quality of the Allotted Land

We have classified the total area of the allotted land in the sample villages according to the conventional soil types; viz. lands having either light or medium or deep black soil or their combinations which may broadly indicate the quality of the lands. We have observed that in the Solapur district, lands with light soil were generally considered as inferior lands with very low fertility because of their low capacity to retain moisture. Lands of medium black soils, however, were considered as better lands as they were of high fertility with a high capacity to retain moisture. Deep black soils were the highest quality lands having very good fertility and a high capacity to retain moisture.

As mentioned earlier the choice of land to be surrendered to the Government as surplus area was entirely vested in the surplus landholders, and it was to be expected that they would surrender lands which were of the lowest quality in their landholdings. This is evident from Table 4.2 which shows that the proportion of the lands with light soils which were the inferior quality lands was the largest in the total surplus land distributed, in the sample villages. It may be noted from the table that 45 per cent of the total allotted lands was of light soils and if we include in it the combination of light and medium black soils, the proportion of such lands went up to 63 per cent. This means more than half of the total allotted land in the sample village was of inferior quality. The

Table 4.2: Classification of the allotted land according to its quality and soil

Taluka	Light soils			Medium black soils			Deep black soils			Light and medium black soils			Light and deep black soils			Medium and deep black soils			Total		
	No. of allottees	Area	Avg. area	No. of allottees	Area	Avg. area	No. of allottees	Area	Avg. area	No. of allottees	Area	Avg. area	No. of allottees	Area	Avg. area	No. of allottees	Area	Avg. area	No. of allottees	Area	Avg. area
North Solapur	11	24.17 (12.65)	2.20	46	94.06 (49.25)	2.04	1	1.20 (0.63)	1.20	19	42.63 (22.32)	2.24	-	-	-	15	28.94 (15.15)	1.93	92	191.00 (100.00)	2.08
South Solapur	35	47.21 (33.82)	1.35	37	43.29 (31.01)	1.17	1	1.20 (0.86)	1.20	30	33.68 (24.13)	1.12	3	4.00 (2.87)	1.33	8	10.20 (7.31)	1.28	114	139.58 (100.00)	1.22
Barshi	58	85.49 (54.15)	1.47	29	40.08 (25.38)	1.38	4	4.09 (2.59)	1.02	13	22.23 (14.08)	1.71	1	1.06 (0.67)	1.06	4	4.94 (3.13)	1.24	109	157.89 (100.00)	1.45
Akkalkot	39	75.06 (82.37)	1.92	13	15.26 (16.75)	1.17	-	-	-	1	0.80 (0.88)	0.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	91.12 (100.00)	1.72
Kadha	13	32.59 (36.68)	2.51	8	20.20 (22.73)	2.53	-	-	-	7	20.76 (23.37)	2.97	-	-	-	7	15.30 (17.22)	2.19	35	88.85 (100.00)	2.54
Malsiras	25	59.67 (43.51)	2.39	12	23.45 (17.10)	1.95	5	7.14 (5.21)	1.43	16	38.32 (27.95)	2.40	-	-	-	4	8.54 (6.23)	2.14	62	137.12 (100.00)	2.21
Karmala	23	48.72 (40.20)	2.12	24	47.93 (39.56)	2.00	-	-	-	9	19.94 (16.46)	2.22	-	-	-	2	4.58 (3.78)	2.29	58	121.17 (100.00)	2.09
Sangola	42	83.27 (87.08)	1.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5.88 (6.15)	1.96	-	-	-	3	6.47 (6.77)	2.16	48	95.62 (100.00)	1.99
Total	246 (43.1)	456.18 (44.63)	1.85	169 (29.6)	284.27 (27.81)	1.68	11 (1.9)	13.63 (1.33)	1.24	98 (17.2)	184.24 (18.02)	1.88	4 (0.7)	5.06 (0.49)	1.27	43 (7.5)	78.97 (7.72)	1.84	571 (100.00)	1022.35 (100.00)	1.79

proportion of the allotted lands having medium black soils was about 28 per cent of the total area. The allotted land having deep black soils was comparatively very small in area (13.63 hectares) forming only 1.33 per cent of the total. This was bound to happen as no surplus land holder was expected to surrender his best quality lands to the Government as his surplus area.

If we examine the quality of the allotted lands in the individual talukas selected for the study, it appears that the lands with light soils were predominantly more in all the talukas except North Solapur. It may be seen from the table that in Akkalkot and Sangola talukas, the lands having light soils were so predominant that they constituted more than 80 per cent of the total distributed land. In the remaining talukas, the proportion of such inferior quality lands, varied between 33 and 54 per cent of the total distributed area. In the North Solapur taluka, however, the proportion of lands having light soils was as low as 12.65 per cent. In this taluka, nearly half of the total allotted surplus lands were of medium black soils. The proportion of lands having medium black soils was comparatively low, between 16 and 39 per cent, in the remaining six talukas. Such type of land was not reported at all in the Sangola taluka. The lands of superior quality, having deep black soils, were reported only in four talukas, viz. North Solapur, South Solapur, Barshi and Malsiras, and that too in small pockets. Its proportion to the total distributed land in the individual taluka was less than one per cent in North and South Solapur talukas, and 2.59 per cent in Barshi taluka. It was relatively higher, 5.21 per cent in the Malsiras Taluka.

It appears from the table that the quality of the surplus lands was taken into account to some extent while distributing it sizewise, to different allottees in the

sample villages. It may be seen that on the aggregate level the average area per allottee of the surplus lands having light soils was relatively larger (1.85 hectares) than that of the lands of medium black soils (1.68 hectares). The average per allottee area of the medium black lands was in its turn larger than that of the lands having deep black soils (1.24 hectares). The average areas of different combinations of the three types of soils did not indicate any clear trend. On the individual taluka level also, the picture was not distinctly clear. In some of the talukas, the average per allottee area of the superior lands was equal to or more than that of the inferior lands. For example, in the South Solapur taluka, the average per-allottee area of the medium black lands was 1.17 hectares while that of the deep black lands was 1.20 hectares. Similar was the case in Madha taluka as regards the medium black and the light soil lands. In general, however, the table shows that some consideration was given to the quality of land while allotting different surplus lands to different allottees.

4.3 Cultivated and Uncultivated Lands

We may now examine how much of the allotted surplus land was brought under cultivation by the allottees in the sample villages. In this connection, we found that the total area of the surplus lands allotted in the sample villages could be classified into three classes, viz. (1) allotted areas wholly brought under cultivation by the allottees; (2) allotted areas partially brought under cultivation by the allottees; and (3) allotted areas wholly not brought under cultivation by the allottees. The number of allottees and the areas of the allotted lands in the three classes are presented in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Cultivated and uncultivated areas of the allotted land

Taluka	Allotted area wholly brought under cultivation				Allotted area partially brought under cultivation						Allotted area wholly not brought under cultivation			Total		
	No. of allottees	Area brought under cultivation	Proportion to total allotted area	Average area per allottee	No. of allottees	Area brought under cultivation	Proportion to total allotted land	Area not brought under cultivation	Proportion to total area allotted to such allottees	Average area under cultivation	No. of allottees	Area not brought under cultivation	Proportion to total allotted area	Average area per allottee	No. of allottees	Area
North Solapur	78	145.22	76.02	1.86	9	15.43	8.09	11.34	5.94	1.71	5	19.01	9.95	3.80	92	191.00
South Solapur	88	107.99	77.36	1.23	24	22.62	16.21	6.17	4.42	0.94	2	2.80	2.01	1.40	114	139.58
Barshi	54	74.85	47.40	1.39	52	35.54	22.51	43.59	27.61	0.68	3	3.91	2.48	1.30	109	157.89
Akkalkot	24	41.09	45.10	1.71	20	25.28	27.74	11.94	13.10	1.26	9	12.81	14.06	1.42	53	91.12
Madha	22	43.34	48.78	1.97	13	31.71	35.69	13.80	15.53	2.25	-	-	-	-	35	88.85
Malsiras	8	10.90	7.95	1.36	32	37.70	27.49	34.28	25.00	1.18	22	54.24	39.56	2.47	62	137.12
Karmala	28	36.37	30.02	1.30	27	40.92	33.77	37.09	30.61	1.52	3	6.79	5.60	2.26	58	121.17
Sangola	10	21.50	22.48	2.15	17	23.02	24.07	12.42	12.99	1.35	21	38.68	40.46	1.84	48	95.62
Total	312 (54.64)	481.26	47.08	1.54	194 (33.98)	232.22	22.71	170.63 (16.69)	16.69	1.20	65 (11.38)	138.24	13.52	2.13	571 (100.00)	1022.35 (100.00)

It may be noted from the table that of the total allotted land in the sample villages, about 481 hectares or about 47 per cent came under the first category of the holdings wholly brought under cultivation; 403 hectares or about 39 per cent, under the second category of partial cultivation, and the rest 138 hectares or about 14 per cent, under the third category of the totally uncultivated holdings. The table reveals that more than half of the total allottees in the sample villages (54.64 per cent) had brought their entire holdings under cultivation. This means more than half of the total allottees had brought under cultivation, somewhat less than half of the total allotted land. About one-third of the total allottees had brought only a portion of their allotted lands under cultivation. The total area brought under cultivation by these allottees was about 232 hectares or about 23 per cent of the total allotted land. The area which was not cultivated by them was about 171 hectares, or 17 per cent of the total allotted area. The third category is very important and it may be noted that the number of allottees who did not bring under cultivation any portion of their allotted lands was as large as 65 or about 11 per cent of the total, and the allotted area still uncultivated by them even after the period of two to three years since the allotment was about 138 hectares or about 14 per cent of the total area. The important observation to be noted from the above discussion is that, of the total allotted area in the sample villages, 713 hectares or about 70 per cent was brought under cultivation by 506 allottees and the rest, 309 hectares or about 30 per cent was still uncultivated.

At the individual taluka level the proportion of the allottees who had brought under cultivation their entire allotted lands was substantially large in only three

talukas, viz. North Solapur, South Solapur and Barshi. In the remaining talukas, their proportion was comparatively small. The proportion of the allottees keeping their allotted lands entirely uncultivated was quite large in Malshiras and Sangola talukas. In the other talukas except Madha, the proportion of such allottees was very small. In Madha taluka, there was no one who had kept the entire allotted land uncultivated. It may be observed from the table that more than three-fourths of the allotted land was brought under cultivation in only three talukas - viz. North Solapur, South Solapur and Madha. The proportions of the cultivated areas were significant in Barshi, Akkalkot and Karmala talukas where 63 to 73 per cent of the total allotted areas was brought under cultivation by the allottees. In the remaining two talukas (Malshiras and Sangola), however, the quality of the allotted land was rather inferior as only 35 and 47 per cent of the total allotted land was brought under plough and the rest was still kept uncultivated, even after three years of allotment. This might be largely because of the poor quality of the lands allotted in these two talukas. As mentioned earlier many of the allottees in these two talukas did not bring under cultivation even a small portion of their allotted lands. They had kept them entirely uncultivated. The problem of the uncultivated area is quite important but we shall take it up later. In the following we shall first examine the efforts made by the allottees in bringing their allotted lands under cultivation.

4.4 Development of the Allotted Land

It was observed from the data that majority of the allottees in the sample villages, had brought their allotted land under cultivation in the same year of getting its possession. Thus, of the total 506 allottees who had

brought their land, wholly or partially, under cultivation, 43 or 82 per cent had done so almost immediately after getting the possession. Of the remaining allottees, 68 or about 13 per cent, had brought their land under cultivation one year after getting their possession; and the rest 25 or about 5 per cent, two years after getting the possession. This means majority of the allottees were keen to put their allotted land under cultivation and had done it immediately after getting its possession. However, all the allotted land could not be put under cultivation immediately after getting its possession. There were some areas of the allotted land which were not readily cultivable and the allottees were required to undertake some efforts either on their own or with the help of the Government Agencies to bring such areas under cultivation. Some other areas of the allotted land were poor in quality, and were not cultivated till their allotment and were to be brought under cultivation for the first time. The allottees were required to incur cash expenditures in addition to their own labour in order to bring the allotted land under cultivation. In Table 4.4 we give such cash expenditures incurred by the allottees in the sample villages to undertake different operations in order to bring their allotted land under cultivation. The cash expenditures incurred on land development should not be considered with the area brought under cultivation as a majority of the allottees had done it by their own labour and with the help of other cultivators.

It may be seen from Table 4.4 that the major items of expenditure for development of the allotted land were, ploughing, bunding, levelling and clearing the lands of stones, etc. Ploughing was such an important operation in the development of such land that it alone accounted for nearly half of the total expenditure incurred by the

Table 4.4 : Cash expenditure on development of the allotted land

Taluka	Stones clearing			Uprooting stumps			Levelling			Bunding		
	No. of allottees	Amount of cash expenditure	Average amount per allottee	No. of allottees	Amount of cash expenditure	Average amount per allottee	No. of allottees	Amount of cash expenditure	Average amount per allottee	No. of allottees	Amount of cash expenditure	Average amount per allottee
North Solapur	8	480	60.00	10	2,080	208.00	6	1,270	211.67	14	3,190	227.86
South Solapur	18	3,060	170.00	3	280	93.34	6	2,250	375.00	23	7,870	342.17
Barshi	11	1,280	116.36	2	350	175.00	1	100	100.00	6	570	95.00
Akkalkot	26	4,660	179.23	1	50	50.00	2	160	130.00	20	3,140	157.00
Madha	6	1,630	271.67	3	170	56.67	1	100	100.00	2	300	150.00
Malsiras	10	5,450	545.00	5	1,750	350.00	5	3,650	730.00	12	6,860	571.67
Karmala	4	450	112.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	600	300.00
Sangola	3	360	120.00	1	100	100.00	2	3,040	1520.00	6	790	131.67
Total	86	17,370	201.98	25	4,780	191.20	23	10,570	459.57	85	23,320	274.35

contd.

Table 4.4 : (contd.)

Taluka	Soil replenishment			Ploughing			Other operations			Total		
	No. of allottees	Amount of cash expenditure	Average amount per allottee	No. of allottees	Amount of cash expenditure	Average amount per allottee	No. of allottees	Amount of cash expenditure	Average amount per allottee	No. of allottees	Amount of cash expenditure	Average amount per allottee
North Solapur	-	-	-	37	8,460	228.65	1	150	150.00	76	15,630	205.66
South Solapur	-	-	-	59	15,810	267.97	-	-	-	109	24,270	268.53
Barshi	1	50	50.00	66	9,360	141.82	-	-	-	87	11,710	134.60
Akkalkot	-	-	-	20	3,310	165.50	-	-	-	69	11,320	164.06
Madha	1	130	130.00	14	3,260	232.86	-	-	-	27	5,590	207.04
Malsiras	-	-	-	33	6,570	199.09	-	-	-	65	24,280	373.54
Karmala	-	-	-	32	6,570	205.31	-	-	-	38	7,620	200.53
Sangola	1	400	400.00	19	2,800	147.37	-	-	-	32	7,490	234.06
Total	3	580	193.34	280	56,140	200.50	1	150	150.00	503	1,12,910	224.48

allottees. The total amount spent on ploughing alone was as large as Rs. 56,140 or about Rs. 200 per allottee. Ploughing was necessary tillage for sowing the crops and in most of the cases it need not be considered as development of land but should be taken as part of the current cost of cultivation. Some of the areas of the allotted land were required to be ploughed every year before sowing any crop. If this item of expenditure is excluded, the total expenditure on development of the allotted land would come down substantially.

Another item claiming substantial ^{part} ~~part~~ of the total expenditure on land development was bunding of the allotted lands. It must be made clear that these bunds laid down by the allottees were in addition to the bunds constructed under the Government Programme by the Soil Conservation Unit in the Solapur district. It was reported that the Soil Conservation Unit at the Solapur district had completed its activity of bunding in all the sample villages. But the bunds prepared under the Government Programme belonged to large areas according to their contours while the individual allottees were required to construct additional bunds specifically needed on their allotted land. It may be noted from the table that 85 allottees were required to undertake bunding on 106 hectares of their allotted land. The total amount of expenditure incurred on bunding by these allottees came to Rs. 23,320 or on an average Rs. 274 per allottee. The average area banded came to 1.25 hectares per allottee.

The other important work of development of land was that of clearing the lands of stones and pebbles. This was carried out by 80 allottees in the sample villages and they had incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 17,370 on that account. The average expenditure over this work

came to Rs. 202 per allottee. This type of work was mostly undertaken by the allottees in the South Solapur, Akkalkot and Malsiras talukas. In these three talukas 54 allottees were required to spend Rs. 13,170 or more than three-fourths of the total expenditure over this operation. The shrubs and stumps were required to be uprooted from the allotted lands of 25 allottees in the sample villages. They had to spend Rs. 4,780 to get their land cleared of shrubs and stumps. This work was undertaken mostly in the North Solapur and Akkalkot talukas where fifteen allottees had to spend Rs. 3,830 or more than three-fourths of the total expenditure over this work. In the other talukas such work was undertaken only by a few allottees and the total amount spent by them over this work was not more than Rs. 350 in each taluka. The work of levelling the land was reported only by 23 allottees in the sample villages and it was carried out on about 34 hectares of the allotted land. The total amount spent by these allottees for levelling their lands came to Rs. 10,570 or about Rs. 460 per allottee. The work of levelling was largely carried out in North and South Solapur, Malsiras and Sangola talukas. Nineteen allottees from these four talukas were required to spend Rs. 10,210 or more than 95 per cent of the total expenditure reported for this work. Lastly, there were only three allottees, one each from Barshi, Kadha and Sangola taluka, who reported that they were required to replenish their allotted lands by spreading top soil brought from outside. The total amount of cash expenditure incurred by the three allottees, was, however, very small i.e. Rs. 580.

It may be noted from the table that the total amount of cash expenditure incurred by the allottees on all the operations of development of land came to Rs. 1,12,910. This means, on an average, each of the

allottees undertaking some sort of developmental work on the allotted land, was required to spend Rs. 224 in order to bring the allotted land under cultivation.

4.5 Sources of Finance

In Table 4.5 we give the developmental expenditure by its sources of finance. As will be seen from the table, the major sources of funds for land development were two, viz. (i) owned funds and (ii) central assistance provided through the co-operative societies. Owned funds were a little difficult to explain. However, it appears that the only possible source of owned funds was out of sale of produce and wage earnings. This means the allottees were undertaking capital expenditure by foregoing their current consumption. The possibility of meeting this developmental expenditure out of past savings either in the form of cash or precious metal etc. appears to be very remote as majority of the allottees were landless persons and were very poor. However, in this respect we could not say anything definitely as we did not collect any data on consumption and family expenditure.

As mentioned earlier the Government was aware of the need for land development of the allotted lands and had accordingly provided funds under the "Central Sector Assistance Scheme" for the purpose. The Government of Maharashtra decided under Resolution No. ICH/1375/57403-L-y dated 7th April 1976, to avail of the Central Sector Assistance Scheme to the maximum extent. In the guidelines issued to the implementing authorities it was stated that "since a large majority of the allottees would need to undertake development to improve the productivity of the assigned land, the land development work, comprising land levelling, land shaping, contour bunding, etc. may be sanctioned on merits by the District Central Cooperative Bank through the village Society up to a ceiling cost of

Table 4.5: Sources of finance required for the development of the allotted land

Taluka	Owned funds		Co-operative society		Money lender		Relatives		Total	
	No. of allottees	Amount	No. of allottees	Amount	No. of allottees	Amount	No. of allottees	Amount	No. of allottees	Amount
North Solapur	18	2,080 (13.31)	56	12,250 (78.37)	2	1,300 (8.32)	-	-	76	15,630 (100.00)
South Solapur	33	7,460 (25.88)	63	15,060 (52.26)	1	200 (0.69)	12	6,100 (21.17)	109	28,820 (100.00)
Barshi	21	2,970 (25.36)	63	8,160 (69.69)	3	580 (4.95)	-	-	87	11,710 (100.00)
Akkalkot	20	1,610 (14.22)	49	9,710 (85.78)	-	-	-	-	69	11,320 (100.00)
Madha	12	2,180 (39.00)	14	3,260 (58.32)	-	-	1	150 (2.68)	27	5,590 (100.00)
Malsiras	16	11,810 (48.69)	49	12,470 (51.36)	-	-	-	-	65	24,280 (100.00)
Karnala	11	2,150 (26.64)	25	5,040 (62.46)	-	-	2	880 (10.90)	38	8,070 (100.00)
Sangola	7	1,310 (17.49)	25	6,180 (82.51)	-	-	-	-	32	7,490 (100.00)
Total	138	31,570 (27.96)	344	72,130 (63.89)	6	2,080 (1.84)	15	7,130 (6.31)	503	1,12,910

Rs. 500/- per hectare and within the overall funds available. The release of funds will be made in two instalments and the second instalment will be released after the primary society has certified that the first instalment has been fully utilised for land development purposes. On completion of the work the primary society will certify the proper utilisation of the funds released and half of the amount will be treated as subsidy. The amount which is treated as loan will be recovered by the Co-operative Sector which will account to the Government."

It appears from the table that the allottees in the sample villages had taken benefit of the Central Assistance Scheme and so the Co-operative Sector formed a major source of finance for the development of the allotted lands. It may be noted from the table that on the aggregate level, nearly 64 per cent of the total amount, on land development account, was financed through the co-operative societies under the Central Assistance Scheme. On the individual taluka level as well, the Central Assistance provided through the co-operative sector was the major source of finance for development of the allotted lands, contributing more than 50 per cent of the total funds accounted for this purpose in each taluka. In three talukas, vis. North Solapur, Akkalkot and Sangola, the proportion of funds coming through the co-operative sector was more than three-fourths of the total amount. In the remaining five talukas, however, it varied between 51 and 69 per cent of the total.

Compared to the finance provided through the co-operative societies, the amount of owned funds utilised for the development of land appears to be very small, accounting for about 28 per cent of the total amount spent for this purpose in all the sample talukas. On

the taluka level the amount of owned funds spent for land development was still low, between 13 and 17 per cent of the total in those talukas where central assistance through the co-operative sector was largely provided. Only in two talukas viz. Madha and Malsiras, the owned funds accounted for land development purposes were substantial - 39 and 49 per cent respectively. In all other talukas it was quite low.

Thus, as mentioned earlier, the central assistance provided through the co-operative societies and the owned funds were the only two major sources of finance utilised for development of the land allotted to the allottees in the sample villages. The other two sources like "money-lender" and "Relatives" were quite unimportant in terms of the total finance provided by them for development of the allotted lands. It may be noted that only six allottees of the total had borrowed Rs. 2080 from the money lenders to develop their allotted lands.

4.6 Leasing-out the Allotted Land

Any leasing-out of the surplus land allotted to a person under Section 27 of the Act was prohibited without the previous sanction of the District Collector under Section 29(1) sub-clause (a) of both the Principal and the Revised Act. The only exception to such leasing-out of land was provided in the Revised Act by Maharashtra 21 of 1975, S.23(b), the exception made being in favour of the serving members of the armed forces, etc., the relevant proviso being as stated below:

"Provided that, no such sanction shall be necessary where land is to be leased by a serving member of the armed forces or where the land is to be mortgaged as provided in sub-section (4) of section 36 of the Code for raising a loan for effecting any improvement of such land."

In spite of the strict prohibition on leasing-out of the allotted lands, we found some cases of leasing-out in the sample villages. In Table 4.6 we give the distribution of such allottees and their leased-out lands in different talukas. It may be seen from the table that the cases of leasing-out the allotted lands were found in five, of the eight sample talukas. Only in three talukas viz. South Solapur, Madha and Malsiras, leasing-out of the allotted lands was not reported. In the other five talukas 21 allottees had leased-out their entire allotted land holding having an area of 36.62 hectares to other cultivators. In Karmala taluka, the number of the allottees leasing-out their allotted lands was relatively higher than in the other four talukas. It must be mentioned here that all the cases of leasing-out the surplus land reported to us in our enquiry were off the official record and no tenancy could be established for want of any recorded proof, and thus, such leasing-out was wholly in contravention of Section 29 of the Act. The misuse of the allotted land did not stop here. Some of these allottees had gone to such an extent that they had taken the crop loans, had also secured central assistance for the development of land even though they were not cultivating the lands themselves allotted to them. This again was against the very purpose of the crop loan and the central sector assistance scheme.

We shall now look into the reasons reported for leasing-out the allotted lands to find out whether there is any justification for it. In Table 4.7 we give the distribution of the allottees by reasons for leasing-out the land allotted to them. The only reason for leasing-out such lands that could meet the proviso, if at all, would be those under "Resident outstation".

Table 4.6 : Areas leased-out of the allotted land by the allottees

Taluka	No. of allottees	Allotted Surplus land	Leased-out surplus land			Allotted surplus land	Proportion to total allotted land
			No. of allottees	Leased out area	Proportion to allotted land		
North Solapur	92	191.00	3	4.28	2.24	186.72	97.76
South Solapur	114	139.58	-	-	-	139.58	100.00
Barshi	109	157.89	4	6.01	3.81	151.88	96.19
Akkalkot	53	91.12	2	1.70	1.87	89.42	98.13
Madha	35	88.85	-	-	-	88.85	100.00
Malsiras	62	137.12	-	-	-	137.12	100.00
Karmala	58	121.17	8	15.04	12.41	106.13	87.59
Sangola	58	95.62	4	9.59	10.03	86.03	89.93
Total	571	1042.35	21	36.62	3.58	985.73	96.42

Table 1.7 : Reasons for leasing-out surplus land allotted in the sample villages

Taluka	Village	Disabled		No resources		Resident out Station		Total	
		No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area
North Solapur	Kegaon	-	-	-	-	1	1.20	1	1.20
	Bhogaon	-	-	-	-	2	3.08	2	3.08
Barshi	Sasure	-	-	1	0.95	-	-	1	0.95
	Yawali	-	-	-	-	2	4.06	2	4.06
	Upale-dumale	-	-	-	-	1	1.00	1	1.00
Akholkot	Bablad	-	-	2	1.70	-	-	2	1.70
Karmala	Kandar	-	-	2	2.57	-	-	2	2.57
	Jinti	-	-	1	2.35	-	-	1	2.35
	wadshivane	-	-	4	8.08	-	-	4	8.08
	Kugaon	-	-	-	-	1	2.04	1	2.04
Sangola	Latewadi	-	-	-	-	1	2.34	1	2.34
	Manegaon	1	1.96	-	-	-	-	1	1.96
	Hangirge	-	-	-	-	2	5.29	2	5.29
Total		1	1.96	10	15.65	10	19.01	21	36.62

Ten allottees had given this as the reason for leasing-out their allotted lands to other cultivators. The area of the allotted land leased-out by them was about 19 hectares. These ten allottees were from seven sample villages in North Solapur, Barshi, Karmala and Sangola talukas. However, we found that none of these allottees were serving members of the armed forces and they were only residents outside the village of the allotted land. These cases therefore, were all against the explicit provisions of the Section 29 of the Act. We found that in these cases members of the allottee families were resident in the village or in the nearby village of the allotted land and the allottees were either salaried employees in some other place or working as wage labour in a nearby town. The only reason for receiving the surplus lands allotted to them was related to the future times when the allottees would retire and return to the village and cultivate the allotted lands for themselves. In the meanwhile, they could manage to get some income by way of share or cash rent, by leasing-out lands allotted to them.

Another important reason for leasing-out of the allotted lands was 'no resources' to bring the allotted land under cultivation. Ten allottees from five sample villages in the Karmala, Barshi and Akkalkot talukas had leased-out their entire allotted lands, measuring 16 hectares, as they did not have any means to cultivate them. These allottees reported that they did not have any bullocks, nor agricultural implements to undertake the cultivation of the allotted land. They reported that they tried to secure central assistance for the development of land but they could not get it. They did not know the reason for not getting the central assistance

through the Co-operative Society. They could not get even the crop loans from the coöperative society and in such helpless conditions they were forced by the circumstances to lease-out their allotted land and get whatever income they could by way of share or cash rent rather than leaving the land uncultivated.

The other lone reason of physical disability for leasing-out the allotted land was not of much importance, firstly because it was the only case reported in all the sample villages and secondly, the allottee being blind, never intended to cultivate the land himself. The members of his family could have cultivated the land but they had no resources at all to undertake cultivation of the allotted land. The allottees, therefore, preferred to lease-out the allotted land and get some income by way of cash rent.

As stated earlier all the cases of leasing-out the allotted land were oral and there was nothing on the village records to establish any sort of tenancy. The village officials reported that they were in the know of these cases but they could not take any action as the dealings were all unrecorded and could not be proved.

4.7 Uncultivated Allotted Lands

As pointed out earlier in Section 4.3 about 309 hectares or about 30 per cent of the total allotted land was not brought under cultivation by the allottees in the sample village. Of this area, 138 hectares or about 13 per cent was from the allotted land holdings which were wholly kept uncultivated since their allotment. The remaining area of 171 hectares or 17 per cent of the total, were from the allotted holdings which were partially brought under cultivation. The total number of the allottees who had kept their entire allotted land

uncultivated since its allotment was 65, and that of the allottees who cultivated their lands at least partially was 194. The area of the allotted landholdings remaining uncultivated since its allotment was quite important especially when it was more or less a necessary condition that the allottees takes to self cultivation immediately after receiving the surplus land. In Table 4.8 we give the distribution of the allottees keeping the allotted land uncultivated and its area, by reasons thereof, in the sample villages.

It may be seen from the table that the major portion of the total uncultivated land (47.24 per cent) could not be brought under cultivation mainly because much of it was exposed rock. Such lands were allotted to 111 allottees in the sample villages. This type of area was largely reported in Malsiras and Sangola talukas, which have much hilly and undulating terrain with poor soils. It was reported by the allottees that most of the area of such lands was so rocky that those were almost uncultivable except some patches of a few gunthas. The allottees, therefore, did not venture to bring these lands under cultivation for the obvious reason that their efforts would be wasted. Another important reason for keeping the allotted land uncultivated was that the lands distributed were entirely uncultivable. In the sample villages 97 hectares of land or 31 per cent of the total land were allotted to 73 allottees. We feel that such lands should not have been distributed at all. These lands were generally reported in the hilly and undulating terrain having very poor soils where cultivation was not possible. Development of such lands was out of question but surprisingly we found that some of these allottees were quick enough to secure the Central Assistance given for land

Table 4.8 : Reasons for the allotted lands remaining uncultivated since allotment

Taluka	No. of allottees	Total uncultivated area	Uncultivable		Under roads, nallas & tanks		Rocky land		Allotment disputed		Resident out-station		No resources	
			No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area	No. of allottees	Area
North Solapur	14	30.35	6	15.79	1	2.56	1	1.10	1	1.65	2	2.60	3	6.65
South Solapur	26	8.97	11	4.55	6	0.79	7	2.65	1	0.58	-	-	1	0.40
Barshi	55	47.50	13	15.26	20	7.57	19	21.38	1	0.20	-	-	2	3.09
Akkalkot	29	24.75	11	13.50	3	0.84	5	1.43	10	8.98	-	-	-	-
Madha	13	13.80	6	11.93	3	0.87	4	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malsiras	54	88.52	10	11.43	4	3.15	36	65.88	4	8.06	-	-	-	-
Karmala	30	43.88	8	16.11	1	0.20	16	21.14	3	2.08	-	-	2	4.35
Sangola	38	51.10	8	8.14	1	0.40	23	31.31	-	-	-	-	6	11.25
Total	259	308.87 (100.00)	73	96.71 (31.31)	39	16.38 (5.30)	111	145.89 (47.24)	20	21.55 (6.98)	2	2.60 (0.84)	14	25.74 (8.33)

development. They did not develop even a patch of the allotted land and the entire money secured for land development was spent for other purposes. Thirty-nine allottees reported that they could not cultivate about 16.38 hectares of their allotted lands as these were under roads, 'nallahs' and tanks. The reason for keeping these areas uncultivated was obvious and nothing more could be said about them. Thus, if we add up the areas reported under the three reasons stated above, we get the total area which was kept uncultivated, as it was mostly uncultivable. It may be seen that the total of such areas came to 259 hectares. The proportion to the total uncultivated land was as high as 84 per cent. This means most of the uncultivated land in the sample villages could not be brought under cultivation mainly because it was uncultivable, and to that extent the allottees could not be held responsible.

The remaining area (50 hectares or 16 per cent) of the uncultivated land was cultivable but could not be brought under cultivation because of the three different reasons. Of this area, a major portion was not cultivated because of the nonavailability of resources and the disputes raised after the allotment. Fourteen allottees in the sample villages reported that they could not bring under cultivation their allotted lands having a total area of 26 hectares, as they had no resources to undertake cultivation. Of the fourteen allottees, six were reported in Sangola taluka, three, in North Solapur taluka; two each in Barshi and Karnala talukas and one, in South Solapur taluka. During our investigation we found that the reason of nonavailability of resources put forth by these allottees was much different from the actual facts. Some of these allottees

had lifted the development assistance from the co-operative society and had not done anything to develop the allotted lands. Some of them had lifted the crop loans even though never cultivating the lands allotted to them and had become defaulters. The fact is obvious that these allottees were not interested in cultivating the allotted lands, were not prepared to exert themselves to bring the allotted lands under cultivation and must be solely held responsible for keeping the allotted lands uncultivated since allotment, and thereby causing a double loss (loss of production and misuse of the development and crop loans) to the country.

The other reason for keeping the allotted lands uncultivated was the disputes which were raised by the surplus landholders about their lands declared surplus. Twenty allottees had reported that they could not cultivate their allotted lands having an area of 22 hectares as the surplus landholders took objections and did not allow the allottees to cultivate these lands. Many of these allottees were reported in the three talukas, viz. Akkalkot, Malsiras and Karmala. The cases of all the disputed lands were before the proper authorities and nothing more could be said about them.

It may be seen from the table that there were only two allottees, who could not cultivate the allotted land of 2.60 hectares as they were not the resident in the village where the land was granted. Both these allottees were from the North Solapur taluka. Both of them were engaged in salaried services and were resident in the city of Solapur which is about 10 kilometers from Kegaon, the village of the allotted land. It was therefore, not convenient for them to go to Kegaon and cultivate the allotted lands, which had therefore, remained fallow since their allotment.

The issue of allotting surplus land to the non-residents of its village was more serious in the North and the South Solapur talukas. During our investigation we found that many of the residents in the Solapur city had managed to secure surplus lands in nearby villages. In some of the sample villages in these two talukas a number of non-resident allottees were reported and all of them were residents of the Solapur city. It was a very difficult task for our fieldmen to locate these allottees in the Solapur city. In fact we could not locate all of them. Normally, it would be expected that the addresses of these allottees would be available from the records but on the basis of, merely their names and their present place of residence, such as Solapur city, it was very difficult to find them. We could contact only those allottees whose family members who were residing in the village of land allotment and who could give the correct address or place of work of the allottee concerned. Where no such information was available the only way was to leave these allottees out of the sample.

4.8 Land Use Pattern of the Allotted Land

As mentioned earlier 455 allottees of the total sample had cultivated their allotted lands, wholly or partially, and the total area cultivated by them came to 677 hectares or about 66 per cent of the total surplus land allotted in the sample villages. Of the remaining allottees, 65 allottees had kept their entire allotted lands uncultivated since allotment and the area of such lands was around 138 hectares or about 14 per cent of the total allotted surplus land. The rest of the allottees (21) had leased-out their allotted lands of 37 hectares to other persons for cultivation. In Table 4.9 we try to

Table 4.9: Land use pattern of the allotted lands in the sample villages for the year 1978-79

Taluka	No. of allottees	Total allotted land	Uncultivated land	Current fallows	Total uncultivated land	Leased out land	Cultivated surplus land	Leased in land	Total cultivated land	Irrigated land	Dry land	Proportion to total cultivated land
North Solapur	92	191.00	76.05	4.87	80.92	4.28	105.80	9.40	115.20	1.00	114.20	99.13
South Solapur	114	139.58	12.33	1.64	13.97	-	125.61	6.00	131.61	0.50	131.11	99.62
Barshi	109	157.89	22.93	4.57	27.50	6.01	124.38	-	124.38	1.20	123.18	90.04
Akkalkot	53	91.12	46.23	8.37	54.60	1.70	34.82	-	34.82	-	34.82	100.00
Madha	35	88.85	31.73	0.37	32.10	-	56.75	-	56.75	-	56.75	100.00
Nalsiras	62	137.12	86.00	2.52	88.52	-	48.60	0.22	48.82	5.94	42.88	87.83
Karmala	58	121.17	2.91	2.05	4.96	15.04	101.17	-	101.17	-	101.17	100.00
Sangola	48	95.62	30.69	11.82	42.51	9.59	43.52	0.20	43.72	1.00	42.72	97.71
Total	571	1022.35 (100.00)	308.87 (30.21)	36.21 (3.54)	345.08 (33.75)	36.62 (3.58)	640.65 (62.67)	15.82	656.47	9.64	646.83	98.53

summarise all these details and present the land use pattern of the allotted lands in the sample village for the year 1978-79. It may be seen from the table that one-third (34 per cent) of the total allotted land was uncultivated for the year 1978-79. Of this, 30 per cent was kept uncultivated for all the years since its allotment. We have discussed these lands in the preceding section. In addition to these lands there were 36 hectares or 4 per cent of the total which could not be cultivated in 1978-79 and was reported as current fallow. Besides these uncultivated lands, there were near about 37 hectares or 4 per cent of the total which were leased-out by the allottees in the sample villages. If we deduct the above stated areas from the total land allotted in the sample villages, we get the total area cultivated by the allottees themselves in the sample villages for the year 1978-79. Thus the total area of the allotted land cultivated by the allottees themselves in 1978-79, came to about 677 hectares or about 66 per cent of the total allotted land. It may be noted from the table that almost all the area cultivated by the allottees^{ees} themselves was dry, mainly depending on rainfall for its cultivation. The area of 10 hectares which had some sort of irrigation facility was the only exception. Of the 10 hectares of the irrigated land, 6 hectares were reported in the Malsiras taluka alone. The irrigated areas reported in the other talukas was not more than two hectares. This means almost all the area of the allotted lands cultivated by the allottees themselves in the other talukas was dry. The lands leased-in for cultivation by the allottees in the sample villages was marginal and that also was reported only in the four talukas viz. North and South Solapur, Malsiras and Sangola.

4.9 Cropping Pattern

As we have seen in the preceding section, 677 hectares or 66 per cent of the total allotted land was cultivated by the allottees themselves. Besides, some of the allottees had leased-in about 16 hectares of land for cultivation in the year 1978-79. So the total area cultivated by the allottees in the sample villages came to 693 hectares. Of this, the area actually cropped for the year 1978-79 was 656.47 hectares and the rest, about 36.21 hectares was reported as current fallow. The gross cropped area, however, came to 691 hectares in 1978-79. This means 34.48 hectares were under double cropping. In Table 4.10 we give the cropping pattern for the year 1978-79 followed by the allottees in the sample villages. Generally speaking the cropping pattern might be considered as the appraisal of the cultivator's resources. In the case of the present cultivators we have seen that majority of the allottees in the sample villages were landless persons and agricultural labourers who did not have any resources as such. While the crop loan facility was made available by admitting them as members of the village co-operatives, their major resource was their own labour. Under such circumstances the cropping pattern followed by the allottees could not be expected to be much different from the cropping pattern followed before these lands were distributed. There was always a possibility of its deterioration rather than improvement as the allottees did not have any resources. Another important matter which has to be kept in mind while considering cropping pattern, is the endowment of the natural resources of the region. Solapur district as a whole, suffers from uncertain and scanty rainfall, its average annual rainfall being 625 mm. The district is

Table 4.10: Cropping pattern on the cultivated areas of the allotted land in the sample villages for 1978-79

Taluka	(Area in hectares)																	
	Jowar			Bajara		Wheat		Paddy	Maize	Cotton	Ground-nut	Saff-lore	Other oil seeds	Tur	Gram	Other pulses	Other crops	Total
	Kharif	Rabbi	Hybrid	Local	Hybrid	Local	High yielding											
North Solapur	-	74.25 (62.75)	-	13.45 (11.37)	-	0.17 (0.14)	-	0.15 (0.13)	0.35 (0.30)	-	4.40 (3.72)	-	0.25 (0.21)	17.59 (14.87)	0.10 (0.08)	7.07 (5.97)	0.55 (0.46)	118.33 (100.00)
South Solapur	-	92.20 (69.94)	-	15.37 (11.66)	2.18 (1.65)	0.30 (0.23)	0.60 (0.46)	-	-	-	1.99 (1.50)	-	0.20 (0.15)	4.12 (3.13)	0.05 (0.04)	13.31 (10.10)	1.50 (1.14)	131.82 (100.00)
Barshi	8.17 (6.14)	76.61 (57.54)	8.25 (6.20)	1.25 (0.94)	-	0.25 (0.19)	0.27 (0.20)	0.80 (0.60)	2.20 (1.65)	-	6.18 (4.64)	0.10 (0.08)	1.26 (0.95)	18.87 (14.18)	0.84 (0.63)	5.17 (3.88)	2.90 (2.18)	133.12 (100.00)
Akkalkot	-	20.51 (56.22)	1.50 (4.11)	5.30 (14.53)	-	-	-	0.40 (1.10)	-	1.00 (2.74)	1.00 (2.74)	-	2.80 (7.68)	3.97 (10.88)	-	-	-	36.48 (100.00)
Madha	7.24 (12.72)	32.65 (57.38)	-	5.60 (9.84)	1.10 (1.93)	-	-	-	-	-	0.10 (0.18)	-	2.00 (3.51)	2.24 (3.95)	-	5.97 (10.49)	-	56.90 (100.00)
Malsiras	1.60 (3.13)	25.06 (48.96)	6.74 (13.17)	8.80 (17.20)	1.30 (2.54)	-	3.80 (7.43)	-	-	1.40 (2.74)	1.07 (2.09)	0.50 (0.98)	-	0.10 (0.20)	0.80 (1.56)	-	-	51.17 (100.00)
Karmala	8.45 (7.19)	76.88 (65.37)	-	2.70 (2.30)	0.05 (0.04)	-	-	-	0.12 (0.10)	-	0.85 (0.72)	-	-	6.51 (5.54)	0.93 (0.79)	21.11 (17.95)	-	117.60 (100.00)
Sangola	3.48 (7.64)	22.86 (50.22)	-	8.34 (18.32)	0.81 (1.78)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.01 (0.02)	-	0.10 (0.22)	9.93 (21.80)	-	45.53 (100.00)
Total	28.94 (4.19)	421.02 (60.92)	16.49 (2.39)	60.81 (8.80)	5.44 (0.79)	0.72 (0.10)	4.67 (0.68)	1.35 (0.20)	2.67 (0.39)	2.40 (0.35)	15.59 (2.26)	0.60 (0.09)	6.52 (0.94)	53.40 (7.75)	2.82 (0.41)	62.56 (9.04)	4.95 (0.72)	690.95 (100.00)

mostly in the rabi tract as it receives its rainfall mostly from the North-East monsoon. As far as the land is concerned, the eastern part of the district has medium to deep black soils; the central belt, light to medium black soils; and the western part, lighter soils. Irrigation was largely available in the Malsiras taluka which receives water from the Mira Right Bank Canal and sugarcane is the major crop of this area. As a result of the endowment of the natural resources the cropping pattern in the Solapur district as a whole has remained more or less static. Generally speaking the crop pattern in the district is inferior to the average for the State because of high proportion of jowar, bajara and other low value crops. Jowar ranks first among all the crops of the district, covering nearly two-thirds of the gross cropped area. Solapur district, in fact is the major jowar producing area of the State both in variety and quantity.

It may be noted from the table that the cropping pattern followed by the allottees in the sample villages, spells out the same pattern of cropping observable for the district. In the case of the allottees as well, jowar crop claimed the largest proportion of the gross cropped area for the year 1978-79. The allottees had grown the local as well as hybrid jowar during both the Kharif and the Rabi seasons. The total area under jowar came to 466 hectares or about 68 per cent of the total gross cropped area. Of the three kinds of jowar, rabi jowar was grown more widely and it had claimed more than 90 per cent of the total area under jowar crop. Of the remaining area, about 6 per cent was put under Kharif jowar and 4 per cent, under hybrid jowar. It is an important fact that the allottees could venture to grow

hybrid jowar on the allotted lands, however small that area might be. It may be seen from the table that hybrid jowar was grown by the allottees in only three talukas viz. Barshi, Akkalkot and Malsiras. Rabi jowar was uniformly the major crop in all the sample talukas and had claimed most of the gross cropped area in each taluka. Kharif jowar was not grown at all by the allottees in the sample villages from the North and South Solapur and Akkalkot talukas. In the remaining talukas it was grown on small areas varying between 2 and 8 per cent of the gross cropped area in each taluka. Next to Jowar came the area under pulses under which we include 'tur', gram, 'urid', 'mung', etc. The total area under these pulses was around 119 hectares or about 17 per cent of the total area. Amongst pulses grown by the allottees, 'tur' appeared to be more common and had claimed nearly half of the total land reported under pulses. The allottees in all the talukas except Sangola, had grown 'tur' on their allotted lands. In Sangola taluka 'nataki' and 'urid' were preferred by the allottees.

Bajara was grown by the allottees on 66 hectares or about 16 per cent of the total gross cropped area. Local variety of bajara was preferred and was widely taken by the allottees in the sample villages. Of the 66 hectares under bajara, 61 hectares were put under the local variety of bajara and the hybrid variety of bajara was taken only on 5 hectares. Hybrid bajara was grown by the allottees in all the sample talukas except North Solapur, Barshi and Akkalkot talukas, though the area devoted to it was very small in each taluka.

High yielding variety of wheat was grown by the allottees on such lands where irrigation was available. The total area put under wheat, however, was very small,

only 5 hectares or less than one per cent of the total gross cropped area in all the sample talukas. More than half of the total area under wheat was reported by the allottees in the Malsiras taluka where some of the irrigated lands were allotted. The other talukas where the allottees had grown ^{wheat} ~~wheat~~ on their allotted lands, were North and South Solapur and Darshi. In each of these three talukas the area ^{but} ~~was~~ under the local or high yielding variety of wheat was not more than one hectare. In the other talukas like Madha, Akkalkot, Karmala and Sangola, cultivation of wheat was not reported by any of the allottees in the sample villages.

Groundnut was another important crop grown by the allottees in all the talukas except Sangola. The total area devoted to groundnut was around 16 hectares or about 2.26 per cent of the total gross cropped area. Cotton was grown only by two allottees, one each in Akkalkot and Malsiras talukas. The total area under cotton grown by the two allottees, was 2.40 hectares only. The total areas under other crops like paddy, maize, etc. were also very small as only a few allottees had grown them on some portion of their allotted lands.

From the cropping pattern followed by the allottees in the sample villages, it appears that the allottees had grown mostly food crops on the allotted lands. It may be seen from the table that more than 95 per cent of the gross cropped area in 1978-79 was put under food crops only and the rest under the non-food crops. This was quite natural as most of the allottees were very poor and would like to get as much food grains as possible for their families, from the lands allotted to them.

4.10 Cash Expenses on Cultivation and Value of Production

In Table 4.11 we give the cash expenses incurred by the allottees on cultivation of different crops on the allotted lands in 1978-79. The items of cash expenditure were mainly four: (1) seeds, (2) manure, (3) fertilizers, and (4) tillage. In tillage we include bullock as well as human labour required to carry out different operations during pre-sowing and post-sowing periods. In fact in majority of the cases no wage labour was reported as the allottees themselves and their family members worked on their allotted lands. As pointed out earlier, majority of the allottees in the sample villages, were largely dependent on the other cultivators for the requisite preliminary and other tillage, as they did not possess the required implements and the draught cattle. In majority of the allottees were required to hire the agricultural implements and the bullocks required for different operations. We therefore find that a substantial amount of cash was expended for this purpose by the allottees in 1978-79. It may be seen from Table 4.11 that more than three-fourths of the total cash expenses incurred by the allottees (77.5 per cent) was on tillage alone. The total amount of cash spent on tillage by the allottees was as large as Rs. 78,820. The average amount spent on tillage per hectare came to Rs. 114.07 for all the talukas. In the case of individual taluka, however, the average amount spent on tillage per hectare varied between Rs. 105 in the Kadha taluka and Rs. 130 in the South Solapur taluka. The average amount of cash spent on tillage per hectare was substantially large in comparison with the other items of cash expenditure. This was mainly because, many of the allottees were required to undertake operations like ploughing and

Table 4.11 : Out of pocket expenses required for the crops grown on the allotted land in 1978-79

Taluka	Crops cropped area in hectares	Seeds		Manure		Fertilizers		Tillage		Total		Value of production Rs.	Average value of production per hectare	Average surplus per hectare
		Amount in Rs.	Average expenses per hectare	Amount in Rs.	Average expenses per hectare	Amount in Rs.	Average per hectare	Amount in Rs.	Average expenses per hectare	Total amount in Rs.	Average expenses per hectare			
North Solapur	118.33	2,875	24.30	410	3.46	230	1.95	13,175	111.34	16,690	141.05	30,965	261.68	120.63
South Solapur	131.82	2,815	21.35	200	1.52	690	5.23	17,128	129.93	20,833	158.04	34,878	264.59	106.55
Barshi	133.12	3,245	24.38	1,810	13.60	315	2.37	14,146	106.26	19,516	146.60	32,271	242.42	95.82
Akkalkot	36.48	816	22.37	460	12.61	200	5.48	3,909	107.15	5,385	147.61	8,312	227.85	80.24
Nadha	56.90	1,544	27.13	250	4.39	290	5.10	5,985	105.18	8,069	141.80	12,169	213.87	72.07
Malsiras	51.17	1,346	26.30	340	6.64	277	5.41	6,096	119.13	8,059	157.49	12,906	252.22	94.73
Karmala	117.00	2,534	21.55	150	1.28	-	-	13,166	111.96	15,850	134.78	28,909	245.82	111.04
Bangola	45.50	1,115	24.49	930	20.43	-	-	5,215	114.53	7,260	159.45	9,500	208.65	49.20
Total	690.95	16,290	23.57	4,550	6.58	2,002	2.90	78,820	114.07	1,01,662	147.13	1,70,910	247.36	100.23

harrowing of the allotted lands for several times, to bring their lands under cultivation. Ploughing particularly was such an important and costly operation that, it alone had accounted for more than half of the average cash expenditure on tillage per hectare. It appears that tillage and particularly the pre-sowing operations were of utmost importance in the case of the allotted lands, as a large portion of them were brought under cultivation for the first time.

Another major item of cash expenditure incurred by the sample allottees was that on seeds. It may be seen from the table that on the aggregate level, the average cash expenses on seeds were around Rs. 24 per hectare. On the individual taluka level, however, it varied between Rs. 21 in the South Solapur taluka and Rs. 27 in the Malsifas taluka. It appears from the cropping pattern presented in Table 4.10 that most of the allottees had grown traditional varieties of jowar, bajra, paddy and maize etc. The improved or high yielding varieties of seeds were used only by a small number of allottees in the sample villages. It may be noted from the table that hybrid jowar and hybrid bajra were grown by the allottees only on small areas of the gross cropped area in 1978-79. In the case of wheat, however, the seeds of high yielding variety were sown on a comparatively larger area than that of the local variety of wheat. In the case of the remaining crops like paddy, maize, cotton, groundnut, etc. all the allottees had used local seeds in the year 1978-79.

It is important to note that some of the sample allottees had bought manure from other cultivators and applied it to the crops grown on their allotted lands. The number of such allottees, however, was very small

and the cash expenditure on manure reported by them was also very small. It may be seen from the table that the total amount spent on manure in all the talukas was around Rs. 4,550. The average amount spent on manure came to Rs. 6.58 per hectare. The inter-taluka variations in the average expenses on manure per hectare were rather wide. It varied between the lowest Rs. 2.28 per hectare in the Karmala taluka and the highest Rs. 20.43 per hectare in the Sangola taluka. In Barshi and Akkalkot talukas, however, the average amount of cash spent on manure per hectare was relatively large.

Fertilizers were also bought and applied to their crops by the allottees but on a very minor scale ~~only~~ and *only* for the selected crops like cotton, hybrid jowar, hybrid bajara and high yielding variety of wheat. The total amount of cash spent on fertilizers was only Rs. 2000 for all the talukas. The average amount spent on fertilizers was as small as Rs. 3 per hectare. In Karmala and Sangola talukas expenses on fertilizers were not reported at all. In the remaining talukas the average expenditure on fertilizers varied within a small range of Rs. 1.95 and Rs. 5.48 per hectare. The cash expenditures on fertilizers were so low mainly because most of the allottees had received fertilizers from the co-operative societies under the crop-loan scheme and were not required to spend any cash on it. However, a few of the allottees preferred to apply fertilizers in addition to what they had received under the crop-loan scheme and had bought the additional fertilizers from the market. As against this, there were some other allottees who did not apply to their crops, even the fertilizers received under the crop loan scheme and preferred to sell it for cash to other cultivators in the village.

It may be seen from the table that on the aggregate level, the total cash expenditures incurred by the allottees on all the crops grown by them in 1978-79 was more than Rs. 1 lakh. The average total expenditure came to Rs. 147 per hectare. As noted earlier, more than three-fourths of the total average expenditure was spent only on the tillage, and the rest on inputs like seeds, manure and fertilizers. On the taluka level, the average total expenditure did not vary widely. It was the lowest, Rs. 135 per hectare, in the Karmala taluka and the highest Rs. 159 per hectare in the Sangola taluka. We calculated the value of produce reported by the allottees at the harvest prices prevailing in the sample villages. It may be seen from the table that the total value of produce reported by all the allottees in the sample taluka was more than Rs. 1.71 lakhs for the year 1978-79. The average total value of produce came to Rs. 247 per hectare. This means, on the aggregate level, the average surplus, over and above the cash expenditures incurred by the allottees, came to Rs. 100 per hectare. Looked at by the individual talukas, the North and South Solapur talukas had a better showing than the other talukas. In these two talukas the average total value of production was relatively higher (Rs. 262 and Rs. 265) than that in the remaining talukas. The average surplus was also higher in these two talukas (Rs. 121 and Rs. 107 per hectare). In the remaining talukas the average total value of produce varied between Rs. 200 and Rs. 252 per hectare and the average surplus between Rs. 49 and Rs. 111 per hectare. The average surplus per hectare was the lowest at Sangola taluka, primarily because of the poor quality of lands distributed to the allottees.

The average cash expenses of cultivation, value of production and the surplus over and above the cash expenditures depended on a number of factors, about which we did not have adequate data. However, it would be wrong to consider the average surplus as average profit and as such the income of the allottees from the allotted lands. This average surplus might come nearer to the "farm business income" for the allottees but even that will have to be considered with great reservations. The essential reason for this was that we had not covered all the items of cultivation costs borne by the allottees. Our data about cost of cultivation were limited only to the out-of-pocket expenses actually paid by the allottees. To calculate the total cost of production we did not have data about the value of family labour, hired human and bullock labour, home-collected manure, depreciation on implements, etc., interest paid on crop-loans and miscellaneous other expenses. Despite these limitations, the surplus earned per allottee indicated broadly that given the proper management and the necessary inputs, the allotted lands could deliver a farm business income and whether this would be commensurate with ^{the income from} alternate employment in which the allottee and other earners in the family were previously engaged is difficult to say.

4.11 Crop-Loans and Crop Assistance

Under Circular No. ICH 1376/5993-L-7, dated 29th January 1976, the Government of Maharashtra, issued instructions to the concerned officials that each allottee of surplus land should immediately be made a member of the village society, so that he could obtain crop-loan to meet his immediate requirements of seeds, fertilizers and cash expenses of cultivation. As per the instructions from the Government, most of the allottees in the

sample villages were enrolled as members of the primary Credit Society in each village and a majority of them were given crop-loans for cultivation of the surplus lands allotted to them. In Table 4.12 we give the number of such allottees and the amounts of crop-loans granted to them in 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79. It may be seen from the table that 366 allottees in the sample villages received crop-loans of Rs. 1.11 lakhs in the year 1976-77. The average amount of crop-loan per allottee came to Rs. 303. On the individual taluka level the average amount of crop-loan varied between Rs. 294 per allottee in the South Solapur taluka and Rs. 338 per allottee in the Sangola taluka. In 1977-78, the number of allottees getting crop-loans went up to 386 and the total amount of the crop-loans, increased to Rs. 1.36 lakhs. The average amount of crop-loan also increased to Rs. 354 per allottee. The inter-taluka variations in the average amount of crop-loan per allottee were rather wide for this year. It varied between the lowest amount of average crop-loan per allottee (Rs. 214) in the Madha taluka and the highest amount of Rs. 508 per allottee in the Sangola taluka. In 1978-79, however, the total number of allottees securing crop-loans dwindled to 271. This was mainly because many of the allottees who had borrowed in the previous two years could not repay their loans and had become defaulters. They, therefore, could not obtain any crop-loan in the year 1978-79. The total amount of crop-loans granted to the allottees in 1978-79 had also declined to Rs. 1.05 lakhs. The average amount of crop-loan, however, showed an increase and was the highest (Rs. 391 per allottee) in the three years. The inter-taluka variations in the average amount of crop-loan were large in this year also. It varied between the lowest amount of

Table 4.12 : Crop loans received by the allottees in the sample villages for 1976 to 1979

Taluka	1976-77			1977-78			1978-79		
	Allottees receiving crop loans	Total amount of crop loans	Average amount of crop loans	Allottees receiving crop loans	Total amount of crop loans	Average amount of crop loans	Allottees receiving crop loans	Total amount of crop loans	Average amount of crop loans
North Solapur	58	18,295	315.45	69	22,390	324.49	48	17,830	371.46
South Solapur	75	22,060	294.13	61	17,840	292.46	51	14,095	276.37
Barshi	65	20,815	320.23	82	25,900	315.85	76	29,760	391.58
Akkalkot	39	9,200	235.90	42	13,800	328.57	45	18,270	406.00
Madha	17	5,320	312.94	21	4,500	214.29	9	2,930	325.56
Malsiras	46	13,950	303.26	40	18,600	465.00	5	1,820	364.00
Karmala	39	12,130	311.03	42	18,855	448.93	19	11,660	613.68
Sangola	27	9,135	338.33	29	14,737	508.17	18	9,620	534.44
Total	366	1,10,905	303.02	386	1,36,622	353.94	271	1,05,985	391.09

Rs. 276 per allottee in the South Solapur taluka and the highest amount of Rs. 614 per allottee in the Karmala taluka.

As mentioned in first Chapter the Government of India, formulated a Central Sector Plan Scheme to provide financial assistance to the allottees so that they could take to efficient cultivation of the surplus lands assigned to them. The Government of Maharashtra decided to avail of the Central Scheme to the maximum extent possible and accordingly issued instructions to the concerned officials, under the Resolution No. ICH-3276/51225-L-7, dated 1st November 1976, as regards the procedure to be adopted for providing financial assistance to the allottees and the extent of assistance payable to each of them. The instructions were as follows:

"Allottees of surplus land to whom crop-loan had actually been granted by primary credit society should be held eligible to get crop-assistance. The Collector should obtain from the District Deputy Registrars of co-operative societies villagewise lists of allottees to whom crop-loan has been sanctioned by primary credit society, giving names, addresses, extent of land actually allotted, and the amount of crop-loan actually granted in each case. The amount payable to each such allottee should then be arrived at by first dividing the amount placed at the disposal of the Collector by the number of eligible allottees. Each allottee would be eligible to get crop-assistance of the amount so arrived at subject to the outside limit of Rs. 250/- per hectare per person for two seasons. The amount so payable to the allottee by way of subsidy or grant for crop-assistance should be placed at the disposal of the District Central Co-operative Bank or the concerned financing agency.

On receipt of the amount and the above particulars, the District Central Co-operative Bank, should scrutinise the normal credit statement of the society with which the concerning allottee has been enrolled as a member and with reference to the actual position of drawal of loan, credit the amount of assistance in the name of the society and inform the society accordingly, giving particulars about the name and address of the allottee in whose account the central assistance has been adjusted. On receipt of the communication from the District Central Co-operative Bank, the Secretary of the Society should make corresponding entry in the loan accounts of the concerned allottee and ensure that the demand against the allottee is reduced accordingly. He will also inform the concerned allottee accordingly and obtain from him a receipt for the amount of subsidy given to him."

In Table 4.13 we give the extent of crop-assistance received by the allottees in the sample villages in the three years 1976 to 1979. It may be seen from the table that the total amount of crop-assistance provided to the sample allottees in the selected talukas was substantial in the first two years 1976-77 and 1977-78. In the year 1976-77, it was as high as Rs. 59,328 or about 53 per cent of the total amount of crop-loans sanctioned for the year. In the next year, it was lower at Rs. 44,515 or about 33 per cent of the total amount of the crop-loans given to the sample allottees in that year. In the third year i.e. 1978-79, it was still lower. Only 4 per cent of the total amount of crop-loans provided in the year was subsidised by the crop-assistance, the total amount of assistance being only Rs. 4,452. Such a fall was expected because the crop-assistance provided under the Central Sector Plan Scheme, as stated earlier,

Table 4.11 : Crop assistance received by the allottees in the sample villages for 1976 to 1979

Taluka	1976-77				1977-78				1978-79			
	No. of allottees	Amount of crop loans	Amount of subsidy	Proportion	No. of allottees	Amount of crop loans	Amount of subsidy	Proportion	No. of allottees	Amount of crop loans	Amount of subsidy	Proportion
North Solapur	58	18,295	-	-	69	22,390	-	-	48	17,830	-	-
South Solapur	75	22,060	1,350	6.12	61	17,840	300	1.68	51	14,095	750	5.32
Barshi	65	20,815	19,935	95.77	82	25,900	19,120	73.82	76	29,760	965	3.24
Akkalkot	39	9,200	5,750	62.50	42	13,800	9,565	69.31	45	18,270	2,737	14.98
Madha	17	5,320	4,220	79.32	21	4,500	-	-	9	2,930	-	-
Malsiras	46	13,950	9,964	71.43	40	18,600	1,800	9.68	5	1,830	-	-
Karmala	39	12,130	9,290	76.59	42	18,855	3,055	16.20	19	11,660	-	-
Sangola	27	9,135	8,819	96.54	29	14,737	10,675	72.44	18	9,620	-	-
Total	366	1,10,905	59,328	53.49	386	1,36,622	44,515	32.58	271	1,05,985	4,452	4.20

was only for two seasons. So by 1978-79 most of the sample allottees had completed their two seasons of receiving crop-assistance and were not entitled to get it any further. They were, therefore, dropped from the Central Scheme of financial assistance. In 1978-79, crop assistance was provided only to those allottees who had not yet completed the course of two seasons. Such allottees were reported in three talukas only viz. Barshi, Akkalkot and South Solapur. In the North Solapur taluka crop-assistance was not provided to any of the allottees in the sample villages for all the three years as these villages were covered under other schemes like D.P.A.P. and S.F.D.A.

It is interesting to see from Table 4.14 that in 1978-79, when the Central scheme of providing crop-assistance was almost over, the proportion of overdues to the total amount of crop-loans was the highest for all the selected talukas. In fact in four of the eight talukas (Madha, Malsiras, Karmala and Sangola) the crop-loans taken in 1978-79 were not repaid at all and the entire amount was overdue. In this year the proportion of the overdues to the total amount of crop-loans was as high as 94.45 per cent. It was above 94 per cent for all the selected talukas. As against this, the proportion of overdues to the total amount of crop-loans was considerably low in the first two years of the Central Scheme (1976-77 and 1977-78) when crop-assistance was provided to the allottees. It may be noted from the table that such a proportion was as low as 48 per cent in 1976-77 and 57 per cent in 1977-78. It appears obvious that the recovery shown in these two years (1976-77 and 1977-78) was mostly the result of adjustment of the crop-assistance towards the repayment of crop-loans.

Table 4.14 : Proportion of overdues to the crop loans received by the sample allottees in the sample villages for 1976 to 1979

Taluka	1976-77						1977-78						1978-79					
	Amount of crop loans	Amount of subsidy	Amount repaid	Total	Amount over-due	Proportion of overdues to total loans	Amount of crop loans	Amount of subsidy	Amount repaid	Total	Amount over-due	Proportion of overdues to total loans	Amount of crop loans	Amount of subsidy	Amount repaid	Total	Amount over-due	Proportion of overdues to total loans
North Solapur	18,295	-	482	482	17,813	97.37	22,390	-	63	63	22,327	99.72	17,830	-	63	63	17,676	99.14
South Solapur	22,060	1,350	210	1,560	20,500	92.93	17,840	300	91	391	17,449	97.81	14,095	750	-	750	13,345	94.68
Barshi	20,815	9,935	2,843	12,778	8,037	38.61	25,900	19,120	3,365	22,485	3,415	13.19	29,760	965	-	965	28,795	96.76
Akkalkot	9,200	5,750	736	6,486	2,714	29.50	13,800	9,565	1,682	11,247	2,553	18.50	18,270	2,737	1,372	4,109	14,161	77.51
Madha	5,320	4,220	614	4,834	486	9.14	4,500	-	465	465	2,930	65.33	2,930	-	-	2,930	100.00	
Malsiras	13,950	9,964	2,106	12,070	1,880	13.48	18,600	1,800	773	2,573	16,027	86.17	1,830	-	-	-	1,830	100.00
Karmala	12,130	9,290	1,225	10,515	1,615	13.31	18,855	3,055	5,224	8,279	10,576	56.09	11,660	-	-	-	11,660	100.00
Sangola	9,135	7,819	867	8,686	449	4.92	14,737	10,675	1,936	12,611	2,126	14.43	9,620	-	-	-	9,620	100.00
Total	1,10,905	48,328	9,083	57,411	53,494	48.23	1,26,622	44,515	13,599	58,114	70,508	57.46	1,05,985	4,452	1,435	5,887	1,00,098	94.45

e 4.14 : Proportion of overdues to the crop loans received by the sample allottees

ka	1976-77						1977-			
	Amount of crop loans	Amount of subsidy	Amount repaid	Total	Amount over-due	Proportion of overdues to total loans	Amount of crop loans	Amount of subsidy	Amount repaid	To
pur	18,295	-	482	482	17,813	97.37	22,390	-	63	
pur	22,060	1,350	210	1,560	20,500	92.93	17,840	300	91	
hi	20,815	9,935	2,843	12,778	8,037	38.61	25,900	19,120	3,365	22
lkot	9,200	5,750	736	6,486	2,714	29.50	13,800	9,565	1,682	11
a	5,320	4,220	614	4,834	486	9.14	4,500	-	465	
siras	13,950	9,964	2,106	12,070	1,880	13.48	18,600	1,800	773	2
nala	12,130	9,290	1,225	10,515	1,615	13.31	18,850	3,055	5,224	8
gola	9,135	7,819	867	8,686	449	4.92	14,737	10,675	1,936	12
al	1,10,905	48,328	9,083	57,411	53,494	48.23	1,36,620	44,515	13,599	58

It may be concluded from the above that the allottees, without any such external non-repayable crop-assistance, were not in a position to continue the cultivation of surplus lands on their own. Presumably this was due to the poor quality of lands allotted to them.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE ALLOTTEES

In this Chapter we propose to deal with the last objective of the study viz. "to assess the overall success of the programme particularly with reference to whether there is any marked improvement in the economic conditions of the allottees". In this context we analyse the data about the annual income accrued to the allottees from cultivation of the surplus land allotted to them, and the annual income received from other occupations pursued by them during the year 1978-79. The income received from cultivation of the allotted land could be an important measure of the improvement in the economic conditions of the allottees achieved through the distribution of the surplus land. We, therefore, attempt to examine what proportion of the total annual income of the allottees was received from the cultivation of the surplus land allotted to them. Before going on to the agricultural income, and the total annual income, we will see the occupational pattern followed by the allottees in the sample villages.

As mentioned earlier, of the total 571 sample allottees, 485 cultivated their allotted lands themselves in 1978-79. The remaining 86 allottees had either leased-out their allotted lands or left them uncultivated since the allotment. While analysing the income data we have treated these two groups of allottees separately in order to bring out specifically the impact of allotment of surplus land on the economic conditions of the allottees. It is obvious that the allottees who did not cultivate the allotted lands were not at all affected by the programme of distribution of surplus land. The allottees who leased-out their allotted lands to other persons for cultivation were benefitted only to the extent of cash/kind rent which

they received. The allottees who cultivated the allotted lands themselves were the ones who would show the impact of the programme of distribution of surplus land on their economic conditions. We have, therefore, analysed the income data of these allottees separately.

5.1 Occupational Pattern of the Allottees cultivating the Allotted Lands

In table 5.1 we present the distribution of the allottees who were cultivating the allotted surplus land according to their main occupation as reported by them. It may be seen from the table that majority of the allottees in the sample villages reported casual agricultural labour as their main occupation. The proportion of such allottees (201) was as high as 41.45 per cent of the total allottees cultivating their allotted lands. The second largest group was of 163 allottees who reported agriculture as their main occupation. They were one-third (33.60 per cent) of the total allottees who had taken to cultivation of the allotted lands. These two groups of allottees taken together covered three-fourths (75.05 per cent) of the total allottees cultivating the allotted lands. The rest of the allottees (121) were mainly engaged in varied activities like trade, bullock-cart transport, carpentry, blacksmithy and salaried jobs. Amongst these allottees, the group of salaried was rather large compared to the other occupations. It may be seen that as many as 31 allottees reported salaried jobs as their main occupation. Many of them were employed as peons and clerks in the co-operative credit societies and the grampanchayat offices in the sample villages.

At the taluka level, the proportion of the allottees reporting agricultural labour as their main occupation was the highest in all the sample talukas except two viz.

Table 5.1 : Distribution of the allottees who were cultivating the allotted surplus land according to their main occupation

Taluka	Agri- cul- ture	Agri- cultu- ral labour	Non- agri- cultu- ral labour	Trade	Sala- ria- tes	Bull- ock cart trans- port	Carpen- try	Black- smithy	Tail- ering	Shoe- making	Poultry keeping	Dairy- ing	Total
North Solapur	52	6	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
South Solapur	57	18	3	3	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112
Barshi	16	70	-	6	7	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	102
Akkalkot	4	31	-	23	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	42
Madha	16	14	1	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	35
Malsiras	5	22	-	1	5	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	40
Karnala	6	32	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
Sangola	7	8	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	23
Total	163	201	4	17	81	5	3	1	1	6	1	2	485

North Solapur and South Solapur. It varied between 34 per cent of the total allottees cultivating the allotted lands in the Sangola taluka and 74 per cent in the Akkalkot taluka. The proportion of the allottees pursuing agriculture as their main occupation was considerably low in these talukas. In the North and the South Solapur talukas, however, the proportion of the allottees reporting agriculture was the highest. It was 62 per cent in the North Solapur taluka and 51 per cent in the South Solapur taluka. In these two talukas the allottees having agricultural labour as their main occupation was considerably low. Compared to them, the allottees having salaried jobs were large in number, presumably because of the proximity of the Solapur city, where the allottees from nearby villages from the North and South Solapur talukas, could procure salaried employment. In all the other talukas the number of allottees having services as their main occupation was small.

5.2 Annual Income of the Allottees

We may now examine the annual total income received by the allottee families from the varied activities pursued by their members as the main or subsidiary occupations. We consider here only those allottee families who were cultivating their owned and the allotted lands. It may be stated here that the incomes received by the allottees from different occupations except agriculture, were those reported by the allottees themselves. Agricultural income, if we may call it, was, however, different. It was not reported by the allottees; but has been derived on the basis of the data available to us. In fact it was the surplus over cash expenditures paid out for cultivation of the lands and as such it could not be treated as net income or even farm business income. Farm business income will have to be arrived at after deducting the costs which

would include value of family and hired labour, value of family and hired bullock labour, value of farm produced and for purchased seeds, value of home collected and for purchased manure, depreciation on implements etc., land revenue, cess and taxes etc. and interest on crop-loans. Of these items of cost, we had data only on a few items such as value of purchased seeds, manure and fertilizers, and tillage expenses. We, therefore, could not arrive at a reasonable estimate of farm business income of the allottees. The agricultural income which we have presented in tables 5.2 and 5.3 was the surplus over and above the cash expenditures incurred by the allottees for the cultivation of their lands.

It may be noted from table 5.2 that, on the aggregate level, the average annual income per allottee family came to Rs. 2,790 from all sources. On the taluka level the average annual income showed rather wide variations. It varied between the lowest, Rs. 2,030 per family at the Karmala taluka, and the highest, Rs. 5,534 per family at the Sangola taluka. It appears from the table that in the Sangola taluka, the average annual income was the highest mainly because of the salaried income of the allottees. Many of the sample allottees in this taluka had reported salaried services as their subsidiary occupation. A large number of them were employed in the Armed forces. Their salaried income accounted for more than 39 per cent of the total annual income in this taluka.

The average annual income per allottee family was below the average for all the talukas, in Barghi, Akkalkot, Madha and Karmala talukas. This may be because, the salaried income in these talukas was proportionately small. However, the South Solapur taluka presented a different case. In this taluka the average annual income

Table 5.2 : Annual income of the allottees who were cultivating the allotted land

Taluka	Agriculture			Agricultural Labour			Non-agricultural Labour		
	Amount	Percen- tage	Average income	Amount	Percen- tage	Average income	Amount	Percen- tage	Average income
North Solapur	44,445	19.28	529	66,880	29.02	1,194	3,700	1.61	740
South Solapur	42,895	14.43	383	85,655	28.83	1,158	10,190	3.43	926
Barshi	55,158	20.91	541	1,12,550	42.67	1,309	5,000	1.90	714
Akkalkot	7,216	7.18	172	64,590	64.31	1,318	1,160	1.15	290
Madha	21,975	27.51	628	32,640	40.85	1,255	7,850	9.82	1,308
Malsiras	67,815	42.69	1,695	45,125	28.41	1,074	14,920	9.39	995
Karnala	28,764	30.15	612	37,875	39.70	773	5,920	6.20	846
Sangola	14,403	11.32	626	23,770	18.68	820	2,800	2.20	467
Total	2,82,671	20.89	583	4,69,085	34.66	1,141	51,540	3.81	845

contd.

Table 5.2 : (contd.)

Taluka	Trade			Salaried Employment			Independent Occupations		
	Amount	Percen- tage	Average income	Amount	Percen- tage	Average income	Amount	Percen- tage	Average income
North Solapur	-	-	-	97,720	42.39	3,152	4,310	1.87	1,078
South Solapur	6,000	2.02	2,000	1,29,030	43.42	3,308	7,300	2.46	1,217
Barshi	13,000	4.93	2,167	48,090	18.23	1,658	12,270	4.65	767
Akkalkot	7,200	7.17	2,400	3,200	3.19	800	3,850	3.83	770
Kadha	-	-	-	7,885	9.87	3,943	1,950	2.44	488
Malsiras	1,700	1.07	1,700	16,370	10.31	1,819	8,190	5.16	745
Karnala	5,250	5.50	1,313	4,600	4.82	1,533	4,800	5.03	1,200
Bangola	6,890	5.41	1,723	50,210	39.45	3,138	7,450	5.85	745
Total	40,040	2.96	1,907	3,57,105	26.39	2,685	50,120	3.70	835

contd.

Table 5.2 : (contd.)

Taluka	Bullock cart Transport etc.			Sale of milk and milk products			Unearned Income			Total		
	Amount	Percen- tage	Ave- rage income	Amount	Percen- tage	Ave- rage income	Amount	Percen- tage	Ave- rage income	Amount	Percen- tage	Ave- rage income
North Solapur	2,180	0.95	273	7,740	3.36	310	3,500	1.52	1,167	2,30,475	100.00	2,744
South Solapur	-	-	-	11,890	4.00	305	4,200	1.41	1,400	2,97,160	100.00	2,653
Barshi	400	0.15	400	6,380	2.42	398	10,920	4.14	1,820	2,63,768	100.00	2,586
Akkalkot	500	0.50	500	5,400	5.38	450	7,320	7.29	2,440	1,00,436	100.00	2,391
Madha	-	-	-	1,000	1.25	200	6,600	8.26	2,200	79,900	100.00	2,283
Malsiras	2,800	1.76	560	600	0.38	600	1,320	0.83	1,320	1,58,840	100.00	3,971
Karnala	-	-	-	800	0.84	400	7,400	7.76	925	95,409	100.00	2,030
Sangola	-	-	-	2,300	1.81	767	19,450	15.28	1,621	1,27,273	100.00	5,534
Total	5,880	0.43	535	36,110	2.67	351	60,710	4.49	1,557	13,53,261	100.00	2,790

Table 5.1 : Proportion of income from allotted land in the total income of the allottees cultivating the allotted land

Taluka	Number of allottees cultivating the allotted land	Cultivated area of the allotted land	Total income from all sources	Average total income	Income from the cultivated area of the allotted land	Average income from the cultivated area of the allotted land	Proportion of income from the allotted land to the total income
North Solapur	84	105.80	2,30,475	2,744	29,525	351.49	12.81
South Solapur	112	125.61	2,97,160	2,653	36,525	326.12	12.29
Barshi	102	124.38	2,63,768	2,586	52,188	511.65	19.79
Akkalkot	42	34.82	1,00,436	2,391	6,026	143.48	6.00
Nadha	35	56.75	79,900	2,283	17,215	491.86	21.55
Malsiras	40	48.60	1,58,840	3,971	52,965	1324.13	33.34
Karmala	47	101.17	95,409	2,030	27,884	593.28	29.23
Sangola	23	43.52	1,27,273	5,534	9,223	401.00	7.25
Total	485	640.65	13,53,261	2,790	2,31,551	477.42	17.11

was below the average for all the talukas, in spite of the highest proportion of the salaried income.

It may be seen from the table that at the aggregate level, the casual agricultural labour was the major source of income for the allottee families in all the sample talukas. Its contribution in the average annual income was as high as 35 per cent. It was distantly followed by salaried income (26 per cent) while, contribution from agriculture (21 per cent) took the third place. The shares of contribution to the average annual income from other sources like trade, bullock-cart transport, independent occupations etc. were below 5 per cent individually. In the case of individual talukas as well, casual agricultural labour, services and agriculture constituted the three major sources of income contributing nearly three-fourths of the average annual income.

The above discussion shows that, for all the talukas taken together, the income earned from agriculture was only 21 per cent of the average annual income. At the individual taluka level it was still lower in some of the talukas, viz. North and South Solapur, Akkalkot and Sangola. It was the lowest (7.8 per cent) in the Akkalkot taluka and the highest (42.69 per cent) in the Malsiras taluka. On the whole, it appears that income from agriculture was too small to provide a reasonable living to the allottee families in most of the sample villages. It therefore, appeared necessary for most of the allottee families to seek employment either in agricultural labour work or some other occupations. Some of their members struggled to get some salaried employment in the Solapur city or outside. Such avenues of employment were conveniently available to the allottee families from the North and South Solapur talukas, which are nearer to the Solapur city. It was not so with the other sample

the average income from the allotted land was the highest and its proportion to the total annual income was also the highest of all the sample talukas.

It may be noted from the table that the proportion of agricultural income from the allotted land was less than one-third of the total annual income in all the eight talukas. It was as low as 6 to 7 per cent in Akkalkot and Sangola talukas. It was less than 25 per cent in North and South Solapur, Barshi and Madha talukas. In Malsiras and Karmala talukas only, it was relatively higher. These proportions indicated that the allottees could not depend wholly on the allotted land for their livelihood and they would have to pursue other occupations like casual agricultural labour, bullock-cart transport, dairying and other independent occupations. The proportion of the agricultural income to the total was so low when we take it, only as the surplus over the cash expenditures incurred by the allottees for cultivation. If we consider all the items of the farm business account listed earlier, the agricultural income from the allotted land would be negative. However, the surplus which we have calculated over the out of pocket expenses required for cultivation, indicated broadly that given proper management and the necessary inputs, the allotted land could be improved in the long run and could deliver a reasonable farm income. Whether this would be commensurate with income of alternate employment in which the allottee and his family members were previously engaged is difficult to say.

5.4 Occupational Pattern of the Allottees Not Cultivating the Allotted Land

As mentioned earlier, 86 allottees of the total sample allottees did not cultivate the surplus lands allotted to them till 1978-79. The distribution of such

allottees according to the main occupation followed by them is given in table 5.4. It may be stated at the outset that none of the sample allottees in the Madha taluka came under this category as all of them had brought their allotted lands under cultivation and were cultivating them in 1978-79. As such the sample allottees who did not cultivate the allotted lands could be obtained in the remaining talukas. It may be seen from the table that more than half of these allottees, 51 out of 86 or 59 per cent, reported casual agricultural labour as their main occupation. Such allottees pursuing casual agricultural labour as their main source of livelihood were reported in all the sample talukas except Madha.

The second largest group of such allottees was that of 15 allottees who reported services as their principal occupation. We found that most of these allottees, 12 out of 15 were employed in the Army, and the rest, were peons in the Tahasildars' office in the Solapur city. Non-agricultural labour was the main occupation of ten allottees who were engaged as helpers to masons and carpenters etc. in the sample villages. The remaining ten allottees reported independent occupations like tailoring, pottery and trade as their main source of income. Of these, five allottees reporting trade as their main occupation had petty shops of pan and vegetables etc. in the sample villages.

5.5 Annual Income of the Non-cultivating Families

In table 5.5 we give the annual total income of the allottee families which did not cultivate the lands allotted to them. It may be seen from the table that for all the talukas the average annual income per allottee family under this category came to Rs. 1,274 from all sources.

Table 5.4 : Distribution of the allottees who were not cultivating the allotted land according to their main occupation

Taluka	Agricultural labour	Trade	Salaries	Tailoring	Pottery	Non-agricultural labour	Total
North Solapur	6	-	2	-	-	-	8
South Solapur	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Barshi	5	1	1	-	-	-	7
Akkalkot	4	-	3	1	-	3	11
Madha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malsiras	12	2	4	-	2	2	22
Karmala	7	-	1	1	1	1	11
Sangola	15	2	4	-	-	4	25
Total	51	5	15	2	3	10	86

Table 5.5 : Annual income of the allottees who were not cultivating the allotted land

Taluka	Agricultural Labour			Non-agricultural Labour			Salarlates		
	Amount	Perce- tage	Average income	Amount	Perce- tage	Average income	Amount	Perce- tage	Average income
North Solapur	6,294	36.70	1,049	1,685	9.83	337	6,650	38.78	3,325
South Solapur	1,970	62.78	985	1,168	37.22	292	-	-	-
Barshi	4,790	37.00	958	3,480	26.89	435	3,109	24.02	3,109
Akkalkot	4,332	35.49	1,083	384	3.15	192	5,055	41.41	1,685
Madha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malsiras	11,688	46.83	974	1,374	5.50	229	7,756	31.07	1,939
Karmala	5,859	55.83	837	1,730	16.49	346	1,335	12.72	1,335
Sangola	12,945	45.15	863	1,684	5.87	421	9,216	32.15	2,304
Total	47,878	43.71	939	11,505	10.50	338	33,121	30.23	2,208

contd.

Table 5.5 : (contd.)

Taluka	Trade			Independent Occupations			Total		
	Amount	Percen- tage	Average income	Amount	Percen- tage	Average income	Amount	Percen- tage	Average income
North Solapur	2,520	14.69	1,260	-	-	-	17,149	100.00	2,144
South Solapur	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,138	100.00	1,569
Barshi	1,565	12.09	1,565	-	-	-	12,944	100.00	1,849
Akkalkot	1,680	13.76	1,680	756	6.19	756	12,207	100.00	1,110
Madha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malsiras	2,466	9.88	1,233	1,678	6.72	839	24,962	100.00	1,135
Karmala	-	-	-	1,570	14.96	785	10,494	100.00	954
Sangola	4,824	16.83	2,412	-	-	-	28,669	100.00	1,147
Total	13,055	11.91	1,632	4,004	3.65	1,001	1,09,563	100.00	1,274

At the taluka level, the average annual income varied between the lowest, Rs. 954 per allottee family in the Karmala taluka and the highest, Rs. 2,144 per allottee family in the North Solapur taluka. It may be noted from the table that on the aggregate level, casual agricultural labour was the major source of income of such allottee families in all the sample talukas. Its contribution to the average total income per allottee family was as high as 44 per cent. Agricultural labour was followed by the salaried income which contributed about 30 per cent of the average annual income. Contribution from the remaining occupations like non-agricultural labour, trade, and other independent occupations was relatively small, and varied between 4 and 12 per cent totalling the remaining 26 per cent. At the individual taluka level as well, the pattern of income contribution from different sources, appeared almost similar to that on the aggregate level. In the individual talukas as well, the casual agricultural labour and services were the two major sources of income of these allottee families. Non-agricultural labour was an important source of income only in South Solapur and Barshi talukas. In the rest of the talukas its contribution towards the average casual income per allottee was comparatively small. It appears from tables 5.2 and 5.5 that the average annual income of the allottee families who were cultivating the allotted lands was much higher, on the aggregate as well as the individual taluka level, than that of the allottee families who did not cultivate the allotted lands. This could mean that the allottee families who cultivated the allotted lands were more comfortably situated than those who did not cultivate the lands allotted to them.

5.6 Summary and Conclusions

Distribution of land, declared surplus under the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) Act, 1960, was started in 1962, but had not progressed much till 1975. In 1975, the principal Act was amended by Maharashtra 21 of 1975, with the objective of lowering the maximum limit for ceiling on the holdings of the agricultural land in the State. Now as per the Revised Act the agricultural land in the State is classified into five classes and the ceiling limit is fixed for each of them. Thus, for dry land the ceiling limit on land holdings was lowered to 5½ acres, and for different types of the irrigated land, it was between 18 and 36 acres. The Revised Act also prescribed a lower maximum allocable area to an allottee at not more than 7.50 acres or 3 hectares. As a result of these two changes in the Act, not only was more surplus land found, but it was distributed to greater number of allottees. Obviously, the average surplus land per allottee was comparatively smaller under the Revised Act than that under the Principal. Thus, larger area of surplus land, greater number of allottees and smaller average area per allottee formed the three major features of the Revised Act and all of them indicate that the Revised Act was certainly an improvement over the Principal Act. This was evident from the data analysed for the Solapur district. The area of surplus land found in the sample villages under the Revised Act was nearly five times bigger than the surplus area found under the Principal Act. The total number of allottees of the surplus land under the Revised Act was more than six times greater than that of the allottees under the Principal Act. The average area of surplus land per allottee was smaller (1.66 hectares) under the Revised Act than that (2.35 hectares) under the Principal Act.

Another distinguishing feature of the Revised Act refers to reservation of 50 per cent of the surplus land for distribution to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes etc. We have analysed the data for the Solapur district from the view point of such reservation and found that nearly three-fourths of the total allottees in the sample villages were from the Backward Castes. Amongst them the Scheduled Castes formed a dominant group claiming 44 per cent of the total allottees. Within the group of the Scheduled Castes allottees, Mahars were in majority. Allottees from the Scheduled Tribes, however, were a few in number, mainly because their total strength in the Solapur district itself was small. As regards distribution of the surplus land we found that the allottees from the Backward Castes were the major beneficiaries in the sample villages. Allottees from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes claimed more than three-fourths of the total surplus land distributed in the sample villages. Thus, it appears that Backward Castes had received quite a fair share of the distribution and more than what was reserved for them.

P Most of the distribution of the surplus land under the Revised Act was done in the year 1976-77. The possession of the allotted land was also handed over to most of the allottees in the same year. As regards quality of the allotted land in the sample villages we found that its major proportion (63 per cent of the total) was of light soil which was considered in the Solapur district as inferior type of land having ^{low} ~~the~~ fertility and low capacity to retain moisture. The proportion of land having medium-black and deep black soil was very low. This was expected as the choice of land to be surrendered as surplus area to the Government was entirely left to the

surplus landholders and naturally they surrendered such land which was of the lowest quality in their total land holdings. Some of the surplus landholders surrendered even uncultivable land as surplus and such uncultivable land was distributed to some of the allottees in the sample villages. Obviously, such lands could not be brought under cultivation by the allottees.

We observed from the data that of the total allotted land in the sample villages, 481 hectares or 47 per cent was wholly brought under cultivation; 403 hectares or 39 per cent, was partially brought under cultivation and the rest, 138 hectares or 14 per cent, was totally uncultivated. The number of allottees who did not bring under cultivation any portion of their allotted land was as large as 65 or 11 per cent of the total number of allottees. It is important to note from the above data that, of the total allotted land in the sample villages, 713 hectares or 70 per cent (481 hectares wholly brought under cultivation plus 232 hectares of land partially brought under cultivation), was brought under cultivation by 506 allottees and the rest 309 hectares or 30 per cent (138 hectares wholly not brought under cultivation plus 171 from the land partially brought under cultivation) was still uncultivated, even after the period of two to three years since its allotment. The most important reason for keeping the allotted lands uncultivated was that these lands were all rocky and mostly uncultivable. The allottees, therefore, did not venture to bring such lands under cultivation for obvious losses that they would suffer. We feel that such lands should not have been distributed at all.

As regards the allotted land brought under cultivation, it was observed that majority of the allottees had done this in the very year of getting possession of the

land. This meant that most of the allottees were keen to put their allotted land under cultivation and had done it immediately after getting its possession. However, all the allotted land could not be put under cultivation immediately and the allottees were required to develop the allotted lands to bring them under cultivation. The allottees were required to incur cash expenditure in addition to their own labour, to bring their allotted lands under cultivation. The major items of expenditure for development of land were ploughing, bunding, levelling and clearing the lands of stones, pebbles, shrubs, etc. It was observed that on an average, each of the allottees undertaking developmental work on the allotted land, had to spend Rs. 22½ in order to bring the allotted land under cultivation. It appears that the allottees had taken benefit of the Central Assistance Scheme for development of the allotted land. Nearly two-thirds of the total amount spent on land development was provided by the Co-operatives under the Central Assistance Scheme.

The total area of the allotted land cultivated by the allottees themselves in 1978-79 came to 677 hectares or about 66 per cent of the total allotted land in the sample villages. Almost all the cultivated area was of dry land depending mainly on rainfall for its cultivation. Besides the allotted land, some of the allottees had leased-in 16 hectares of land for cultivation, while 21 other allottees had leased-out 37 hectares of the allotted land. Thus, the total area actually cultivated for the year 1978-79 by the allottees themselves, came to 656 hectares. The gross cropped area, however, was 691 hectares, which meant that 35 hectares were double cropped.

The cropping pattern followed by the allottees showed that rabi jowar was the major crop preferred by

most of them. About 68 per cent of the total gross cropped area was reported under Jowar. Bajara, wheat and pulses were the other important crops grown by the allottees on their allotted lands. It was observed that more than 75 per cent of the gross cropped area in 1978-79 was put under food crops. This was to be expected as most of the allottees were poor people who wished to get as much food grains as possible to meet the food requirement of their families, from the lands allotted to them.

The average total cash expenditure incurred by the allottees on cultivation of the crops in 1978-79, came to Rs. 147 per hectare. It was observed that more than three-fourths of this, was spent on tillage only, and the rest on material inputs like seeds, manure and fertilizers. Tillage and particularly ploughing was of utmost importance in the case of the allotted lands as those were of inferior type and some of their areas were brought under cultivation for the first time. And majority of the allottees did not have drought cattle of their own and were required to depend on other cultivators for the requisite preliminary operations like ploughing and other village. Ploughing was such a costly operation that it alone accounted for more than half of the average cash expenditure on tillage per hectare.

The average total value of the produce received from the cultivated land, calculated at the harvest prices prevailing in the sample villages, came to Rs. 247 per hectare. This meant that on an average surplus over and above the actual cash expenditure incurred by the allottees came to Rs. 100 per hectare. It was calculated that the average income per allottee from the cultivation of the allotted land came to Rs. 477 for the year 1978-79.

The share of this income from the allotted land in the total annual income received by the allottee families from all sources was only 17.11 per cent. It was too small to provide a reasonable standard of living to the allottee families in the sample villages. This was so when we calculated the agricultural income as only the surplus over the cash expenditure incurred by the allottees for cultivation. If we consider all the items on farm business account, the agricultural income from the allotted land would be ~~positive~~^{negative}. Under such conditions, it appeared necessary for most of the allottee families to seek employment either in agricultural labour work or other independent occupation.

However, the surplus which we calculated over the cash expenditure required for cultivation, broadly indicated that given proper management skills and the necessary inputs, the allotted lands could be improved in the long-run so as to give a reasonable farm income to the allottees. In this connection we feel that the Central Assistance Scheme of providing development loans should not have been discontinued after two seasons. Such loans are essential for the programme of surplus land distribution to succeed and these should be made available to the allottees for some more years so that the land could be fully developed. As regards the crop loan scheme as well, we feel that such loans should be given more liberally and more on a subsidy basis till the allotted lands are fully developed and start yielding a reasonable farm income to the allottees. It appears that even after the full development of the allotted lands, the allottees would not be able to depend wholly upon them. They would be required to continue with other occupations to supplement their

annual income from the allotted land. We therefore feel, that poultry farming, dairying, bullock-cart transport etc. could be developed as auxillary occupations for the benefit of the allottee families at the village level.