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Title : **Land Acquisition Policies and their Impact on Tribal Population in Chhattisgarh**

ABSTRACT

Land was considered community property used to meet the basic needs for survival of human being. Private ownership finds justification in the writing of Manu. According to him the land belongs to the person who clear it. This refers to the age of abundance and free possession. Later, geographical constraints of demographic factors made good quality land comparatively scarce.

The main purpose of British revenue system was exploitation of the abundant natural resources of this area. The basic purpose of keeping land records is the revenue collection. The revenue policies in India was reformed by Mohammed Bin Tughlaq during his regime from 1324 to 1351. He maintained a register of land revenue records. Sher Shah Suri and the Mughal rulers further improved the revenue system. The British were of the view that the tribal are closely associated to the nature and environment and the only way to override them is to alienate them from the mother nature. For this they executed such models of development which played a catalyst role in eliminating the tribal identity, which led to protests, revolts and movement against the administration. During British regime, the Zamindars assigned the responsibility of revenue collection and to deposit fixed amount in the Government corpus. There was also a large-scale interference in the forests by the administrative system established by the British. This led to strong discontentment and the tension culminated in rebellions one after another.

The Government enacted a number of laws to acquire land for different developmental projects. In the early part of post-Independence era the rate of land acquisition was at low pace. These developmental projects are causing an adverse impact on the lives of these displaced people while the benefits are going to selected group of industrialists. Significant number of these displaced are the tribal, who are already deprived and backward section of the society. Development-induced forced displacement of the tribes has been found in most of the states, largely in the tribal concentrated region of Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat and Maharashtra. Though as per 2011 Census Scheduled Tribes constituted about 8.1 percent of the country's total population. Yet they constituted about 55.16 percent of the total displaced population. It indicates the extent of victimization of the tribals.

Due to continuous alienation of tribal from land, they are forced to leave their land and move to remote areas in the forest. But they are still under the threat of displacement because majority of them have not ownership right. The land, which is not in the name of individual, is the property of the state and could be used by the state for the public purpose or allotted a company. During pre-dependence period it was without any liability on the Government for the displaced population. However, after Independence, the Article 19 and 21 extended and provided right to life and different rights of freedom but these are merely on paper and have failed morally on ground.

The Government have pathetic attitude towards the tribals, as the modern laws and policies consider these tribal as encroachers. The ever-growing demand of minerals and coal for industrialization and consequently forced displacement has posed a serious threat to the very existence of tribals and their culture.