

TABLE II
IMPORTANT EVENTS IN LAND REFORMS IN INDIAN STATES SINCE 1950

State	Year	Title	Description	Class	
Andhra Pradesh	1950 (amended 1954)	Tenancy and Agri-cultural Lands Act (Telengana Area)	Tenants received protected tenancy status; tenants to have minimum term of lease; right of purchase of nonresumable lands; transfer of ownership to protected tenants in respect of nonresumable lands, as a result 13,611 protected tenants declared owners.	1	
	1952	Hyderabad Abolition of Cash Grants Act	Abolition of all the 975 jagirs in Telengana.	2	
	1954	Inam Abolition Act (absorbed) enclaves	Abolition of inams (with few exceptions).	2	
	1955	(Hyderabad Jagirdars) Act	Abolition of all the 975 jagirs in Talengana.	2	
	1956	Inam (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act	Acquisition of 11,137 estates; abolition of 1.06 million minor inams.	2	
	1956 (amended 1974)	Tenancy Act	Tenancy continues up to 2/3 of ceiling area; law does not provide for conferment of ownership right on tenants except through right to purchase; confers continuous right of resumption on landowners.	1	
	1957	Inam Abolition Act	Abolition of inams (with few exceptions), struck down by the High Court in 1970.	2	
	Assam	1951	State Acquisition of Zamindari Act	Abolition of intermediary rights involving 0.67 million hectares.	2
		1954	Lushai Hills District (Acquisition of Chiefs Rights) Act	Same as above.	2
		1956 (amended 1976)	Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Act	Self-explanatory.	3
1960 1971		Consolidation of Holdings Act Tenancy Act	Introduction of compulsory consolidation. Classifies tenants into occupancy and nonoccupancy tenants; former has security of tenure, may acquire landlord's right of holding by paying 50 times the land revenue; subletting is disallowed.	4 1	

Bihar	1950	Land Reforms Act	Abolition of zamindari; implementation of this act very slow.	2
	1957	Homestead Tenancy Act	Confers rights of permanent tenancy in homestead lands on persons holding less than one acre of land.	1
	1961	Land Reforms Act	Prohibits subletting, preventing sublessee from acquiring right of occupancy.	1
	(amended 1973)			
	1961	Land Ceiling Act	Imposition of ceiling on landholdings of 9.71-29.14 hectares (1960-1972) and of 6.07-18.21 hectare (after 1972).	3
	1973	Act 12 (amendment to Land Reforms Act)	Introduced provisions relating to the voluntary surrender of surplus land.	3
	(amended 1982)	Act 55	Provided for the substitution of legal heir; ceiling area shall be redetermined when classification of land changes; ordered that the landholder necessarily retain land transferred in contravention of the Act.	3
	1976	Tenancy (Amendment) Act	Provides definition of personal cultivation; provides for acquisition of occupancy rights by underraiyats.	1
	1948	Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act	Tenants entitled to acquire right of ownership after expiry of one year up to ceiling area; confers ownership right on tenants in possession of dwelling site on payment of 20 times annual rent; law does not confer any rights on subtenants.	1
	(amended 1955 and 1960)			
Gujarat	1960	Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act	Imposed ceiling on landholdings of 4.05-53.14 hectares (1960-1972) and of 4.05-21.85 hectares (after 1972).	3
	1969	Devasthan Inams Abolition Act	Abolishes all grades of intermediary tenures; but law was partially injuncted from implementation by order of Supreme Court.	2
	1973	Amending Act	Provides opportunity to acquire ownership of holdings but largely overridden by numerous provisions.	1
	1953	Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act	Provides complete security of tenure for tenants in continuous possession of land (< 15 acres) for 12 years; grants tenants optional right of purchase of ownership of nonresumable land; no bar on future leasing.	1
Haryana	1955	Pepsu Tenancy and Agricultural Land Act	Same as above.	1

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(CONTINUED)

State	Year	Title	Description	Class
Jammu and Kashmir	1962	Consolidation of Holdings Act	Introduction of compulsory consolidation.	4
	1976	Agrarian Reforms Act	All rights, titles, and interests in land of any person not cultivating it personally in 1971 are extinguished and transferred to the state; provides for conferment of ownership rights on tenants after allowing resident landlord to resume land for personal cultivation.	1
Karnataka	1954	Mysore (Personal and Miscellaneous Inams Abolition Act	Abolished all the large mamdari intermediaries; process of implementation very slow.	2
	1955	Mysore (Religious and Charitable Inams Abolition Act	Same as above.	2
	1961	Land Reforms Act	Provides for fixity of tenure subject to landlord's right to resume 1/2 leased area; grants tenants optional right to purchase ownership on payment of 15-20 times the net rent; imposition of ceiling on landholdings.	1, 3
Kerala	1974	Land Reforms (Amendment) Act	Imposition of ceiling on landholdings of 4.05-21.85 hectares (after 1972); removal of all but one of the exemptions from tenancy legislation.	1, 3
	1960	Agrarian Relations Act	Abolishes intermediaries, but law struck down by Supreme Court.	2
	1963	Land Reforms Act	Concedes tenant's right to purchase the land from landowners.	1
	1969 (amended 1979)	Land Reforms (Amendment) Act	Conferment of full ownership rights on tenants; 2.5 million tenants could become landowners; right of resumption expires; although far-reaching on paper, law "not conducive to social justice" because of concealed tenancy; imposition of ceiling on landholdings of 6.07-15.18 hectares (1960-1972) and of 4.86-6.07 hectares (after 1972); abolition of intermediary rights.	1, 2, 3
		Agricultural Workers Act	Called for employment security, fixed hours, minimum wages, etc.	1
Madhya Pradesh	1950	Abolition of Proprietary Rights (Estates, Mahals, Alienated Lands) Act	Abolition of intermediary rights.	2
	1951	United States of Gwalior, Indore, and Malwa Zamindari Abolition Act	Same as above.	2

1951	Abolition of Jagir Act	Same as above.	2
1952	Vindhya Pradesh Abolition of Jagirs and Land Reforms Act	Same as above.	2
1959	Land Revenue Code	Leasing prohibited; entitles occupancy tenants to ownership rights of non-resumable area on payment of 15 times the land revenue; implementation of reform inefficient, one reason being that sharecroppers and tenants are not recorded.	1
1959	Consolidation of Holdings Act	Introduction of compulsory consolidation.	4
1960	Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings Act	Imposed ceiling on landholdings of 10.12 hectares (1960-1972) and of 4.05-21.85 hectares (after 1972).	3
Maharashtra 1950	Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act	Provides for suo motu transfer of ownership to tenants of nonresumable lands (applies to Marathawada region).	1
1958	Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Land Act	Provides for transfer of ownership to tenants with nonresumable lands (with effect from 1-4-96).	1
1961	Agricultural Land (Ceiling on Holdings) Act	Imposition of ceiling on landholdings.	3
Orissa 1951	Estate Abolition Act	Aimed at abolishing all intermediary interests.	2
1972	Land Reforms Act	Entitled tenants to acquire ryoti rights over entire land held by them.	2
1960 (amended 1973 and 1976)	Land Reforms Act	Provides for fixity of tenure of nonresumable area; prohibits subletting; implementation poor; financial help for purchase of ownership right lacking; most leases in form of sharecropping but sharecroppers not recorded as tenants; imposition of ceiling on landholdings of 8.09-32.37 hectares (1960-1972) and of 4.05-18.21 hectares (after 1972).	1, 3
1972	Consolidation of Holdings and Prevention of Fragmentation of Land Act	Introduction of compulsory consolidation.	4
Punjab 1953	Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act	Provides complete security of tenure for tenants in continuous possession of land (< 15 acres) for 12 years; grants tenants optional right of purchase of ownership of nonresumable land; no bar on future leasing.	1

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TABLE II
(CONTINUED)

State	Year	Title	Description	Class
	1955	Pepsu Tenancy and Agricultural Land Act	Same as above.	1
	1972	Land Reforms Act	Permissible limit (ceiling) is 7 hectares; 5 acres of land are secured, the rest may be resumed; optional right of purchase of ownership; share-cropping not considered tenancy; tenants often coerced to "voluntarily surrender" land; land leases not registered under provision of tenancy laws.	1
Rajasthan	1952	Land Reforms and Resumption of Jagir Act	Abolishes all intermediary rights.	2
	1953	Bombay Merged Territories and Area (Jagir Abolition) Act	Same as above.	2
	1954	Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Act	Introduction of compulsory consolidation.	4
	1955	Ajmer Abolition of Intermediaries and Land Reforms Act	Abolishes intermediary interests in other areas.	2
	1955	Tenancy Act	Confers security of tenure to tenants and subtenants; ownership rights can be transferred; provisions of voluntary surrender made legislation "mere farce."	1
	1959	Zamindari and Biswedari Abolition Act	Abolishes intermediary interests in other areas.	2
Tamil Nadu	1948	Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act XXVI	A series of laws enacted (through long intervals) for the abolition of various types of intermediaries.	2
	1952	Thanjavur Tenants and Pannaiyal Protection Act	Provides greater security of tenure.	1
	1955 (amended 1965)	Madras Cultivating Tenants Protection Act	Prohibits any cultivating tenant from being evicted but allows for resumption up to 1/2 of lands leased out to tenant.	1
	1956	Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act	Abolishes usury and rack-renting.	1

1961 (am. 71)	Public Tenants Act	Provides that no public trust can evict its cultivating tenants.	1
1961	Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act	Imposition of ceiling on landholdings of 12.14-48.56 hectares (1960-1972) and of 4.86-24.28 hectares (after 1972).	3
1969	Agricultural Land-Records of Tenancy Right Act	Provides for preparation and maintenance of complete record of tenancy rights.	1
1971	Occupants of Kudiyiruppu Act	Provides for acquisition and conferment of ownership rights on agriculturalists, agricultural laborers, and rural artisans.	1
1976	Rural Artisans (Conferment of Ownership of Kudiyiruppu) Act	Same as above.	1
1950	Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act	All tenants are given complete security of tenure without any right of resumption for the landowner; leases, in general, are banned; law provided for transferring and vesting of all zamindari estates; zamindari was abolished over 60.2 million acres (out of total state area of 72.6 million acres).	1, 2
(amended 1952, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1977)			
1953	Consolidation of Holdings Act	Introduction of compulsory consolidation.	4
1960	Imposition of Ceilings on Landholdings Act	Imposition of ceiling on landholdings of 16.19-32.37 hectares (1960-1972) and of 7.30-18.25 hectares (after 1972).	3
1950	Bargadars Act	Stipulated that the bargadar and the landowner could choose any proportion acceptable to them.	1
1953	Estates Acquisition Act	Landholders limited to a ceiling; provided for abolition of all intermediary tenures.	1, 2, 3
1955	Land Reforms Act	Provides that landowner can resume land for personal cultivation such that tenant is left with at least 1 hectare; sharecropping not considered tenancy (in West Bengal most tenants are sharecroppers); provides for land consolidation if two or more landowners agree.	1, 4
(amended 1970, 1971, 1977)			
1972	Acquisition and Settlement of Homestead Land (Amendment) Act	Tenants of homestead lands are given full rights.	1
1975	Acquisition of Homestead Land for Agricultural Laborers, Artisans and Fishermen Act	Over 250,000 people were given homestead land (about eight cents each) up to January 1991.	1

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TABLE II
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State	Year	Title	Description	Class
West Bengal (cont.)	1977	Land Reforms (Amendment) Act	"Raises presumption in favor of sharecroppers" (Yugandhar and Iyer 1993, p. 48).	1
	1981	Land Reforms (Amendment) Act	Designed to plug the loopholes in the earlier Acts relating to the ceiling of landholdings.	3
	1986	Land Reforms (Amendment) Act	Sought to bring all classes of land under the ceiling provisions by withdrawing previous exemptions; provided for regulatory measures to check indiscriminate conversion of land from one use to another; law not yet fully implemented.	3
	1990	Land Reforms (Amendment) Act	Same as above.	3

The content of land reform acts are classified into four categories (1 = tenancy reform, 2 = abolition of intermediaries, 3 = ceilings on landholdings, 4 = consolidation of landholdings), where it is possible for a given act to belong to more than one category. In the zamindari land tenure system, which covered 56 percent of privately owned land in British India, the land was vested in the landlord known as Zamindar. Between him and the real cultivator there were several layers of rent receiving intermediaries. Jagirs and inams were free grants of subgrants from the state with the right to collect and appropriate land revenue, though with the passage of time, jagirdars and inamdars became the virtual owners. In their conception the ryotwari and mahalwari land tenure systems did not recognize any intermediary between the state and the cultivator (though ryots and mahals did have full rights to sale, leasing and transfer of land). Infiltration of moneylenders and traders into agriculture and the lease of them to tenants led to creation of an intermediary class even in areas typified by these land tenure systems.

TABLE III
LAND REFORM AND POVERTY IN INDIA: BASIC RESULTS

	Rural poverty gap	Rural poverty gap	Rural poverty gap	Rural head count	Urban poverty gap	Poverty gap difference	Poverty gap difference	Head- count difference
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Model	GLS AR(1)	GLS AR(1)	GLS AR(1)	GLS AR(1)	GLS AR(1)	GLS AR(1)	GLS AR(1)	GLS AR(1)
Four-year lagged cumulative land reform legislation	-0.281 (2.18)	-0.443 (3.21)			0.085 (1.05)	-0.534 (5.24)		
Four-year lagged cumulative tenancy reform legislation			-0.604 (2.52)	-1.378 (3.13)			-0.736 (3.27)	-1.916 (4.37)
Four-year lagged cumulative abolition of intermediaries legislation			-2.165 (4.08)	-4.354 (4.11)			-1.327 (2.59)	-3.364 (3.73)
Four-year lagged cumulative land ceiling legislation			0.089 (0.11)	0.734 (0.86)			0.230 (0.61)	0.888 (1.14)
Four-year lagged cumulative land consolidation legislation			0.456 (0.82)	-0.208 (0.19)			-0.210 (0.42)	-1.737 (1.62)
State effects	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Year effects	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Number obser- vations	507	300	507	507	507	507	507	507

z-statistics are in parentheses. See the Data Appendix for details on construction and sources of the variables. The data are for the sixteen main states. We use data 1961–1992 for fourteen states. For Haryana which split from the Punjab in 1965, we use data 1965–1995 and for Jammu and Kashmir we use data 1961–1991 as there was no NSS survey in 1992. This gives us a sample size of 507. The sample size in column (2) is smaller as it is only run for years when NSS surveys were carried out. Poverty measures in other regressions have been interpolated between survey years. The GLS AR(1) model allows a state-specific AR(1) process—see equation (1) in the text for details. In columns (6) and (7) the poverty gap difference is the difference between the rural and urban poverty gap. In column (5) the headcount difference is the difference between the rural and urban head-count index.

TABLE 5
EFFECT OF REGISTRATION ON THE LOG OF RICE YIELD IN WEST BENGAL, 1979-93
(N=210)

	Model 1 (1)	Model 2 (2)	Model 3 (3)	Model 4 (4)	Model 5 (5)	Model 6 (6)
Sharecropper registration (one year lagged)	.43*** (3.46)	.42*** (3.44)	.43*** (3.55)	.35*** (2.69)	.36*** (2.64)	.36*** (2.63)
Log(rainfall)	...	-.07* (-1.67)	-.08* (-1.82)	-.07 (-1.59)	-.08* (-1.74)	-.08* (-1.77)
Log(public irrigation)	...	.02 (1.01)	.01 (.70)	.01 (.60)	.02 (.83)	.02 (.79)
Log(roads)	...	.28*** (2.75)	.25** (2.46)	.21** (1.99)	.19 (1.55)	.22 (1.54)
HYV share of rice area	...	...	.57*** (2.85)	.45** (2.10)	.47** (2.16)	.47** (2.16)
<i>F</i> -statistic:						
South × year ^a	...	...	...	4.73***	4.36***	4.38***
Left Front × year ^b	...	...	...	...	2.64**	2.65**
Sharecropping × year ^c	...	...	...	...	2.64**	.12
District fixed effects	72.23***	15.10***	8.99***	9.01***	8.47***	7.68***
Year fixed effects	28.31***	27.67***	21.60***	17.63***	17.83***	12.17***
R ²	.91	.92	.92	.92	.92	.92

NOTE. — *t*-statistics are in parentheses.

^a Represents a set of variables obtained by interacting a dummy variable that takes the value one if that district is in southern West Bengal with each year.

^b Represents a set of variables obtained by interacting a dummy variable that takes the value one if that district had a Left Front majority at the local-level government in 1977 with each year.

^c Represents a set of variables obtained by interacting the initial extent of sharecropping in a district with each year.

* Significant at the 10 percent level.

** Significant at the 5 percent level.

*** Significant at the 1 percent level.

TABLE 6
EFFECT OF REGISTRATION ON THE LOG OF RICE YIELD IN WEST BENGAL, 1979-87
(*N*=126)

	Model 1a	Model 1b	Model 2a	Model 2b	Model 3a	Model 3b
Sharecropper registration	.44*** (2.71)	.46*** (2.73)	.46*** (2.41)	.48*** (2.89)	.40** (2.34)	.41** (2.29)
Log(real wages)	...	.11 (1.07)	...	.05 (.55)	...	.03 (.31)
Log(price of rice)	...	-.11 (-.98)	...	-.04 (-.40)	...	.001 (.01)
Log(rainfall)	...	...	-.08* (-1.65)	-.08 (-1.52)	-.08 (-1.45)	-.08 (-1.41)
Log(public irrigation)	...	...	.10** (2.34)	.09** (2.30)	.09** (2.19)	.09** (2.14)
Log(roads)	...	...	.10 (.82)	.10 (.78)	.08 (.47)	.08 (.50)
HYV share of rice area	...	...	.66** (2.14)	.59* (1.77)	.49 (1.45)	.47 (1.34)
<i>F</i> -statistic:						
South × year	...	...	...	...	yes	yes
Left Front × year	...	...	...	...	yes	yes
Sharecropping × year	...	...	...	...	yes	yes
District fixed effects	40.93***	29.34***	6.08***	10.20***	4.51**	3.98**
Year fixed effects	24.39***	20.20***	17.71***	4.36**	14.12***	11.29***
<i>R</i> ²	.89	.89	.90	.90	.90	.90

NOTE.—*t*-statistics are in parentheses.

* Significant at the 10 percent level.

** Significant at the 5 percent level.

*** Significant at the 1 percent level.