Social Lens

Innovative

Article

Issues and Challenges in Agricultural Reforms with reference to the ideology of Dr. Babasaheb R. Ambedkar in present scenario

Prem Chandra

Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Sardar Patel Subharti Institute of Law, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Meerut 250005, India

* Correspondence: premchandra1979@gmail.com

Abstract: Farming is one of the primary sources as well as foundation of economic activities of India. A huge part of rural population of India which estimated around 65% depends on agriculture. It guarantees about 58% employment in the country. After 75 years of independence, there is still poverty in rural areas. Removal of poverty and raising the living standard of common man must be a prime concern for a welfare state in a democratic system. After independence, various Indian states initiated the process for land reforms through legislation. The Zamindari Abolition and Land Reform Act, 1950 was enacted to abolish the very exploitative system of Zamindari and introduce land reforms. Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006 was enacted repealing Zamindari Abolition and Land Reform Act, 1950to amalgamate, modify and improve legal framework regarding land occupancies and legal provisions related to land revenue applicable in Sate. Land reform is not a prime concern of this new Code. It does not address the issues related to the productivity of land, technological support to farmers, establishing necessary infrastructure such as construction of tanks, wells, water channels, supply of water for agricultural purposes, the protection of land from floods, levelling or terracing of land, erection of buildings for profitable use of the holding, employment of capital and labor. Three acts governing agricultural issues were passed by Parliament in 2020. First one of them is the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 (FAPAFS Act, 2020). The national legal framework for Contract Farming was created. The law-making body put its sincere efforts to regulate the relations between various stakeholders of contract farming. Apprehending future disputes, comprehensive mechanism for resolution of disputes also evolved under the above legal framework. The second one is the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 (FPTC Act, 2020). FPTC Act, 2020 protects the rights to choice and provided liberty to the farmers to sell their farm produce anywhere in the country without any legal hindrance. The Act aims to stimulate online marketing system for farmers in whole country. To regulate supply of essential agricultural produces and items, the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was amended to empower Central Government to take appropriate legal recourse in interest of the nation and public during unexpected situations of the country. Unexpected situations were mentioned in the Act such as war, famine, natural calamities or unusual price rises in the market. Thus, the major issue of agricultural reforms was still untouched under these laws. Although, The Farm Laws Repeal Act 2021 has been passed, and all the above three Acts have been repealed. The impact of these agricultural laws on the tenurial rights has also to be analysed.

Keywords: agriculture; farmers; rights; issues; land reforms; Indian agriculture law

Citation: Prem Chandra. 2024. Issues and Challenges in Agricultural Reforms with reference to the ideology of Dr. Babasaheb R. Ambedkar in present scenario. *Social Lens 1(2)*, 22-27. https://doi.org/10.69971/sl.1.2.2024.16

Copyright: © 2024 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

1. Introduction

Margaret Mitchell highlighted the significance of land as "land is the only thing in the world that amounts to anything, for it's the only thing in this world that lasts. It's the only thing worth working for, worth fighting for, worth dying for!" in his popular novel "Gone with the Wind" published in 1936. In 2014, it was the second favorite book of American readers, after the Bible. It also received the National Book award as well as Pulitzer Prize in 1937. It depicts the significance of land and the story of American civil war and era of reconstruction. The novel story highlighted subsistence and survival from situations of war, love and affection. It also depicts the newly shaped structure of society in terms of gender, class and communities after war. War has changed everything. It has changed cultural norms and values, power of determination and self-control as well as meaning and importance of land for them. In Chapter II, Gerald the father of Scarlet tells

Scarlett that "The only thing in the world that amounts to anything is land". At a time, Scarlett also thinks that only "Tara" which is her own farm or agricultural area belongs to her nothing else. After huge destruction of war, somehow Scarlett manages to reach her farm "Tara" from Atlanta. She is very nervous, sick and weak. She is lying in her orchard near trees of Oaks. She is feeling earth like "soft and comfortable as pillow" beneath her cheek. Her plantation of land or farm "Tara" gives inspiration of life and hope of rays for her life. When nothing left for her life, her farm "Tara" provides strength and vigour to her life. After getting rejuvenated from her land she realises comfort a lot. She decided to continue her struggle, accept all challenges and move forward in her life with firmness and full vigour. Once Scarlett offered her love to Ashley who declined her offer. Later, Ashley, made Scarlett realize that she loves her farm "Tara" more than Ashley. Ashley gives some soil dirt of "Tara" in her hand and reminded her that she preferred her farm "Tara" over the Ashley. Scarlett also felt that Ashley is right. At the end, when everything is lost, she is thinking about "Tara" and realises happiness, comfort peace and everything in continuing presence of her farm "Tara" (Menon 2020). We can trace the historical background of proprietary rights in land with the philosophy of the right to life, liberty and property given by 17th & 18th centuries philosophers Thomas Hobbes, John Loke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Post-independence articles 372 and 13 of the Indian Constitution have a very close relationship with Land Acquisition Act, 1884 and the purpose of British for enacting this Act.[1] Hugo Grotius in 17th century proposed the idea of eminent domain which is regarded as the power of sovereign authority of the country. This power is not absolute because the state or sovereign authority is also responsible for paying compensation. According to the principle of eminent domain, the state has the right to take private land for public purposes. This idea was used to dismantle the very exploitative Zamindari System in India. The relationship of land with tribes and their rights under Article 19 of the Constitution is also demarcated in Indian Constitution itself. Historically, the land has a close relationship with social hierarchy and the origin of House of Lords and House of Commons is also considered in the context of Land. The very famous novel "The Book of Trespass: Crossing the Lines that Divide Us" written by Nick Hayes, published in 2020, is a relevant one to understand the various issues of land which has been depicted very nicely in this novel. Modernization and digitalization of land records is helpful to facilitate digital land transaction avoiding the chances of manipulation in land records.[2] Land re-survey is needed for preparation and maintenance of land records. Re-survey is a tool to identify and find out the real owner of land. In this process ground validation is required. Every piece of land must be given a QR code for the smoothing the process of sale and purchase of Land anywhere in India. A passbook having QR Code and proper feature of security code must be provided to the owners. Map and unique property numbers must be allotted and maintained. It will reduce manipulation of land records. Above all, the land reforms must be looked and introduced in the perspective of Farmers welfare. The title guarantee system and single record system of title in India should be introduced. There is need to implement the report of Planning Commission prepared under chairmanship of Dr. Manmohan Singh for land reform and title guarantee system. Indian farmers are facing same situation as depicted in the famous novel "I Accused" written by John Gardner, published in 2021, in which Alford Morrison is feeling helpless in his life. He was charged with conspiracy to defraud the revenue. He is a man of honesty and completely innocent but charged again and again for wrong things.

Indian economy is largely based on agriculture. It is commonly said that "*Jal hi Jeevan Hai*" but it is not a complete truth. The truth is that "*Jal, Jameen & Jungle hi Jeevan Hai*" because without these things the survival of humans is impossible. Despite this, the agriculture sector and agenda of land reforms are one of the most neglected areas of legal research and policy framework**.** The research in agriculture for policy framework and technological reforms is one of the important aspects to address 21st century challenges.

In India, before green revolution, there was scarcity of food grains in the country. Meanwhile, in 1964, Lal Bahadur Shastri became the prime minister of India after demise of prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Meanwhile, India and Pakistan fought a war in 1965. Slogan "*Jai Javan Jai Kisan*" was given by Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri to motivate the soldiers to defend India and simultaneously cheering farmers to do their best to increase the production of food grains to reduce dependence on imports.[3] Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri also suggested Indian Actor & Film Director Manoj Kumar to make a film based on Indian farmers and soldiers.[4] The Upkar movie Directed by Manoj Kumar based on the backdrop of 1965 war, praised the village life, farmers and soldiers' contributions to the nation. The very famous song of the Movie "*mere desh ke dharti sona ugle, ugle heere moti*" is very relevant and depicts actual living scenario of agriculture sector in India. Recently, in a 2021 Hindi novel "Fifth Pillar: Farmers-The Entrepreneur" written by Dr. Kumud Ranjan, the need of research and technology for growth of agriculture has been well depicted. The novel story depicts that there is a unique combination of lockdown situations and characters of novel that four young engineers realise the problems of the farmers and corrupt system. They think the new software technology as a solution of the problems of farmers. After the Pokhran tests in 1998, Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee added *Jai Vigyan* (Hail Science) to the slogan to underline the importance of knowledge in India's progress. Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking on "Future India: Science and Technology" at the 106th Indian Science Congress at Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar, added Jai Anusandhan "hail the research" to the famous slogan of *Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan and Jai Vigyan* to emphasize the importance of research for the national development. Now the real question of actual growth of agriculture is the same because only slogans have nothing to do with agriculture. There is a bitter truth of our country that after 75 years of Independence, there is poverty in rural areas.

After independence, most of the states of Independent India initiated the process for land reforms through legislation. Progressive laws related to the land reforms have been added to 9th Schedule to avoid the Judicial Scrutiny. In state of Uttar Pradesh,

---

1 Dr. Usha Ramanathan, in her speech in national seminar titled "Land Records and Rights: Laws, Governance and Challenges" organized by Damodram Sanjivaya National Law University (DSNLU), Visakhapatanam, Andhra Pradesh on 19.02.2023 to 20.02.2023.

2 Prof. B. Sudhakar Reddy, in his speech in national seminar titled "Land Records and Rights: Laws, Governance and Challenges" organized by Damodram Sanjivaya National Law University (DSNLU), Visakhapatanam, Andhra Pradesh on 19.02.2023 to 20.02.2023.

3 Available online: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jai_Jawan_Jai_Kisan (Accessed on 25.03.2025).

4 Available online: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upkar (Accessed on 25.03.2025).

the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reform Act, 1950[5] was enacted (Now it has been repealed) and same was put to 9th Schedule of the Constitution. Object of the Act was to abolish the exploitative system of Zamindari and introduce land reforms. Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006 has been enacted now repealing Zamindari Abolition and Land Reform Act, 1950. The object of the code is to consolidate and amend the law relating to "*Land Tenures and Land Revenue***"** in Uttar Pradesh. Land reform is not a concern of the new Code. It does not address the issues related to the productivity of land, mechanical and technological support to farmers, employment of capital, establishing necessary infrastructure such as construction of tanks, wells, water channels, supply of water for agricultural purposes, the protection of land from floods, levelling or terracing of land, erection of buildings for profitable use of the holding, and modernisation of land records.

Three Acts governing agricultural issues were passed by Parliament in 2020. These are Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 (FAPAFS Act, 2020), The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 (FPTC Act, 2020) and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. Though, The Farm Laws Repeal Act, 2021 repeals all the above three laws. FAPAFS Act, 2020 provides a national framework for contract farming including the terms and conditions for supply, quality, grade, standards and price of farm produce and services. It also creates a dispute resolution mechanism. FPTC Act, 2020 gives the freedom to sell and buy farm produce at any place in the country. It also promotes E-commerce in agriculture. E-commerce (Amendment) Act, 2020 provides that central government may regulate the supply of essential commodities only in extraordinary circumstances such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamities. But still, the real issues of agriculture and farmers are untouched and agricultural reforms should address issues such as those related to title dispute, simplification of laws, preparation and maintenance of land records, digitalization of land records, leveling of agricultural land, developing irrigation system, careful use of chemical fertilizers and environmental degradation, marketing of agricultural produces, guarantying minimum and fair prices of agricultural produces, mechanism for producing bio-fertilizers through disposing off raw agricultural produces, managing capital for agricultural activities, nationalization of land, allotment and transfer of land to actual land tiller, introducing the concept of co-operative farming, and accessibility of electricity for agricultural land. In this reference, it is relevant to mapping the idea of Dr. Ambedkar for agricultural reforms with the issues and challenges of the present scenario. Dr. Ambedkar argued that the land should be treated as industry by the state. The idea of Dr. Ambedkar still seems relevant because there is a huge scope for employability in the agriculture sector. Some members of the Constituent Assembly believed land and agricultural reforms should be put in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, but Dr Ambedkar intervened and argued that it should be the subject matter of state list[6]. Now the question is that whether the subject matter of land and land reforms should be brought in Concurrent List of Constitution for introducing uniform agricultural reforms in India. There is a universal truth that our life and livelihood is highly dependent on agriculture. In India, agriculture is not only one of the important sources of Indian economy but also the source of livelihood and survival of human race because no supercomputer of world can produce a single grain for the survival of life and livelihood of human beings.[7]

2. Dr. Ambedkar Agricultural Reforms

The idea of Dr. Ambedkar for land reform can be viewed from various perspectives. Dr Ambedkar's vision for land reforms was very progressive and practical. In Konkan region, there was another system of the collection of land revenue in the form of tax known as Khoti System. Khoti system had a different history and was exploitative for the farmers (Choskey 1960). Dr Ambedkar tried to introduce some legislative reforms for change. To abolish the Khoti system and watan system[8], a bill was introduced by Dr. Ambedkar. During that time, Ryotwari revenue system was also prevalent in Bombay Presidency. In Ryotwari revenue system land revenue was imposed directly on the cultivators who were the actual tillers of the land. There was no middleman like Zamidars for the collection of the land revenue in this Ryotwari revenue system. In some areas, the Khoti system was being governed by the law[9] and in other areas, it was being governed by customary laws. The Bombay Khoti Settlement Act, 1880 was passed on the recommendation of Khoti Commission, which was appointed in 1874. Khot[10] was a very powerful agent or middleman for the collection of the revenue from actual tillers of the land. He was responsible for paying the revenue to the Government. The Khoti system was prevalent in Bombay Presidency specifically in Ratnagiri, Kolaba and Thana District. Under the Khoti systems, Khots were bound to pay a certain amount to the Government. After paying a certain amount of revenue to the government, Khot had liberty to do anything against farmers. This system made farmers like slave of Khot. To liberate the farmers from the Khot system, Dr. Ambedkar introduced the bill in assembly for abolition of The Khoti Abolition Act, 1937. The objective of the Bill was to abolish the Khot system and establish direct relationship with government and revenue paying farmers of the region.

Another system of tenancy and land revenue in rural areas prevalent in Maharastra was the Watan System. Watan is an Arabic word meaning place of residence and Watan system was an old traditional system of Maharastra. Under this system land was granted or awarded to Watandar by ruler for his meritorious services to the ruler. Thus, Watandar was a kind of office given by ruler to an

---

5 Act No. 1 of 1951.Availble online: https://www.lbsnaa.gov.in/storage/uploads/pdf_data/1742473156_The_U_P_Zamindari_Abolition_and_Land_Reforms_Act_1950.PDF (Accessed on 25.03.2025).

6 Constituent Assembly Debate, Vol. IX, 02 September 1949 part-I. Available online: https://indiankanoon.org/doc/282475/ (Accessed on 25.03.2025).

7 Prof. S. Surya Prakash, speech during national seminar titled "Land Records and Rights: Laws, Governance and Challenges" organized by Damodram Sanjivaya National Law University (DSNLU), Visakhapatanam, Andhra Pradesh on 19.02.2023 to 20.02.2023.

8 Bill No. XX of 1937.

9 *Bombay Khoti Settlement Act of 1880*

10 The Gazetteers Department, State of Maharashtra, Revenue Administration, Available online: https://cultural.maharashtra.gov.in/english/gazetteer/KOLABA/rev_admin_tenures.html#:~:text=The%20Khoti%20villages%20included%20some,lands%20were%20heritable%20and%20transferable (Accessed on 25.03.2025).

individual for his meritorious services. Watandar was entitled to enjoy the various privileges and salutation from state authorities (Sudhi 2019). Dr Ambedkar did his best to abolish all these types of exploitative systems.

3. Dr. Ambedkar Vision for Agricultural Reforms

The vision and idea of Dr Ambedkar published in Journal of Indian Economic Society in, 1918 about ownership of land and land reform was very clear. Dr Ambedkar proposed that ownership rights should be given to those who were liable to pay revenue for specific piece of land. His published work is popularly known as "Smallholdings on Indian Agriculture and their Remedies". In his article, Dr. Ambedkar concluded that consolidation of the holdings may prevent the evil of scattered holding, but it cannot prevent the evil of small holdings as large holdings are economic and small holdings are uneconomic. The productivity of land depends on various factors. A small holding may be economic or uneconomic because economic or uneconomic does not depend upon the size of land. It depends upon the appropriate proportion among all factors including land.

In 1942, an All-India Schedule Caste Federation (AISCF) was founded by Dr. Babasaheb R. Ambedkar and N. Shivaraj. The purpose of the federation was to protect and promote the rights of Dalit communities. After independence, the Constituent Assembly was set up for making the constitution of India. On behalf of AISCF, Dr. Ambedkar himself presented a memorandum titled "State and Minorities (1947)" to the Sub-Committee of Fundamental Rights of Constituent Assembly.

Keeping in mind the various issues and challenges of agriculture in India, Dr Ambedkar proposed a unique idea about the agricultural reforms in India. Dr. Ambedkar proposed that agriculture should be considered as a state industry by the state. The state must take over all the rights of the people from land. After taking over or acquiring the rights of the people from land, the people must be paid appropriate compensation in the form of debentures for their titles on the land. The debenture should be issued of equal value to the right of private person in the title of land. In certain situations, the state must allow the individual debenture holders to claim the amount in cash payment. In this regard the state must prescribe by rule that when and how the debenture holder can be entitled and claim their debenture in cash payment. The debenture must be transferable and inheritable property. No debenture holder, any heir of debenture holder or transferee of debenture shall be entitled to claim the return of land. The state shall be entitled to deal with the land acquired by the state in such a way as the state wants to use such land. The debenture holder will be entitled to claim and receive interest in his debenture. The rate of interest must be determined by the state. Dr Ambedkar proposed that agri-industry ought to be organized by the state. The land acquired by the state must be divided into standard size of plots or farms of land and distributed among people residing in the village for cultivation as tenants. The practice of collective farming must be promoted, and the agricultural land should be cultivated as a collective farming at village level. The land shall be distributed in such a manner that there is no landlord, no tenant and no landless laborer in the village. Monetary assistance shall be provided by the state, and it shall be the state duty to finance the cultivation of the collective farms. The state should develop irrigation facilities and supply the water for irrigation to the farmers. The state must provide manure and seeds to the farmers. The state shall be entitled to levy the charges on the farm produce and collect a portion of produce from cultivators for land revenue. The state should collect a portion of produce from cultivators to pay the interest to debenture-holders and collect a portion of produce from cultivators for use of capital goods supplied to cultivators. State must prescribe penalties against tenants who break the conditions of tenancy and are found willfully and deliberately careless about the best possible use of the land or otherwise act prejudicially to the scheme of collective farming. Importantly, Dr Ambedkar suggested that the scheme shall be brought into operation as early as possible but in no case shall the period extend beyond the tenth year from the date of the commencement of the Constitution of India (Ambedkar1947).

The scheme proposed by Dr Ambedkar for land reforms was for the betterment of the life of the people and for economic growth of the state. Under this scheme, the state was bound to plan and carry on the agricultural activity for the welfare of cultivators and for the economic growth of the country. Dr Ambedkar wanted to ensure the equal, just fair and reasonable distribution of the land, ensuring the highest productivity of the land. According to Dr. Ambedkar, state socialism is necessary for the rapid industrialization of India. Private enterprises are not enough and sufficient to do it. Private enterprises or privatization in India would produce those inequalities of wealth which private capitalism has produced in Europe. Consolidation of Holdings and Tenancy legislation cannot bring prosperity in agriculture and cannot improve the millions of untouchables who are just landless laborers. Only collective farming as proposed above can solve the real problem of the people.[11] In brief, it can be said that Dr Ambedkar argued for the nationalisation of land.

4. Issues and Challenges for Agricultural Reforms

The scheme proposed by Dr. Ambedkar for agricultural reform has not been implemented till date in India and agriculture sector is facing many challenges in India. After independence, various Indian States had acquired the land from Zamidars abolishing the Zamindari system, but the organization of holdings and distribution of land has not been done against scheme of Dr. Babasaheb R. Ambedkar. There is need to adopt sustainable agriculture practices for the long-term viability of the agriculture sector in India. There are several issues and challenges in adopting sustainable agriculture practices in the country as follows.

i. **Lack of awareness about the use of new technology:** Technological advancement has occurred in every sphere of life; however, majority of farmers are not aware of these new technologies. Framers need to adopt sustainable auricular practices for the farming of the land by adopting new technologies.

ii. **Channelling capital:** Indian farmers have agriculture, but they do not have sufficient savings from agriculture. From agriculture, they can only fulfil their daily needs and requirements leaving no money to develop infrastructure for better and sustainable agriculture. Financial assistance from government is very meagre and are less effective due to corruption in the functioning of government.

---

[11] Ibid.

iii. **Co-operative Farming:** Dr Ambedkar supported and argued for adopting co-operative farming. Unfortunately, contract farming is prevalent in India in a distorted manner. For money, farmers let out their land to money lenders on arbitrary conditions imposed by them.

iv. **Inadequate Policy and Regulatory Framework:** Regulatory framework is not very helpful for adopting sustainable agricultural practice. Only a few farmers using advanced technologies are beneficiaries of various government schemes and policies. The policy framework must be designed in such a manner that majority of farmers can take advantage of those policies and schemes of the government. There is huge scope of adopting and promoting sustainable practices, for example providing solar panel systems to farmers at a subsidized price.

v. **Lack of Research Culture and Development:** Development of any sector depends on the research and good sustainable practices of development. Only good research practice can open the door of development of any sector. In India, there is not much monetary support for research and development. There is a need to increase the monetary support for research and development in agriculture. Dr Ambedkar believed agriculture should be treated as an industry.

vi. **Poor Infrastructure and Technical Support**: Infrastructure and technical support for farmers is very nominal. Farmers do not have proper irrigation support system, modern marketing system and cold storage. Hence, they are not getting reasonable prices from their present market system for their products. For economic activities, infrastructure is the backbone. In rural areas, the road infrastructure is very poor, compromising the connectivity of villages to the markets. The connectivity of roads, cold chains, storage facilities, facilities of irrigation, availability of various tools of farming to the farmers is meagre posing a significant challenge for the agriculture sector in rural areas. Due to non-accessibility to markets, farmers sell their products to middleman.

vii. **Little Productivity of Land**: Productivity of land needs to be increased. Agriculture land of India is very fertile, and land productivity can be improved by taking appropriate measures.

viii. **Small Holdings and Fragmented Size of Landholdings:** The size of the holdings in India is small affecting the proper utilization of various resources. Dr Ambedkar suggested a co-operative system is a good solution for the fragmentation of land.

ix. **Natural Calamities and Climate Change**: Natural calamities such as drought, flood and sudden attack of insects on crops are a big threat to the farmers. The forecast and management these natural calamities become essential for betterment of life of farmers.

x. **Equal Distribution of Land:** After independence, Zamindari system has been totally abolished from Uttar Pradesh. But still, the distribution of land is not equal. Most of the people who are involved in farming do not have their own land.

xi. **Problem of Levelling of Land:** Land levelling is beneficial for farmers. It however may cause soil degradation, increased runoff and other environmental issues, if it is done improperly on large scale. Therefore, the levelling of land is required in proper and efficient manner.

xii. **Lack of Irrigation System:** A proper irrigation system is back bone of agriculture. However Indian farmers have to arrange the same by their own. Community based irrigation system needs to be developed for farmers for their convenience so that they can avail the facilities of irrigation easily.

xiii. **Use of Chemical Fertilizers and Environmental Degradation:** Previously fertilizers were developed naturally by people in villages. People used to rear animals in large scales which were beneficial for land and the environment. To increase crop production farmers started chemical fertilizers which are harmful to the health of humans, animals, soil, water and environment.

xiv. **Management of Agricultural Raw Produces:** Management of agricultural raw materials is another problem. A comprehensive, cost-effective and efficient method needs to be developed and made available to all farmers.

xv. **Minimum Fair Price of Agricultural Produces:** The benefit of minimum support price (MSP) is not available to all farmers, and they often face problems of unstable market prices. However, most farmers sell their products in the open market at a comparatively lower price. A legal guarantee for MSP may ensure a minimum income to the farmers and safeguard them from unexpected price smashes.

xvi. **Marketing of Agricultural Produces:** Marketing of farming produces is highly unregulated in India. Many *arhatiyas* and brokers use unfair means against farmers and farmers pay unnecessary expenses such as palledari for loading or unloading of bullock carts, and karda or garda for impurity of their agricultural produces.

xvii. **Accessibility & Supply of Electricity:** There is a strong connection between supply of electricity, water and agriculture as it is required for pumping of water and irrigation. Proper and cheap supply of electricity to the farmers is needed. Approximately 83% of the total irrigation energy demand is met through grid electricity with diesel accounting for about 17%. Solar electricity makes up less than 1% owing to high initial costs (Chindarkar et al. 2020). Therefore, the electricity for farmers needs to be comprehensively subsidized in India.[12] When cost of electricity is subsidized for farmers then productivity increases positively.[13]

5. Conclusions

Dr. Ambedkar believed that farming should be treated equally to other industries by the state. There should be collective and co-operative farming, farming land should be rent out to residents without any discrimination and there should be no landlord or

[12] NITI Aayog Government of India, 2016.
[13] Ibid,

land labourer. The state should support the agricultural activities in a period beyond ten years from commencement of Constitution, but it has not been implanted till date in India. The land is one of the important sources of livelihood and it should be developed accordingly by the state as a priority. Infrastructure necessary for agriculture needs to be developed and regulatory framework and policies should be revised and reframed.

References

Ambedkar, Babasaheb R.1947. *States and Minorities, what are their Rights and how to Secure them in the Constitution of Free India*. MPJ Publishers, India. https://drambedkar.co.in/wp-content/uploads/books/category2/11states-and-minorities.pdf.

Chindarkar, Namrata, Chen Yvonne Jie, and Sathe Shilpa. 2020. Link between farm electricity supply management, farm investments, and farm incomes - Evidence from India. *Energy Policy* 141: 111407. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2020.111407

Choskey, R.D.1960. *Economic Life in the Bombay Konkan 1818-1939*.Asia Publishing House, Bombay: India.

Menon, Mrs. P. Rajisha. 2020. Thematic analysis of Margaret Mitchell's gone with the wind. *Journal of English Language and Literature* 7:62-68. https://joell.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/62-68-MARGARET-MITCHELL%E2%80%99S-GONE-WITH-THE-WIND-1.pdf.

Sudhi, Mandloi.2019. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on Mahar Watan: Quest for socio-economic emancipation of Mahars. *Vidyasagar University Journal of History* VIII: 103-119. https://ir.vidyasagar.ac.in/handle/123456789/6503