

Online land records available in Rajasthan

- by Aditi Datta, CHRI

New Delhi, Oct 28: The internet revolution is making a substantial difference in the lives of the citizens and especially in the countryside. Farmers and land holders in Rajasthan will now be able to get direct access to their land holding details on internet from anywhere anytime. The project launched by the Rajasthan state government aims to bring in more accountability and transparency in the whole system of land records. It would also provide information relating to land records online to the peasants for the first time in their lives.

This system seeks to check rampant corruption and manipulation of records that goes unabated in the rural areas that is marked by stark poverty and feudalism. Now the land holders entire record can be viewed by selecting tehsil, name, Khata (account) and Khasra (serial) numbers. The land records of 209 tehsils of the 32 districts and the "Jamabandis" (revenue records) of 37,980 villages have been computerised and as many as 95,490 of them have been released. The farmers can get the Jamabandi copies as well as the relevant information online.

To this effect, the state government has authorised kiosk holders to get the land record copies from the internet on a fixed payment. An official release has pointed out that the project had been successfully launched at tehsil level in all the 32 districts in the State.

Apart from Rajasthan, the state government of Karnataka had launched the Bhoomi project in mid-1999 and have successfully digitize their land revenue records. Numerous other states funded and aided by World Bank are providing services through the internet in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The computerization of land records in India has been the latest buzzword for governments trying to reduce poverty, address corruption in their bureaucracies and make themselves more responsive to their citizens. It is part of a whole swathe of so-called 'digital solutions' that many hold can help developing countries like India leapfrog certain stages in their development processes.

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2003/10/27/stories/2003102703770400.htm>

<http://www.apnic.net/mailling-lists/s-asia-it/archive/2003/10/msg00001.html>