

# **A REVIEW OF LAND REFORM IN NON-ARABLE LANDS IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE FOREST LANDS**

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THIS article seeks mainly to take a brief sequential review of the land reform measures as have been applied so far to non-arable lands in general and to forest areas in particular in India. In doing this, relevant contents of the record on this subject have been freely reproduced in this article to preserve authenticity. It has been emphasized that the whole mass of land should be considered and treated as a natural resource and as such a proper analysis of the interaction between different forms of management of different types of land, should be made. This is necessary in view of the fact that the mass of non-arable lands in India has suffered very severely for want of adequate attention particularly from the point of view of land reform. There are consistent and significant shortfalls in the supply of their products and services. Similar shortfalls on an increasing scale are expected to be experienced in the near future also.

After taking the required review, the scope and pattern of matters regarding immediate attention have been tentatively spelt out. In achieving all the above, different sections of this article have been arranged as under: (1) Introductory, (2) Shortage in products and services, (3) A general historical review, (4) A review of forest policies, (5) A review of forest law, (6) People's rights in relation to the forests, (7) Role of forest resources in the uplift of forest dwellers, (8) Total land involved and problem of optimal size of holdings or management units, (9) Outlook for the future.

## **1. INTRODUCTORY**

1.1 The idea of land-reform measures as applied to non-arable lands is comparatively recent and has not yet attained the desired status in India as it has in many other developing countries. The idea of land-reform as applied in totality to the land surface of a country