

Swatantra Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PHONE: 257421

GRAMS: SURAJYAM



SASOON BUILDING,
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
BOMBAY 1.

When replying, please quote our Reference No. _____

May 12, 1970

General Secretary's Letter No. 229

Dear Friend :

* Enclosed is text of the resolution adopted by the Mysore State Executive of our Party.

The President of the Mysore Unit while forwarding this resolution to us mentions that while a few States have opposed the imposition of the Agricultural Wealth Tax, some others like Andhra have advocated surcharge on Land Revenue instead of levying this tax. This is an important matter. The Party is opposed to such levies. At the same time, as a responsible Opposition Party, we should make our own counter suggestions. Before we can do so it is necessary for us to know of the position taken both by the various State Governments and the other political parties. Could you kindly let us know immediately what position your State Government has taken in this matter as also the attitude of the various political parties in your State? An early and detailed reply from you would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

R. C. Cooper
(R. C. Cooper)
General Secretary

Encl: *

RESOLUTION ON AGRICULTURAL WEALTH TAX

"This Committee strongly urges upon the Prime Minister not to bring the Agricultural Wealth Tax Act into operation for the reasons mentioned below :-

- (a) The fixing up of the prices of various categories of lands with reference to the nature of the soil, size, weather condition and their improved condition or otherwise from year to year by the farmers on their farms will be impracticable and will give rise to a lot of complaints. Only such expert soil Chemists can fix up the prices of value of lands correctly and they are not available for this work.
 - (b) More than half the Revenue derived from the said Tax will have to be spent on the officials and staff engaged for the purpose. The process of collection will give room for a great deal of corruption and litigation.
 - (c) The State Government will lose much of this Agricultural Wealth Tax gradually as the farmers will have no incentives to produce more crops or improve their lands.
 - (d) Gradually the quantity of food grains coming to the Market will be reduced as the big farm will have been reduced to uneconomical holdings where surplus is out of the question."
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Swatantra Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PHONE 251424

GRAMS: KUTAIYAM



SASSOON BUILDING,
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
BOMBAY 1.

When replying, please quote our Ref. No. _____

June 20, 1970

National Headquarters Circular No. 132

Dear Friend,

In connection with the work of the Sub-Committee appointed by the National Executive to consider the implications of the resolution on Agriculture adopted by the Fifth National Convention we require the following material (six copies each) and information from you urgently :

Material

1. Existing legislation in your State in regard to the relationship between landholder and tenant/share cropper;
2. Land ceiling legislation;
3. Legislation regarding minimum wage for agricultural labour.

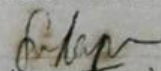
Information

1. The proportion of landholders to non-landholders in your State;
2. Average size of holdings as they really obtain in your State notwithstanding item (2) above
3. Actual remuneration received by agricultural labour notwithstanding item (3) above

We ought to have made this request to you last month but did not do so through oversight, for which we apologise.

We shall be most grateful if the material and information asked for could be sent to us on or before 7th July.

Yours sincerely,


(S. V. Raju)

Executive Secretary

*This Committee
would require
and furnish the
information from
related source?*
P.V.
2/7/70

V

Average size of holdings in Maharashtra state of ~~a big~~ land holders is as follows:-

(1) Big land holders	Dry land 150 to 200 Acres	Wet land 50 to 100 Acres
(2) Medium holders	50 to 100 Acres	10 to 30 Acres
(3) Small holders	20 to 40 Acres	5 to 10 Acres

Big land-holders in Maharashtra are the supporters of the present Congress Govt. Hence there are ^{some} big land holders who have lands more than 500 acres ^{nominally} divided by them amongst their sons, daughters & other relatives, to avoid the effect of the Mah. Agri. Lands Ceiling Act & it is connived at by the Govt. in order to get their support.

VI

Agricultural labour receives an average remuneration of about Rs 150 to Rs 200/- a year plus 12 maunds of Jawar worth about Rs 300/-

VII

Maharashtra Govt. is not inclined to levy wealth tax on Agricultural income or levy any surcharge on land revenue as proposed by ~~the~~ Andhra Govt. This attitude of Govt. ~~to~~ naturally benefits the big land lords getting an income of ~~the~~ thousands & lacs. This does not give any benefit to poor & small agriculturist. It would be beneficial to the poor peasant & society in general to levy ~~the~~ Agricultural wealth & Agri-income tax on landholders owning lands 100 acres ^(X)

(X) and more or getting income of more than Rs 2500/- a year from agricultural.

I Existing Legislation in Mah-state is as follows:—

Agri-lands

- (1) Bombay Tenancy Act 1948
- (2) Hyderabad Agricultural lands Tenancy Act 1950
- (3) Vidarbha Agricultural lands Tenancy Act

This legislation has helped the tenants to become the owners of the land which they cultivate on certain conditions. A class of absentee land lord is tried to be wiped off. But the implementation of this legislation is very defective & has helped the land lords to find out escape.

II

Maharashtra Agri-Lands Ceiling on Holdings (Act 1960)

- (i) ceiling fixed under this Act—
is average 18 to 20 acres of irrigated lands & ~~21 to~~ as regards dry lands minimum is fixed ~~as~~ between 21 to 30 acres while ceiling on dry land is fixed four times of ~~that~~ i.e. 40 to 120 acres.
- (ii) Under the Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation Act of 1947 small plot of land less than 5 to 8 acres is ~~not~~ allowed by this Act.

III

The State of Maharashtra has recently proposed ~~made~~ legislation regarding minimum wage for agricultural labour, but it is still in offing & may take several months to pass and further time for its implementation.

IV

The proportion of land holders to non-landholders in Maharashtra is at present ^{about} 40:60. Formerly it was approximately 25:75 and later on 30:70, before the Tenancy Legislation.