

## **Rural Administration**

Mohan is a farmer whose family owns a small agricultural field in a village. Mohan and his family have been using this land for farming for many years. But in a heated argument with another farmer named Raghu, whose land was next to the field of Mohan, decided to shout and beat Mohan up. Therefore, through the study of this particular case, as elaborated in CBSE Class 6 Social Science (Political Science) Chapter 6, the rural administration that exists in the rural areas of India to resolve such recurring conflicts shall be understood.

### **The Scenario**

- Mohan had noticed one morning that Raghu had shifted the bund that separated his field and Raghu's land by a few feet.
- By doing so, Raghu had managed to take over some of Mohan's land and increased the size of his own field.
- When Mohan arrived at Raghu's house, a heated argument followed.
- This argument rolled over to anger and Raghu began to beat Mohan up with the help of some of Raghu's helpers.
- Mohan was badly hurt on his head and hand and was given first aid to one of his neighbours.

- One of his friends then suggested Mohan go to the local police station and file a report against Raghu.
- Although being doubtful, Mohan finally decided to go to the local police station with some of the neighbours who had witnessed the incident between Raghu and Mohan.

### Area of the Police Station

- On the way to the police station, one of the neighbours of Mohan who was escorting him to the local police station had asked Mohan why don't they spend more money and go to the main police station in the town instead.
- Since Raghu and his family-owned many fields in the village and his uncle was the Sarpanch of the Gram Sabha, Mohan's neighbours doubted whether the local policemen would be able to resolve the problem.
- Mohan explained to his neighbour that it was not a question of the money. He stated that they can register the case against Raghu only in this police station because their village comes in its area of work.
- 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.

- In case a report has been filed, it is now the responsibility of the police of that station to enquire, to investigate and take necessary actions on the cases within its area.

## The Work at the Police Station

- While at the police station, Mohan went to the person in charge of the Station House Officer (S.H.O) and told him about the incident that had taken place.
- He informed the officer that he wishes to give the complaint in writing.
- The officer, however, rudely brushed him aside and told Mohan he couldn't be bothered to waste his time dealing with minor complaints and then investigating them.
- Upon hearing that, Mohan was puzzled and confused since he did not understand why the officer was not willing to record the complaint.
- Therefore, after a strong argument with the neighbours of Mohan who stated that he had been beaten up in front of them and would have been injured very seriously if they had not been there, the officer finally agreed to file the complaint.
- The officer told the people he would send a constable to investigate the incident the following day.

## Maintenance of Land Records

- Since the argument that broke out between Raghu and Mohan regarding the position of the bund and the area of the field which belongs to Raghu or that of Mohan's farming land, it is reasonable to assume that this conflict could be resolved in a more peaceful manner.
- Therefore, the records that show how much an individual landowner owns in the village are of utter importance in this kind of conflict.
- Measuring the land and keeping the records of those measurements is the main work of the Patwari.
- Patwari, who is also known by Lekhpal, Kanungo, Karamchari or Village Officer; is the officer who is responsible for maintaining as well as updating the records of a village.
- A Patwari is held responsible for the maintenance and the updates of village records for a group of villages in rural India.
- The Patwari usually has ways of measuring agricultural fields.
- In order to measure these fields, some places use long chains.
- Therefore, in the given case of conflict, the patwari would have measured both of the fields of Mohan and Raghu and would have compared them with the measurements on the map of the land.

- In case it was found that the measurements do not match, then it would have been clear that the boundary of the fields has in fact, changed.
- A Patwari is also responsible for the organisation of collecting land revenue from the farmers and providing information to the Indian government about the crops that have grown in the area.
- This is done from the records that are kept and updating these records are, therefore, very important.
- Daily updates are important because farmers may change the crops grown on their fields or a well might be dug somewhere which requires to be kept track of.
- This information is further presented to the revenue department of the government where senior people of the department supervise the work conducted by the Patwari.
- Similar to how all the states in the country are divided into districts, for the management of the matters relating to land, these districts are further subdivided.
- These subdivisions are known in the country by different names such as tehsil, taluka, etc.
- At the head of each of these subdivisions, the District Collector is placed under whom the revenue officers, known as tehsildars, work.
- These tehsildars are the ones who have to hear the disputes and supervise the work done by the Patwaris in

order to ensure that the records of the land are properly kept.

- They are also responsible for ensuring that the farmers obtain a copy of the record themselves and proper land revenue has been collected.
- They also look after whether the students can obtain their caste certificates.
- It is in the office of these revenue officers where land disputes are also heard.

## A New Law

Since daughters of farmers used to be generally left out of obtaining owning a fair share in their families' agricultural lands, the Hindu Succession Amendment Act, 2005 has been modified.

- Since it was only the sons of farmers who were entitled to own a share of their family's agricultural land in rural areas of India, the women and daughters were left behind with no share.
- Since women are often seen as people who work on the fields, but not as people who own agricultural land, a new law passed by the government of India enables women to own agricultural land.
- Because of that, the law has now been revised and modified which states that the ownership of agricultural

land is to be divided by all adults of a farmer's family in equal parts.

- Therefore, the new law enables daughters and mothers of Hindu farmers to own shares of the agricultural land, just like the sons of farmers to obtain ownership of land.
- This law will apply to all the states and union territories of the country which will potentially benefit a large number of women in the country.
- The case for Sudha is a prime example of this. Although she had been married, she's still entitled to a share of land.

## **Important Questions and Answers**

### **Q1. What happened between Mohan and Raghu?**

Ans. Mohan, a farmer owns a small agricultural field. Mohan and his family have been using that field for farming for years. Next to this field of Mohan, was the field of Raghu. The two lands were separated by a small boundary called a bund. However, one morning, Mohan noticed that Raghu had shifted the bund separating their lands by a few feet, taking over some of Mohan's land and increasing the size of his own field. Therefore, when Mohan went to Raghu's house to confront him about it, the two got into a heated argument, resulting in Mohan being shouted at and beaten up by Raghu and his helpers.

**Q2. What is the area of a police station and why did the officer refuse to file Mohan's complaint?**

Ans. The area of a police station is referred to as the area that comes under the control of the police station. Therefore, every person who is a resident in that area can report cases or inform the police station about their concerns or complaints regarding theft, accident, injury, fight, etc. it is thereby, the responsibility of the police of that station to enquire, investigate and take necessary actions within its area. The S.H.O at the police station of Mohan's village refused to file his complaint about Raghu because he stated he did not have time to deal with writing down minor complaints.

**Q3. What is the work of Patwari?**

Ans. Measuring the land and keeping the records of those measurements is the main work of the Patwari. Patwari, who is also known by Lekhpal, Kanungo, Karamchari or Village Officer; is the officer who is responsible for maintaining as well as updating the records of a village. A Patwari is held responsible for the maintenance and the updates of village records for a group of villages in rural India. The Patwari usually has ways of measuring agricultural fields. In order to measure these fields, some places use long chains. A Patwari



is also responsible for the organisation of collecting land revenue from the farmers.

**Q4. Why is having a copy of a land record important for farmers?**

Ans. A copy of the land record is important to the farmers in rural areas because it is their right to obtain a copy of that record. A copy of the record comes with the map which serves as an excellent proof of the farmer's land shapes, size, direction, etc. Similarly, having a copy of the record enables farmers to have a legal record and proof about their land, which is often required while paying taxes. Apart from that, having a copy of the record can also be used to resolve any land-related conflicts which may arise among farmers regarding the measurement and area of their land.

**Q5. What is the Hindu Succession Amendment Act, 2005?**

Ans. Since daughters of farmers used to be generally left out of obtaining owning a fair share in their families' agricultural lands, the Hindu Succession Amendment Act, 2005 has been modified. The law has now been revised and modified which states that the ownership of a piece of agricultural land is to be divided by all adults of a farmer's family in equal parts. Therefore, the new law enables daughters and mothers of Hindu farmers to own shares of the agricultural land, just like

the sons of farmers to obtain ownership of land. This law will potentially benefit a large number of women in the country.