

COTEMPORARY KERALA

MODULE-1

LAND REFORMS

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LAND REFORM BILL

- 1957december-bill
- 1959-Act
- Proposals



Introduction of Land Reform bill

- Kerala – the only state in India legislated and implemented land reforms of a radical nature.
- CPI Ministry introduced Land Reform bill in December 1957.
- It passed by the Assembly in June 1959
- Subsequent land reforms were passed by the assembly in 1960, 1963, 1964 and 1969
- The land reform bill of 1969 came into force from 1 January 1970. It put an end to feudalism in Kerala.

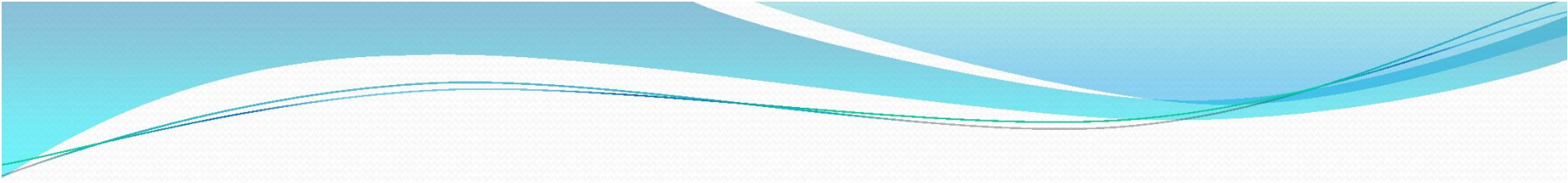
The first legislative measure of E.M.S. Ministry-

- Stay of eviction of tenants by the landlords.
- Besides the tenants, the sub-tenants, hunter dwellers(kudikidappukar) were brought into the jurisdiction of this legislation.
- The landlords in Kerala, especially in Malabar had the right and power to evict their tenants at any time without giving any compensation.
- Give protection to them was a dire necessity.
- It was fulfilled by this legislative measure.





Main Objectives


- 1. to bestow on tenants the ownership of minimum of 10 cents of land.
- 2. to end the old feudal relations by legitimizing the right of the real peasants to own the land they cultivate.
- 3. to introduce land ceiling and distribute excess land among the landless agricultural labourers.
- 4. to abolish exploitation and inequalities in the agrarian sector.


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- 5. to ensure consistent progress and transformation of society.
 - 6. to achieve economic development and modernisation in agrarian sector.
 - 7. to end the era of feudalism in Kerala.

 - The bill sought to give fixity of tenure to all tenants including kudikidappukar and other small cultivators.
 - Even tenants evicted after 1956 were entitled to have their position retained.

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- The tenants were given right to purchase ownership rights, subject to ceiling, by paying compensation.
 - Small owners of land with less than 5 acres of land were protected.
 - Land held by plantation or cashew estates and by religious and charitable institutions was given exemption from ceiling provisions.
 - Land boards were constituted for speedy implementation of the provisions of the bill.

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- Due to the liberation agitation, the central govt intervened and dismissed the govt and imposed President's rule in the state.
 - The Agrarian bill was not given assent by the President- though passed by Assembly, it did not become an Act.
 - The coalition govt headed by Congress introduced a new land reform bill called 'Agrarian Relations Act' 1960, without any drastic change in the provisions of the earlier bill.
 - It introduced new exemptions regarding land transfers, ceilings and evictions. This also could not become law.

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- A fresh Act was passed called the ‘Kerala Land Reform Act’ of 1963 after its inclusion in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.
 - This act came into force soon as it was free from legal challenges.
 - This Act had provisions relating to the fixation of ceiling on land holdings , the vesting of land in excess to the ceiling to the govt, assignment of proprietary right on land to the cultivating tenants, conferment of right on ‘kudikidappukar’ to purchase and constitutions of a ‘kudikidappukar Benefit Fund’.

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- In 1969 a comprehensive land reform bill was made which became the 'Kerala Land Reform Act' 1969, which came into force from 1 January 1970 onwards.
 - It abolished Janmi system.
 - The slogan 'land to the tiller' raised by peasants became reality.
 - Over 27 lakhs of poor peasants became land owners.
 - The small peasants became owners of land they tilled.