

LAND UTILISATION IN MADHYA PRADESH

T. S. YESHWANTH *

IN a developing economy the management of land in an efficient way is assuming greater importance to feed the increasing population and also to accelerate the growth of industrial sector.

In this article an attempt is made to study as to how far the land in Madhya Pradesh has been put into use by its peasantry in 1972-73.** The year chosen for study pertains to the fourth year of the Fourth Five-Year Plan. The data needed for this paper have been collected mostly from the "Agricultural Statistics, Madhya Pradesh — 1973" published by the Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Land utilisation

As an important factor of production, the land has a special significance and land utilisation study forms a part and parcel of the broader field of "Land Economics". Table I throws light on the pattern of land utilisation in Madyh Pradesh during 1972-73.

Table I : LAND UTILISATION

<i>Land use</i>	<i>Extent of area*</i> <i>(in '000 hectares)</i>	<i>Percentage to</i> <i>total</i>
Forests	14432	32.6
Barren and uncultivable land	2285	5.2
Permanent pastures and grazing lands	3147	7.1
Land put to non-agricultural uses	2029	4.6
Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves	143	0.3
Culturable waste land	2065	4.7
Fallow lands**	1639	3.7
Net area sown	18497	41.8
Geographicpal area	44237	100.0

* By village papers.

** Fallow lands include both current fallows and other fallow lands.

* The views expressed in this paper are the personal views the author and not those of the institution in which he works.

** Bhopal district has been omitted in the study because of its purely urban characteristics.