

## PREFACE TO THE REPRINTED EDITION

Land revenue which was the prime source of income to fill the empty coffers of a State has a long history. During the time of Sur Dynasty, the job of land measurement, sources of irrigation, kind of land, fixation of land revenue, recording the rights of landowners and the right-holders, payment of compensation for the lost crops due to natural calamities, vagaries of weather, destruction due to movement of armed forces and enemy action etc. were determined by Diwan Todar Mal. Keeping in view his generous efforts, Mughal Emperor Akbar assigned him the same jobs, ignoring the fact that he was previously in the employment of their rebel Sur Kings. The policy and system devised by Diwan Todar Mal guided not only the Mughal Emperors but the same was adopted by the Britishers with minor changes here and there which then suited to a foreign ruler.

After acquiring a rich experience in revenue administration with the permanent settlement of Bengal and having taken over the control of revenue collection in the Avadh, the Britishers made inroads in the Cis-Sutlej territory after the Treaty of Sirji Arjengaum in 1803 whereby Daulat Rao Sindhia ceded to the East India Company and its allies all the territories, notably comprising the then districts of Gurgaon, Delhi, Rohtak, Hissar, tahsil Panipat and *pargana* Karnal in the Karnal district.

For many years after annexation Mr. Thomason's directions for Settlement Officers in the North-Western provinces was the authoritative text book in the Punjab as regards all matters connected with land revenue settlements. The first attempt to write a handbook specially adapted for the use of Punjab officials was made by Mr. Robert Cust whose Revenue Manual was issued in 1866. This manual deals with rights in land and the principles and methods of land revenue settlements.

After the passing of the first Punjab Tenancy Act-1868, the first Land Revenue Act-1871 and the issuance of rules under the latter, the duty of revising the directions was entrusted to Mr. D. G. Barkley. With passage of time of over twenty years, the methods of assessment were modified, especially in the direction of adapting the demand in insecure tracts to the varying yields of good and bad seasons and the great importance of the distribution of the village assessment over holdings has at length been appreciated. The cumulative effect of these changes was so great that Mr. Barkley's work became obsolete and the job of preparing a new Settlement Manual for Punjab was assigned to J. M. Douie by the then Lieutenant Governor, Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, who successfully completed this tedious job in October, 1899.

The history of settlement in the composite Punjab has been divided into five periods, firstly from 1846 to 1863 which began in the Cis-Sutlej and Trans-Sutlej territories. After the mutiny of 1857, Hisar was re-settled and Sirsa settled for the first time. In the second period (1863-71), no settlement in the present districts of Haryana was made. However, in the third period (1871-79), revised settlement of the greater part of old Delhi territory Rohtak, Gurgaon, Delhi and a *tahsil* and a half of Karnal was effected. Also, in the fourth period (1879-89), revised settlement of Ambala and parts of Karnal was made and reassessment of Hisar was undertaken.

The ten years beginning with 1879 were marked by great changes in the settlement procedure culminating in the system embodied in the Land Revenue Act of 1887. The fifth settlement started from 1889 and continued up to 1943 resulting into publication of summary settlement, first settlement, second settlement, revised settlement, final settlement report etc. of various districts and the work was stopped just a couple of years prior to independence.

The object of a settlement is two-fold. To assess the land revenue is the primary object of a settlement and framing of a record of rights (*Jamabandi*) is secondary. In the primary object, it is necessary at the same time to decide who shall pay the sums assessed or, in technical language, with whom the settlement shall be made. To permit an individual to contract to pay the land revenue is usually an acknowledgement that he possesses a proprietary right in the soil, and the drawing up of lists (*khewats*) showing the landowners in every estate, the extent of each man's right, and the amount of revenue for which he was primarily responsible. It soon became evident that there were other persons who had rights in the soil besides those who could claim the offer of a settlement, and the advisability of making a complete record of all rights and liabilities connected with the land, including even those of tenants from year to year, was recognized.

Though, this Reprinted Edition of Settlement Report of the Karnal District, 1909 written by A. M. Stow, Esquire, I.C.E., Settlement Officer, is more than 100 years old, every care has been taken to maintain its originality while reprinting. This is the sixth reprint in the series of reprinted editions of settlement reports.

I extend my appreciation to Veena Rani, Editor, and the team of Assistant Editors Raj Kumar, Rajni Gupta, Surender Kumar, Surinder Singh Sewal and Amita Arora who have handled the work with efficiency and care in the reprinting of this report.

I am thankful to the Controller, Printing and Stationery, Haryana and his staff in the press for expeditiously completing the work of reprinting.

Chandigarh  
December, 2014

**Ram Kishan Bishnoi**  
Joint State Editor, Gazetteers,  
Revenue and Disaster Management Department,  
Haryana, Chandigarh