

Prevention of Fragmentation and  
Consolidation of Holdings  
in the Baroda State

U. H. DESAI

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**Prevention of Fragmentation  
Consolidation of Holdings  
in the Baroda State.**

( Being a collection of legislative measures adopted  
by His Highness Maharaja  
Sayaji Rao Gaekwad.)

WITH

**AN EXPLANATORY NOTE**

BY

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**Works by the same author.**

Gazetteer of the Baroda State, Vol. I and II, (Rs. 15 each).

Census Report (1911), (Rs. 5).

Forty years in Baroda, (Re. 1-8-0).

Hindu Families in Gujerat, (Re. 1-13-0).

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### PREFACE.

In the various schemes for Rural Uplift, Village Improvement and Rural Reconstruction, which are recently being promulgated in India, among other beneficial measures those relating to the consolidation of small and scattered fields of the agriculturists, and the prevention of their further fragmentation rightly play an important part. A good deal of advice is given to check the pernicious system of fragmentation and to adopt a programme of consolidation. But so far, no other effective way than that of doing so through the formation of co-operative societies, has been pointed out except in the Baroda State, where His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad who has been the pioneer in introducing free and compulsory primary education and free public libraries in his State, of taking practical measures for the prevention of infant marriages, removal of untouchability, breaking of caste tyranny, codification and modernization of Hindu Law and of introducing many other reforms for the moral and material welfare of his people, has also been the pioneer, in India, of taking legislative action with a view to stop further fragmentation of agricultural holdings, below a certain limit (viz. 8 bighas of jarayat, 3 bighas of bagayat and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bighas of kyari lands), to bring about a partial reunion of those already fragmented, by conferring the right of pre-emption on holders of neighbouring fields when those contiguous to their own are for sale, and for a complete union of all the small and scattered fields of a whole village, by applying to it, at the request of the majority of its land-holders, a Permissive Act, designed to effect their thorough restripping.

These legislative measures have been collected and published in this manual with an Explanatory Note in the hope that their publicity may be helpful taking similar action, elsewhere in the country, so that what is now mere preaching from the platform may be put into actual practice there also, slowly but surely, as in Baroda.

Race Course Road,  
Baroda,  
15th April 1934.

GOVINDBHAI H. DESAI.

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