

THANKS FROM FIRST LAND REFORMS COMMISSIONER, WEST BENGAL.

D. Bandyopadhyay.

LAND REFORMS COMMISSIONER AND
SECRETARY (EX-OFFICIO), LAND AND
LAND REFORMS DEPTT.
WRITERS' BUILDINGS, CALCUTTA.

D.O. 264(44)-G.E.
17/82

The 12th January, 1982.

My dear Asok,

During the last four years I have been writing to you many letters, some polite and some not so palatable. Now I am writing to bid farewell to all of you. I am leaving for Delhi on 16th January, 1982.

Often, in my letters I called upon you to do many things which apparently looked not so related to the core subject of land reforms. During these years I endeavoured to impress upon all my colleagues senior or junior that in an agrarian economy of ours land reforms is the key to rural development and that is why it has to be multi-dimensional both in its concept and implementation. Therefore, letters went on bank credit to sharecroppers and patta holders, new design of L.R.D.P. for the same group, Special component plan and Tribal Sub-plan for the beneficiaries of land reforms and the like. Land alienation, landlessness and insecurity of share cropping arrangement could be effectively combated not merely by a purely juristic approach but by multi-prong economic programme to bring the rural destitutes at least around or above the poverty line.

While one could take legitimate pride about the performance of 'Operation Barga', there is hardly anything to write home about the distribution of vested land. Restoration of land alienated through distress sale was also minimal.

I wouldn't venture to do a review of all that has been done or left undone during my tenure as Land Reforms Commissioner. To-day I would only like to express my heart-felt thanks for the cooperation that I received from you and from all your staff and officers in implementing operation barga and other schemes of land reforms.

There is a chinese proverb that for a thousand 'lee' journey one has to take the first small step. What we have been doing is really a preliminary step towards the ultimate objective of rearranging the property structure in the agrarian sector to reduce poverty and to eliminate exploitation. We have miles to go.

Thanking you again.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

D. Bandyopadhyay.

Shri A. Gupta, I.A.S
D.L.R.& S., West Bengal.
Survey Building, Calcutta.

Memorandum No. 737/213-230/C/81

Dated, Alipur, the 21st January, 1982

Copy forwarded to :-

1. The Settlement Officer (All)

K.P. Sandilya
For Director of Land Records and Surveys
West Bengal.

<http://wbllroa.in>