

CBSE Notes Class 6 Civics Chapter 6-Rural Administration

There are more than 6 lakh villages in India. Taking care of their needs for water, electricity, road connections is not a small task. In addition, land records have to be maintained and conflicts also need to be dealt with. Large machinery is in place to deal with all this.

Rural Administration

Story of Mohan and Raghu, both farmers who owned adjoining lands separated by a small boundary called the bund. One day, Raghu shifted his boundary to include a bit of Mohan's land. When Mohan went to ask Raghu, he declined and got Mohan beat up with the help of his workers. With nothing else left to do, Mohan went with eye-witnesses to lodge a complaint at the local police station. Despite knowing the Raghu might have influenced the local police, he couldn't register the complaint at another police station because every police station has an area that comes under its control. All persons in that area can report cases or inform the police about any theft, accident, injury, fight, etc. It is the responsibility of the police of that station to enquire, to investigate and take action on the cases within its area. Though initially, the police did not believe Mohan, upon insistence from other villagers the case was filed.

It would have been possible to solve this argument more peacefully if there were records that show who owns what land in the village. Comparing the land records to the current measurements would ensure if Raghu has taken up Mohan's land.

Measuring the land and maintaining the records is the main work of the Patwari- known by different names in different states - in some villages, such officers are called Lekhpal-Kanungo or Karamchari or Village Officer and so on. Each Patwari -responsible for a group of villages-maintains and updates the records of the village-has ways of measuring agricultural fields. In some places, a long chain is used. Patwari is responsible for organising the collection of land revenue from the farmers-provides information to the government about the crops grown in this area-done from the records that are kept- so, it's important for the Patwari to regularly update these as farmers may change the crop they grow or someone may dig a well somewhere- revenue department of the government keep track of all this - Senior people in this department supervise the Patwari's work. Every state in India is divided into districts-for managing matters relating to land, these districts are further sub-divided- subdivisions of a district are known by different names such as tehsil, taluka and so on. At the head is the District Collector-under her revenue officers, also known as tehsildars hear disputes-supervise the work of the Patwaris-ensure that records are properly kept-land revenue is collected.-make sure that the farmers can easily obtain a copy of their record-students can obtain their caste certificates and more. Tehsildar's office is where land disputes are also heard.

A New Law

(Hindu Succession Amendment Act, 2005)

Farmers who own land are mostly men-Women work in the fields, but not own agricultural land. In some states, Hindu women did not get a share in the family's agricultural land. After the death of the father his property was divided equally only among his sons. Recently, the law was changed. As per the new law, sons, daughters and their mothers get an equal share in the land and the same law applies to all states and union territories of the country. This law will benefit a large number of women.

