



LAND ACQUISITION ACT 2013 - POLITY

NEWS: Farmers from Punjab have been protesting at the **Khanauri and Shambhu borders** since February 2024.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

- Their primary demands include:
 - **Legal recognition of Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for crops.
 - Implementation of the **Land Acquisition Act of 2013**.

Overview of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013

- Enacted to replace the **Land Acquisition Act of 1894**, the **Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013** was implemented on **January 1, 2014**.
- Some amendments were made to the Act in **2015** to address emerging challenges.

Key Features of the Act

1. Fair Compensation:

- Landowners are entitled to compensation of:
 - **Twice the market value** in urban areas.
 - **Four times the market value** in rural areas.

2. Consent Requirements:

- Consent is mandatory from:
 - **70% of affected families** for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects.
 - **80% consent** for private company projects.

3. Protection of Irrigated Multi-Cropped Land:

- Acquisition of such land is restricted, and if acquired, the government must develop an **equal-sized wasteland** for agricultural use.

4. Redressal Mechanism:

- Individuals dissatisfied with compensation can approach the **Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement (LARR) Authority** for resolution.



5. Social Impact Assessment (SIA):

- The Act mandates a comprehensive evaluation of the **social, environmental, and economic impacts** of land acquisition projects.

6. Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R):

- Includes entitlements such as:
 - **Houses for displaced families.**
 - **Financial assistance** for livelihood losses.
 - **Employment or annuity-based income** for dependent families.
 - **Infrastructure development** (roads, schools, healthcare) in resettlement areas.

7. Public Purpose Clause:

- Prevents arbitrary land acquisition and ensures land is used for legitimate purposes such as infrastructure development, urbanization, or industrial projects.
- If land is unused for **five years**, it must be returned to the original owners or placed in a **land bank**.

8. Transparency and Accountability:

- Requires public hearings and access to SIA reports.
- Additional benefits and consultations are provided for **Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)**.

9. Exemptions for Certain Projects:

- Projects related to **defence, railways, and atomic energy** are exempt from the Act. However, compensation and R&R provisions still apply.

Challenges in Implementation

1. Delays in Procedural Requirements:

- Lengthy approval processes often hinder land acquisition for development projects.

2. High Compensation Costs:

- Increased compensation and R&R provisions strain both public and private project budgets.



3. Balancing Development with Social Justice:

- Striking a balance between economic growth and equitable land distribution remains a contentious issue.

4. Claims of Non-Implementation:

- Protesting farmers allege that the Act is not being implemented in its **letter and spirit**, leaving affected families without adequate support.

Historical Context of Land Revenue Systems

Before Independence, India had three main land revenue systems:

1. Zamindari System:

- Land owned by **individual landlords** who paid land revenue and employed tenants to cultivate the land.
- Two types of Zamindari systems:
 - **Permanent Settlement**: Fixed revenue for landlords.
 - **Revised Revenue System**: Periodic revision of revenue payments.
- Prevalent in **Bengal, Orissa, Banaras, and Madras**.

2. Ryotwari System:

- Land was owned and cultivated by **individual farmers (ryots)**, who paid revenue directly to the state.
- Introduced by **Captain Read and Thomas Munro** in 1792 in Bara Mahal, later expanded to **Bombay, Assam, and Bihar**.

3. Mahalwari System:

- Land was collectively owned by **village communities**, which were responsible for revenue collection.
- Prevalent in **Punjab, Agra, and Awadh**, with villages divided into **mahals** for revenue purposes.

Farmers' Demands in 2024

- Protesting farmers emphasize the urgent need for the **full implementation** of the Land Acquisition Act to ensure fair compensation and R&R.



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- They also seek broader agricultural reforms, particularly **MSP legal recognition**, to secure economic stability for farmers.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-land-acquisition-act-2013-upsc-land-reforms-9750295/>



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