

**Problems of Land Acquisition: A Case Study of Gobindpura,
District Mansa (Punjab)**

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By

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August, 2013

CERTIFICATE

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ABSTRACT
**PROBLEMS OF LAND ACQUISITION: A CASE STUDY OF GOBINDPURA,
DISTRICT MANSA (PUNJAB)**

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Despite India's roaring economic growth over the past decade, and its citizens' growing belief that it is finally ready to join the league of global superpowers; the country remains vulnerable in providing electricity to all its citizens. Therefore, arises the need for construction of power plants, which creates the problem of land acquisition in India. Many studies have dealt with the problem of land acquisition from different parts of the country, like Singur Tata Case, Nandigram and Odhisa Pasco. The present study tries to analyse the socio economic implications of land acquisition of Gobindpura, a village of Mansa. Earlier studies are mostly related to the SEZ and land for industrial projects. But the present study is concerned with the land acquisition for a new thermal power plant. In lieu of its significance, the study looks at its socio-economic impacts of land acquisition in village Gobindpura and the nature of struggle being faced by people there due to the loss of land and livelihood. It was in October 2010, the Government of Punjab had decided to establish a Thermal Power Plant of 1320 Mega Watt (MW) in Gobindpura with the help of Poena Power Company. The total land area of the village is 1458 acres, out of which 806 acres of land has been acquired by the State Government of Punjab for establishing the thermal power plant. Due to the land acquisition, the land holdings of the people reduced from 1458 acres to 652 acres in the village. The study found that there has been change in cropping pattern and leased 'in and out' pattern of the agrarian land. Annual income of villagers decreased after land acquisition due to reduction in the

size of agricultural land. The compensation amount given to the farmers ranged between from Rs. 23.23 lakhs per acre to Rs. 23.77 lakhs per acre, including displacement allowances, which was less than the announced amount. The study concludes that the problems arising out of land acquisition are due to following reasons: paying less compensation to the land owners, land acquired for the private projects in the name of public purpose, not providing the alternative source of income to the affected people and ignoring the agricultural labourers. The study suggests that the compensation amount being decided by the government should be based on the actual market price. It also suggests that the government should re-evaluate the existing land acquisition norms in India. The agricultural land acquired for purpose of development projects will make the agricultural population unemployed due to the multiples externalities of the projects, which are unskilled to fetch other jobs apart from aggravating the problem of food security in future.

Gurvinder Singh

Dr. Sandeep Kaur Bhatia

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

S.No.	Full form	Abbreviation
1.	Bhakhra Beas Management Board	BBMB
2.	Bharatiya Janta Party	BJP
3.	Bharatiya Kissan Union	BKU
4.	Biju Janta Dal	BJD
5.	Export Promoting Zone	EPZ
6.	Foreign Direct Investment	FDI
7.	Greater Noida Industrial Authority	GNIDA
8.	Gross Domestic Product	GDP
9.	Guru Gobind Singh Thermal Plant	GGSTP
10.	Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant	GHTP
11.	Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Plant	GNDTP
12.	Himachal Pradesh	HP
13.	Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill	LARR
14.	Left Front Government	LFG
15.	Liberalization privatization and Globalization	LPG
16.	Mega Watt	MW
17.	Memorandum of Understanding	MoU
18.	Million Units	MU
19.	National Highways Authority of India	NHAI
20.	New Industrial Policies	NIP

21.	People Party of Punjab	PPP
22.	Pohang Iron and Steel Company	POSCO
23.	Public Private Partnership	PPP
24.	Punjab State Electricity Board	PSEB
25.	Punjab State Power Cooperation Limited	PSPCL
26.	Punjab Urban Planning & Development Authority	PUDA
27.	Shromani Akali Dal	SAD
28.	Special Economic & Export Promoting Zone	SEEPZ
29.	Special Economic Zone	SEZ
30.	Structural Adjustment Programme	SAP
31.	Trinamool Congress	TMC
32.	Upper Bari Doaba Canal	UBDC
33.	Uttar Pradesh	UP

Chapter I

Introduction

Land Acquisition in India refers to the process of acquiring land by the State or Central Government of India for various infrastructural and economic growth initiatives. The 'Land Acquisition' involves the process of acquiring the land by the government or any government agency as authorized by the law, for public purpose from the individual landowners after paying compensation, as per fixed by the government, in lieu of losses that may be suffered by the land owners due to surrendering of their land to the concerned government or government agency (Bedi, 2013).

Taking the land for public use is a part of our legal heritage. Land may be taken either for government use or by delegation to third party who will devote it either to public and civic use or in some cases for economic development. Government has the power to take any private property for public use. The most common uses of such property are for government buildings and other facilities, public utilities, highways, and railroads (Larsson, 2012).

The Constitution of India has originally provided the 'Right to Property' under the Article 19 and Article 31. The Article 19 guarantees to all the citizens the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property. The Article 31 deal with the framework of legal provisions for taking over the private property either for a limited period or for full time period to secure the land uses in favor of public interest. It has also provision to compensate land dispossessed persons for public purposes. Right to Property was originally a fundamental right, but by the 44th Amendment Act 1978, this right has been deleted this right from the list of fundamental rights (Salian, 2004). Now, this right comes under the category of constitutional rights.

The genesis of land acquisition in India was started with The Bengal Act (1824) which was enacted to promote British commercial interest in India. Finally British fortified the Land Acquisition Act (1894) for rapidly land acquisition with the minimum compensation payment for public purpose. But this public purpose was neither

defined nor explained to the people. Even after the end of the Colonial rule, the Indian Government has not brought any changes in Land Acquisition Act because as per the Indian Constitution, Colonial laws remain the main guider till now (Ghatak and Ghosh, 2011). Soon after the independence, under the Nehru era heavy industrialization took place, requiring land for their establishment. In order to meet this requirement, the Indian government started the movement of land acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act 1894 for public purposes like, building large dams, power plants, and mining etc. But in the Nehru era land was acquired not only for public sector but also for private sector as well. Due to this problem the first case was appealed in 1962 i.e. the landmark judgment of R. I. Arora vs. State of U.P textile industry as a public purpose. Government did not justify whether the land acquired was for the public purpose or something else (Ray and Patra, 2009).

Land Acquisition has raised major controversial issues after the introduction of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) policies in India in 1991. After its introduction, not only a number of economic reforms have been introduced but also industrialization has also been exponentially expanded on the account of the same. These new economic reforms have promoted a competitive economy by reducing the government's influence in corporate investment decisions and the industrial-licensing system. More MNCs have started coming in India, which required land for the establishment of requisite infrastructure.

Thus, we can say that the basic reason behind the land acquisition is due to the shift in the pattern of development. In earlier period, Indian economy was mainly dependent on the agriculture sector but now both manufacturing and services sectors are contributing the largest share in GDP. For the establishment of new infrastructure in these sectors, Indian government requires a considerable amount of land. Therefore besides the shift in pattern, the other factors responsible for land acquisition in India are setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as well power projects, Urbanization, Tourism etc.

A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a geographical region that is designed to export goods and provide employment in India. It is a specifically defined area of land,

owned and operated by a private company, which is supposed to be a foreign territory for the purpose of trade, duties and tariffs. It enjoys exemptions from custom duties, income tax, sale tax; service tax etc. (Wastern and Zoomers, 2009). It is not a new phenomenon, earlier known as Export Promoting Zone (EPZ). In 1986, there had been 176 zones across 47 countries, by 2003; the number had reached over 3,000 across 116 countries (Aggarwal, 2006). These zones have catalytic effects in promoting new production sectors of certain products in International market. For example, the foundation of Modern Jewellery Industries in India was laid in Special Economic & Export Promoting Zone (SEEPZ) in Mumbai in 1987-88 (Acharya, 2006). Due to the introduction of Wax Setting Technology in jewellery production, a large scale production was made possible and the cottage industry status of jewelry industry changed into a modern industry. The Zones had been creating the basis for the growth of Electronic Industry also through technology transfer. In 1980, a significant electronic hardware export had been done by EPZ; even in 2002 the share of SEZ in the total electronic hardware export was 26%. The first breakthrough in India's software exports came in 1977. This breakthrough drew the attention to the possibilities available for the development of SEZs in India. Then, 'Texas Instruments' and 'Hewlett Packard' established their companies in Bangalore in 1986 and in 1989 respectively. The major breakthrough in progress of special economic zone in 1997 when Tata established the unit in Special Economic & Export Promoting Zone (SEEPZ) in partnership with an American company named as Burroughs to export software etc (Heeks, 1996). United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government became power in 2004 and passed the Special Economic Zone Act (SEZ) in 2005 (Sampat, 2010). These zones have required a major area of land. From past few years, SEZs has used as a synonym for grabbing land from farmers. The acquired land is basically multi cropped land producing food grains for the country. Presently, 588 SEZ approvals under the SEZ Act 2005 in India (Ministry of Commerce, 2013). If numbers of SEZs will increase at the present pace, it is sure that more cultivated land will be acquired, further will endanger the food security of the country.

Thus, SEZ has become one of the most hotly debated issues in the recent years. Mass protests are being organized by those people who have lost their lands (Levien,

2011). There has been a scathing, campaign against SEZs by scholars, media and civil society of India. Farmers, across the country, have been resisting against giving their land to the State in the name of public purpose such as Singur and Nandigram in West Bengal. Due to these protests in various parts of the country, the cancelation or delay has been happened in many projects running across the country (Samu, 2008).

The process of urbanization is another major factor of land acquisition in India. Urbanization is seen as a key pointer of development that leads to the transformation in the economic, social, and cultural lives of people. Such phenomenal growth in urbanization puts more pressure on land and it will expedite the land acquisition by the real estate. In a demographic sense, it refers to the proportion of a nation's population, living in urban areas (Advani, 2009). Soon after its independence, India has adopted a mixed system of economy, which has announced many offers for the industrial development and resulted in the tremendous increase in industrialization and urbanization in India. Consequently, urbanization started taking place at a faster rate in India. According to 1901 Census, population residing in urban areas in India, was only 11.4%, (Dutta, 2006)) which increased to 31.16% in as per 2011 Census (Roy, 2012) According to a Survey conducted by UN State of the World Population Report 2007, 40.76% of country's population is expected to reside in urban areas by 2030 (Chauhan, 2012).

Industries, trade, commerce, factories, offices, institutions and employment chances attract the people to settle in urban areas. Increasing population has also put pressure on the expansion of cities. Larger cities have relatively high population growth. Population migration from rural to urban and from less developed to more developed creates the problem of housing and land. In such scenario, the loss of agriculture land to human settlement has become very critical in India. About 800,000 hectares of agriculture land has been transformed into urban area between 1985 to 2000 (Fazal, 2000). Agricultural land has converted into residential area, and this area has to be expanded and modified over the last few years to play their part in the development process. Public land is acquired by force for many private purposes. There is a wide range encroachment on public possessed land. The local Municipal

bodies and government agencies have a tough job for clearing the unauthorized construction and encroachment on public lands. Land acquisition results in displacement of agriculturists, poor people and tribal who have been residing in the fringe areas of the city. With the development of cities there have always a need of educational institutions, offices, roads, tourist, resorts and infrastructural facilities. The large areas of land are acquired for the sake of development, whereas there are problems of payment of compensation, resettlement and rehabilitation (Advani, 2009).

Not only for housing, the land is being grabbed in urban areas for construction of shopping malls, hotels, hospitals and many other types of infrastructure .The present Land Acquisition Law (1894) provides the details for only monetary compensation & explain the price of land is determined on prevailing market price. Land dispossessed persons have to suffer for the sake of development. The share of development does not reach to these people. As a process of growth, the cities in India reveal multidimensional problems of urbanization and development. The process may degenerate into an isolated form of urban development. Many of the problems could be attributed to rural–urban development. These problems should be adjudged in the context of those who suffer because of Land Acquisition (Kundu, 2013).

The development of tourism is also responsible for land acquisition in India because in order to promote and expand tourism, land is needed for the construction of hotels and tourist places. Thus, the demand for land is growing in the tourism sector also. The main motive of the government is to get foreign exchange earnings through tourist activities. To provide better facilities to tourists, there is need to construct the infrastructure of good quality in tourism sector. Five States of India, such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odhisa, are looking more particularly at the practices of land banking, and land acquisition for tourism related projects (Ray and Patra, 2009). The Indian Tourism Sector is one of the largest service industries in the country in terms of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) & Foreign exchange earnings as well as for providing employment. The Sector, in fact, is expected to generate around US\$ 42.8 billion upto 2017. It has also generated FDI amounted to US\$ 2468.39 billion during 2000 to 2011. It has been estimated that it will

be increased from 15% to 20 % in next five years. This sector has witnessing widespread growth on account of the Indian middle class (Ohdedar, 2012).

Electricity, the manmade source of energy, helps directly by running consumer durables, the services of which satisfy human needs, either by running machines, that help directly or indirectly to produce consumer goods. In order to meet this need, India is on fling to construct many electricity-producing projects. The demand for electricity is continuously on increasing trends, which is needed for further plants to generate electricity, and for this, there is need of land for constructing plants (Ghosh, 2005). The Indian power sector is largely coal based with the total Installed Capacity comprising of 99,503 MW (55 %) coal based, 17,706 MW (10%) gas based, 1200 MW (1%) diesel generation, 38,206 MW (21%) hydro, 4,780 MW (2 %) nuclear and 20,162 MW (11%) from renewable energy sources (Ministry of Power, 2012).

Timely availability of key inputs such as equipment, material, fuel, land and water transplant etc. is crucial for the timely completion of power projects. The study is mainly emphasized on land acquisition problems therefore this study has described the land as a main key input required for electricity project. Land acquisition in recent times has become a critical issue for project developers. Land is increasingly becoming a scarce resource and its availability is changing into a serious challenge for the future power plants. Problems are compounding due to demand from other competing sectors and resistance from local population as well as landowners. The optimum utilization of land has therefore, gained significance and in coming times challenges are to be encountered in land usage practices. As most of the 12th Plan Thermal Power Projects (62625 MW out of total 75715 MW) are already under construction, land has already been acquired and only about 1300 acres land is left (Ministry of Power, 2012). About 500 new coal plants are under construction or proposed in India. But opposition from local residents has intensified due to land seizures, air pollution impacts, fly ash, contamination of ground water, effect of thermal discharges on fisheries, displacement of communities and other impacts of these projects. The public protest continues in different states such as Andhra

Pradesh, Bihar Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Orissa Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

Gurgaon and Mohali are the main industrial cities of Haryana and Punjab where lot of agricultural land has been acquired by the industrialists. The private companies have directly purchased land from landowners themselves in these states. Due to this direct transaction between farmers & Industrialists, the farmers get more benefits. But in certain cases, it has been acquired through government channel.

But whenever the government directly indulges in land acquisition business, it has raised many controversial issues such as in West Bengal, Orissa, etc. The Government purchases these lands from the poor farmers at a very low rate to provide benefits to private sectors in the name of public purposes. Both, the farmers, whose lands are captured and the affected people, are not being provided by any alternative means of livelihood or employment, even the Government pays very less compensation to these farmers, due to which they are unable to buy further fertile agricultural land and rehabilitate themselves. In rural areas, the labour class essentially depends upon agricultural land for their livelihood but when the Government acquire such land, not only the farmers but also the labourers suffers a lot. However, the labour class has to leave their home towns and move to other places for the alternative sources of livelihood (Dohrmann, 2008). Due to all these reasons, the land acquisition has become a very complex problem. According to the Colonial Land Acquisition Act 1894, the government acquires individual property for the public purpose (Awasthi, 2012). But at the same it has raised many controversial issues that include the less compensation given to the affected people, no rehabilitation of the displaced people. Not only that, environmental concerns also remain unresolved.

But nowadays, the process of land acquisition involves public private partnership, got a substantial pace since 2000. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) describes a Government service or private business venture that is funded and operated by a partnership between the government and one or more private sectors. These schemes are sometimes referred to as PPP or P3. Thus PPP refers to a long-term contractual partnership between the public and private sector agencies, specifically

targeted towards financing, designing, implementing and operating infrastructure facilities and services in the State (Priya and Jesintha, 2011). These PPPs aim to achieve twin objectives of high growth and equity on a sustainable basis. The Government of India has taken crucial initiatives to practice and institutionalize PPP policy to promote the flow of private capital for accelerated infrastructure development in the country. Some States have engaged in more PPPs with an extensive use of PPPs in some sectors than others (Gowswami, 2012).

Public Private Partnership in some of the key infrastructure sectors such as SEZ, transport, power, ports, urban infrastructure, and tourism, including railways have resulted in a total estimated investment of Rs. 1, 35,876 cores in 20 States in 2012, whereas Maharashtra leads the highest position in value of contract. Rajasthan leads with more number of projects. Across states and central agencies, the leading users of PPPs by number of projects have been Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, with 37, 36, 28 and 26 new types of awarded projects respectively, all in the Road Sector, and The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), with about 77 projects (Shiva, 2012). However, according to the proposed Land Acquisition Bill, 2012 land for any industrial purpose or any other developmental project etc. where the project financed by the PPP, land will be taken for the project by the government only after seeking the consent of 70% farmers. It has been observed in many cases that the land for such projects have not been taken after getting the consent rather it is by force.

Land Acquisition –The Punjab Case

Industrialization has led to increase the demand for energy exponentially in Punjab in the recent years. The Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) recently known as Punjab State Power Cooperation Limited (PSPCL) provides electricity to various categories like industrial, agriculture, domestic etc. The total sale is 33432 million Units (mu) out of which 10989 mu sold to agriculture pump sets. The farmers' subsidy of electricity has increased from Rs. 404 crores in 1996-97 to Rs.3, 487 crores in 2010-11 (Punjab Human Development Report, 2010). Therefore, land is being required for establishing new industries as well as for new thermal power plants and

hydroelectricity plants to meet the energy demand of these industries. The major part of state's required energy is generated at State's own three Thermal Plants, five hydel power stations and State's share from common pool of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB). Three Thermal Plants in Punjab are Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Plant (GNDTP) at Bathinda, Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Plant (GGSSTP) at Ropar and Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant (GHTP) at Lehra Mohabat. Five hydel power stations are Shanan Power House at Joginder Nagar (HP), Mukerian Hydel Project in Hoshiarpur District, Anadpur Sahib Hydel Project in Ropar District, Ranjit Sagar Project, Micro Hydel Projects and Upper Bari Doaba Canal (UBDC) Hydel Project (Punjab Human Development Report, 2010). Four more thermal power plants have been coming up at various places of Punjab (Gidderbaha, Talwandi, Rajpura and Goindwal Sahib) to make the state self-sufficient in power sector. Many other types of projects such as hydel power projects in Punjab are under proposal to come up in nearest future, which will help to reduce the electricity, power supply & transmission problems. In Punjab, some other thermal power plants are under process & these new thermal power plants are constructing & setting up by under public-private partnership (PPP). For all these thermal power plants, the land is acquired by the state government from agricultural land from the farmers at very lower rates for the sake of public purpose.

Under the New Land Purchase Policy of the Punjab State, Government of Punjab intends to acquire 2,000-3,000 acres of land spread across 26 locations in 13 cities of the State. The New Land Acquisition of the Punjab Government ensures that the acquisition and purchasing of land should be on the basis of willingness of the land owner or the farmers for selling their land. Further, the new policy provides acquisition of land through tenders and bids at a fix price by the landowner himself for his land. According to Punjab, Urban Planning & Development authority (PUDA) official records (2012), the new policy is not only farmer friendly but also it will also expedite the process of acquisition of land, boosting the pace of development in the State. It is also view that the policy will eliminate the scope for litigation and save both farmers as well as the government from wasting their time and money in various courts of law.

However, if we see the provisions of the Land Acquisition Law, it is organized that it is entirely opposite to the provisions while acquiring the land from the owners.

Under such defective law, Punjab Government has started acquiring land from many places for their developmental projects. Farmers from such places are compensated very less as compared to the market rates. In order to get the market rate compensation from the State government, farmers have been protesting against land acquisition in many places. In the last four years, Government has scrapped four projects due to land acquisition problems. In June, it has scrapped the prestigious project of Self-Contained Integrated Information Technology and Knowledge Industry Park spread over an area of 1,276 acres in Rajpura. Moreover, while the Special Economic Zone Project-coming up near Amritsar has scrapped due to farmers' agitation, the Trident Project near Sangrur has also scrapped due to land acquisition problems. In the Expressway project between Mohali and Jalandhar, farmers have demanded more prices for their land but the government has refused.

Similarly, the Punjab Government has tried to acquire land in Gobindpura, for the site of Thermal Power Project being built over 880 acres of land. Government has acquired land but farmers are now resisting on the account of less compensation. There are around 40 families not willing to accept government compensation of Rs. 23 lakh per acre. The people who have accepted the money have no option except handing over the land to the government. As these people have never wanted to fight against the State government but are complaining that the compensation is less than the market rate. On the other hand, State government says that this thermal power project is very important for the development of the State, but according to some of the farmers, the government cannot forcibly take away their land from themselves.

Scope and Importance of the Study

Despite India's roaring economic growth over the past decade, and its citizens' growing belief that it is finally ready to join the league of global superpowers; the country remains vulnerable in providing electricity to all its citizens. Thus arises the need for construction of power plants, which in turn will create the problem of land

acquisition in India. Land acquisition is one of the most serious problems in India. Many studies have exposed the problem of land acquisition among the different parts of the country, like Singur Tata Case, Nandigram and Orissa Pasco etc. but the present study is somewhat, different from all of these studies as it tries to analyse the socio economic implications of land acquisition of Gobindpura, a village of Punjab state. Other studies are related to acquisition of land for SEZ and industrial projects but the present study's concern is with the land acquisition for thermal power plant, which has a significant impact in the recent times. In lieu of its significance, the study is based on the following objectives:

Objectives

- ❖ To understand the present context of Land Acquisition in India and the rationale of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, drafted in 2011.
- ❖ To analyze the socio-economic implications of land acquisition in Gobindpura.
- ❖ To examine the pattern of Anti-Land Acquisition Movement in Gobindpura.

Plan of the Study

In order to achieve the envisaged objectives of the study, it has been divided into six chapters including the present chapter. Second chapter reviews the studies related to the peasant movement and Land Acquisition Bill in India. Third chapter explains the data base and methodology adopted for analyzing the data. Fourth chapter analyzes the socio-economic implications of land acquisition in Gobindpura while fifth chapter studies the struggle being faced by villagers against Gobindpura land acquisition. Lastly, sixth chapter summarizes the study with suggestions.

Limitations of the Study:

The selected farmers and labourers do not maintain the records properly. Information from the above said respondents is based upon the memory and the experience. Though, every effort is made to obtain accurate information, the possibilities of error in the data due to lack of memory and personal bias cannot be ruled out completely. The environmental issues related to construction of thermal power plant in study area

were asked through well structured schedule. However, no one was able to answer the questions appropriately. Therefore, that part is skipped from social economic implications.

Chapter II

Review of Literature

Land acquisition is not a new phenomenon in India; the public and private sectors have acquired land for setting up of different projects. Land dispossessed people struggled for their rights under the different projects. Therefore, the present chapter is an attempt to review the different movements of resistance against land acquisition in India in the first section and it will also evaluate Land Acquisition Bill, 1894 and Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) Bill, drafted in 2011 in section II.

Peasant movement in Singur

Peasants resisting in Singur against land acquisition for Tata project is considered as a symbol of protest against land acquisition across country. The process of land acquisition has started for diverse purposes in different states of India. West Bengal is one of the states where land acquisition process reached an advanced stage in 2006 due to the adoption of liberalization policies. This has been well mentioned by **Banerjee (2006)** in his study entitled “West Bengal Land Acquisition and Peasant Resistance at Singur”. The study revealed the phase of land acquisition in West Bengal in 2006 when seventh Left Front Government (LFG) came to power. In fact, the main slogan of this government in the pre-election campaign was industrialization of West Bengal. Therefore, it was no wonder that the Left Front Government would go all out to fulfill its election promise by reinvigorating the process of industrialization in a state that known as one of the first to be industrialized in colonial India. The problem started immediately after the polls with the government’s intention to acquire 1,000 acres of prime agricultural land in Singur of Hooghly district for setting up of a motor car plant by Tata Motors. On 25 May, when Tata Motors' officials visited Singur; the villagers registered their protest against land acquisition. The state industry minister, Nirupam Sen, announced on the same day that the state government was going to acquire 32,000 acres of land in the districts surrounding Kolkata as an initial step to set up new industries. He also stated that the government would acquire land wherever the industrialists would like to set up their 148 industrial units. Another study entitled “Behind the Present Peasant Unrest in West Bengal” by **Banerjee and Roy**

(2007) stated that landlessness was increasing in the state. The number of landless in the state has increased by 2.5 million in the last five years, amounting to a total of 7.4 million. He also reported that agricultural land was reduced by 1,20,000 acres during the same period, an average of 24,000 acres a year. Therefore, it was not natural that peasant resistance would begin to take shape at different places in different ways. However, Singur and Nandigram became the focal points of peasant agitation against agricultural land acquisition.

Another study entitled “Tata Motors in Singur: A Step towards Industrialization or Pauperisation?” by **Chandra (2008)** correlated the peasant protest in Singur area that time as well as time of Tebhaga movement. The study revealed that the Singur farmers organized themselves in a “Save Agricultural Land Committee” soon after the May-25 protest. They started with a demonstration on June 1st in front of the local BDO office and have continued their agitation in different forms. In all these protests, a significant presence and active participation of peasant women was noteworthy. On many occasions, they formed the majority among the agitators. Whenever the government officials tried to enter the villages to serve the notifications to the farmers for acquiring land, the women appeared with brooms and sticks in their hands after alerting others by blowing conch shells. The involvement of women in the movement and the intensity of their participation might only be compared with women’s role in the Tebhaga movement in the late 1940s. The maximum land of five mouzas namely, Gopalnagar, Bajemelia, Beraberi, Khaserbheri and Sinherbheri under Singur block identified for acquisition of Tata Motors. Mostly marginal and small farmers who constitute more than 50 percent of the population inhabit in these areas. In addition, a sizeable section of bargadars (25-30 per cent) and landless people mostly belong to the scheduled caste category.

Banerjee (2006) also studied that the people of Singur closely linked with life in the city located at a distance of only 40 km from Kolkata. Many of the landowners are engaged in services and business, while their lands tilled either by the bargadars or by the landless and marginal peasants leasing-in those lands. A section of the poor people in Singur also frequents the nearby town, being employed in factories, shops and small business. Some of the youths have migrated to cities like Mumbai, Delhi

and Bangalore working there principally as goldsmiths or construction workers. There were several cases of reverse migration when 149 people came back to their village after the closing down of the industries where they were working or finding it more profitable to work on the land than to work in petty industries or business, drawing a paltry sum in lieu of hard labour. Therefore, the people here are quite aware of the present situation in industry; the only car factory situated in the same district, i.e., Hindustan Motors known to have reduced its workforce almost by half over the years and is still in crisis.

An another study by **Ghosh (2012)** reported about the fertility of Singur acquired land by Tata motor company in his article entitled “What Made the ‘Unwilling Farmers’ Unwilling?” The land selected for the Tata Motors’ project is fully irrigated by both canal water (a Damodar Valley Corporation canal passes through the villages) and groundwater. The land being most fertile, the main crops in this area are rice and potato. Apart from this, the other main crops are jute and vegetables that grow in abundance in this area. The struggled during Singur land acquisition has been presented by **Roy (2011)** in his study entitled “Gujarat’s Gain and Bengal’s Loss?” He described the poorer sections of peasantry, who are the worst sufferers in the forefront of the movement. They made a front named ‘Save Agricultural Land Movement’ seeking help from all those coming forward in support of their cause. In fact, Singur has not only become the rallying ground for all anti-Left Front forces, but it has also been able to draw the attention and support from different quarters like social and human rights activists, intellectuals and academicians from Kolkata, as well as those from other parts of India and abroad. The local community of Singur was incensed by this action, generating resistance from households facing forced acquisition. He stated that the peasants and social activists play an important role against land acquisition. The main opposition party in West Bengal, Trinomial Congress, also led the agitation.

Another study by **Ghatak et al. (2011)** also presented their struggle and stated that the resistance soon snowballed into a protest movement, which the main opposition party i.e. the Trinamool Congress (TMC) subsequently galvanized. The state government subsequently offered to improve the terms of compensation, including

25% compensation for tenant farmers engaged in cultivation of acquired plots. No plans offered to compensate agricultural workers claiming to have lost employment on acquired lands. As time went by and Tata started building its factory, some of those who had originally agreed to the compensation changed their mind and joined the ranks of the protesters. The TMC demanded that the government should return the land of those who refused to take compensation. Local outbreaks of violence occurred, and the protests acquired national and international media attention. Eventually two years later, Tata decided to withdraw from West Bengal, and took the Nano car factory to Gujarat.

Peasant Movement in Nandigram

After the study of Singur movement, another issue of Nandigram controversy created another trouble for left front government in West Bengal.

Biswas (2007) described in his study entitled “Walking for Nandigram” that Nandigram situated in East Midnapore District of West Bengal. Nandigram, which is a multi crop area and has been designated by the Left Front Government as the site of a 15, 000 acres of agricultural land for Special Economic Zone (SEZ) that is to be given over to the Salim Group of Indonesia. Farmers and villagers in Nandigram protested in early January 2007 after the local Haldia Development Authority served notice that it was beginning the process of expropriating land for the proposed SEZ. Villagers blocked roads and bridges and clashed with police, who mounted lathi-charge and opened fire. Police attacked demonstrators, lobbed tear-gas at them, broken into and ransacked their dwellings, and put protesters into custody which included young girls. The violence climaxed on 14 March 2007, the several reports say that at least 15 people reportedly shot dead by police and at least 150 persons injured in the shooting and other incidents. Farmers and villagers had promised not to leave their agricultural land at any cost. At last, the State Government also declared that it was not interested in setting up of SEZ in Nandigram.

Bondyopadhaya (2007) reported in his article “Nandigram: The Killing Fields”, that the Nandigram case is a bit different. In Singur, there was specific project to fight against, for which, work had been actually started on the ground but in Nandigram,

and even a project proposal was not finalized. The whole stir against taking over land in Nandigram started when the Haldia Development Authority notified its interest in establishing a chemical industries' hub in Nandigram and the proposal for acquiring land for the purpose. No land acquired and the state government had made it clear that land was not being acquired against the interests of the people. Still, a political campaign against the proposed land acquisition started and the protesters cut off the entry to Nandigram by obstructing all connectivity to the area. About 2500 families of CPM workers were forcefully cleared out of Nandigram and for few months, there was no rule of law. The protesters including Maoists, the Trinamool Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party and few NGOs virtually ruled the area during this short period.

Although the West Bengal stir started as a protest against acquisition of farming land, soon it was clear that it had a larger agenda of overthrowing the Left Front Government from power. The assembly election of 2011 in West Bengal showed that the campaign against land acquisition became effective and the Left Front government was voted out of power. Curiously, West Bengal is only one of the three states in India where land reforms actually implemented.

Peasant Movement in Odhisa

Land acquisition and protest movements in Odhisa are the emerging movements in India. The Odhisa is a state abounding in natural resources, iron and steel. The government and private companies setup the projects in tribal region for the sake of the displaced tribal people.

Oommen (2010) studied about the protest movements against development projects by the people in Odhisa have become common after the 1990s' as the development activities of the state started directly threatening their traditional means of livelihood without providing a sustainable alternative. The Odhisa government formulated a New Industrial Policy (NIP) in December 2001, in the wake of accelerating acceptance of the structural adjustment programme (SAP). The Government of Odhisa signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 43 companies (foreign and Indian) for the setting up of iron and steel plants, alumina and alumina plants. On June 22, 2005, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government of Odhisa in eastern India signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the world's fourth largest steel company i.e. The South Korean Multi-National Corporation Pohang Iron and Steel Company (POSCO). The MoU was to build a steel plant with a capacity of 12 million tons per year, along with a captive port and iron ore mines.

Dash and Samal (2008) reported in his study entitled "New Mega Projects in Odhisa: Protest by Potential Displaced Persons" that the opposition to land acquisitions, mining and other development projects in Odhisa are due to fear of large-scale displacement. The project-affected people protested against different big projects to save their sources of livelihood because there is limited scope for proper rehabilitation in the post-displacement situations. Some of the civil society organizations are ideologically oriented and they are the major forces opposing such projects. Large-scale mining movements are taking place in the tribal regions where most of the mining sites are located. On 16th December 2000, three tribals were killed and many got serious injuries in the Maikanch police firing in Rayagada district of Southern Odhisa while protesting against a proposed multinational alumina project. Again on 16th December 2004, four years after the Maikanch firing 7,000 people gathered to commemorate the death of those who died in the Kashipur struggle. They were protesting against forceful snatching away of their lands for mining without providing proper compensation and rehabilitation. They were protesting because their source of livelihood was going to be paralyzed permanently.

Kumbhar (2012) described that the Tribal Commission had reiterated its old stand that no land should be acquired without the consent of the local gram sabha, better known as palli sabha in Odhisa in his article entitled "No Land for Sale: Development Displacement and Protests in Odhisa". It is felt that ultra left extremism was growing exclusively in the tribal belt because the area has remained underdeveloped for many generations. The massacre of 15 tribals at Kalinga Nagar in Odhisa's Jajpur district on 2nd January 2006 is the continuation of the State Government's use of physical force. It was an opposition against unlawful and forceful displacement and demand for just rehabilitation and compensation. Opposition to displacement has become very common immediately after the Kalinga Nagar. Six people were injured during protest against the police at Karol in December 2004, which was widely seen as an attempt

to suppress resistance against the proposed bauxite mining and alumina plant. The protest against huge projects in Odhisa is still going on.

Peasant movement in Greater Noida

Land acquisition and peasant unrest in Noida, U. P happened in some recent years ago. Many studies have reported it in different ways. **Levien (2012)** reported that Noida is situated on the eastern side of Delhi, which is experiencing rapid development like Gurgaon situated at Southern part of Delhi in Haryana as a commuter town of the capital, but at present it is experiencing chaos. On 6 July 2009, the Supreme Court set aside land acquisition of 156.3 hectares of land carried out in 2009 at Shahbari village in Greater Noida by the UP Government & Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA). In this judgment, the order was to return the acquired land to their original owners most of them are mostly farmers. These farmers were unilaterally evicted from their land forcefully are celebrated on this judgment while the other 6500 people, who had booked flats to be built in this land were disappointed very much.

Goswami (2012) illustrated the land that it was mainly acquired by the UP state as a part of the Greater Noida's Industrial Development Plan, pursuant to the emergency clause (Article 17) stipulated in the 1894 Land Acquisition Act. Whereby procedures for residents' objections (Article 5A) are dispensed with in the entire Greater Noida total land, which was 2000 hectares (mostly farmland) including Shahberi village, acquired by the UP government in 2009. By this land acquisition, 16 nearby villages were also affected. The land was acquired at 850 rupees per square meter from farmers & resold the land at 10,000 to 12,000 rupees to private developers for the planned construction of residential buildings (250,000 flats) in the area by Grater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA). However, following this case, former landowners in other villages filed 220 writ petitions in the Allahabad High Court to quash the land acquisition.

Sato (2011) explained in his study entitled "Land Acquisition Issues in Noida District: Background to 'Land Wars' in India" about the problem of land acquisition in Noida. Which might be unique to Noida or UP state, but it remained one of examples of such

major issues as economic development & redistribution after 2002 at the name of improving infrastructure on the name of public purpose for the development of mines, dams, steel works, power generation plants & SEZs as well as for residential areas & highways. In May, 2009, the UP state Government confronted farmers over land acquisition for constructing highways in Noida (Bhatta Parsaul Village) & four farmers were reported dead. Other farmers started a protest movement against the government & making the turmoil more serious & farmers of village Shahbari got back their agricultural land & developer & builders to reimburse the amount plus interest to flat buyers by the order of Supreme Court of India.

Land Acquisition Bill of 1894 and 2011

The Land acquisition Bill 1894 remained a very controversial in last few years. After 2011, government tried to modify it, but the new bill could not pass until now. Therefore, the review of land bill is necessary for the study of land acquisition.

Banerjee et al. (2007) studied The Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (1894 Act) which governs all such acquisitions. Additionally, there are 16 Acts with provisions for acquisition of land in specific sectors such as railways, special economic zones, national highways, etc. The 1894 Act does not provide for rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) for those people who affected by land acquisition. Currently, the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007, govern the R&R process. In 2007, two Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha: one to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and the other to provide statutory status to the R&R policy of 2007.

Ghatak and Ghosh (2011) reported in his study entitled “The Land Acquisition Bill: A Critique and a Proposal” about Land Acquisition Act of 1894, found that the main purpose of the government to facilitate the acquisition of land to private companies for the public welfare purposes. British government firstly passed the land acquisition act in 1824 and some of the provisions of regulation 1824 were extended to Calcutta through Act I of 1850, with a view to confirm the land titles in Calcutta that were acquired for public purposes. Then the British India Government permanently establishes Land Act 1894. In 1947, the Indian Government also adopted the 1894 ‘Land Acquisition Act’ for acquiring the land for public purposes. After that various

amendments were made from time to time but the administrative procedures remained the same. The issues regarding low package of compensation were raised for example the government's compensation package in Singur or Noida or Kalinganagar was "not enough", without a clear statement of a general principle as to how much is "enough". The reasons behind this are the local conditions like soil fertility, access to irrigation, cost of living, alternative employment opportunities and so on, and there cannot be a magic number that will work for every region of the country. The question was raised that the displaced farmers should have received how much amount should be determined. However, The Land Acquisition Act of 1894 lays down such a principle—compensation should be equal to the local market price for land, which is not enough for the farmers.

Bardhan(2011)'s study entitled "An uneven field" explained the voluntary transactions as a means of land transfer in his article entitled "An Uneven Field". He argued that the buyers and sellers will typically ignore the third party effects resulting from their transaction and it can be a source of serious concern. When agricultural land is used for another non-agricultural ends, it affect a large number of non-owners – sharecroppers, agriculture workers, artisans, etc. and these people have to lose their primary source of livelihood altogether. On the other hand, the voluntary transaction between the buyers of land and the owner farmers will ignore the other third party effects, which create huge disparity between these classes. The Land Acquisition, 'Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill' introduced in Lok Sabha in India on 7 September 2011 for the Land acquisition reforms and rehabilitation and for the development projects in India. It will be central legislation in India for the rehabilitation and resettlement of families, which affected by land acquisitions. The Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, 2011 Bill' is also known as 'LARR Bill 2011'.

Levien (2011) in his study entitled "Rationalising Dispossession: The Land Acquisition and Resettlement Bills" studied the LARR Bill which replaces the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and provides rehabilitation and resettlement Compensation for the owners of the acquired land shall be four times the market value in case of rural areas and twice in case of urban areas. The study suggested that for the

development of this bill the government should facilitate the forceful transfer of land from farmers to corporations or to give people more security and to ensure that if they are to solve the problem of farmer rather than capital in their land is required for a truly public purposes . The Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, 2011 Bill' must be sustainability changed from their current form.

Desai (2011) reported in his study "Land Acquisition Law and the Proposed Changes" about the many loopholes in this LARR Bill 2011. The bill has not defined public purpose, only money has been included in compensation amount. Therefore, the bill is favoring the industrialists. The LARR Bill is sent for review and suggestion to parliament standing committee.

Singh (2012) 's study entitled "Inefficiency and Abuse of Compulsory Land Acquisition: An Enquiry into the Way Forward" argued that in reality, the market value is determined on the basis of "circle rates" and/or the sale deed of a similar property. The study found that the problem is raised due to unreasonable restrictions imposed by the change in land use regulations and the market price of agricultural land is acutely suppressed. Moreover, to save on stamp duty charges, the price reported in a sale deed is generally much lower than the actual transaction price. The states have decided the circle rates, which are always out-of-date and well below the market rates. Therefore, both sale deeds and circle rates under-represent the true market value of the land; between the two, circle rates are even lower. So that for the improvement of this mismatch the judiciary has held that the market value should be determined based on the circle rate or the registered sale deed rates of similar properties, whichever is higher for Nonetheless and the land acquisition collectors (LACs) routinely award compensation based on circle rates. For that reason, the inadequacy of government provided compensation and associated disputes.

EPW Report (2012) declared that the parliament committee headed by Sumitra Mahazan presented their report on May 17, 2012 on the table of parliament, in which the committee recommended that the government define the public sector, not acquire the agriculture land and government stay far away from the land acquisitions process done by private sector. Many controversies related to land acquisitions had enforced the government for drafting of Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and

Resettlement bill (LARR-2011). According to this new bill, acquisition of land for use by private companies or public private partnerships, consent of 80 per cent of the displaced people will be required. Purchase of large pieces of land by private companies will require provision of rehabilitation and resettlement. In case of Public Private Partnership project 70% displaced people have given consent but in case of government project there is no need for any consent. The UPA2 government intended to pass this bill during the monsoon session of 2013.

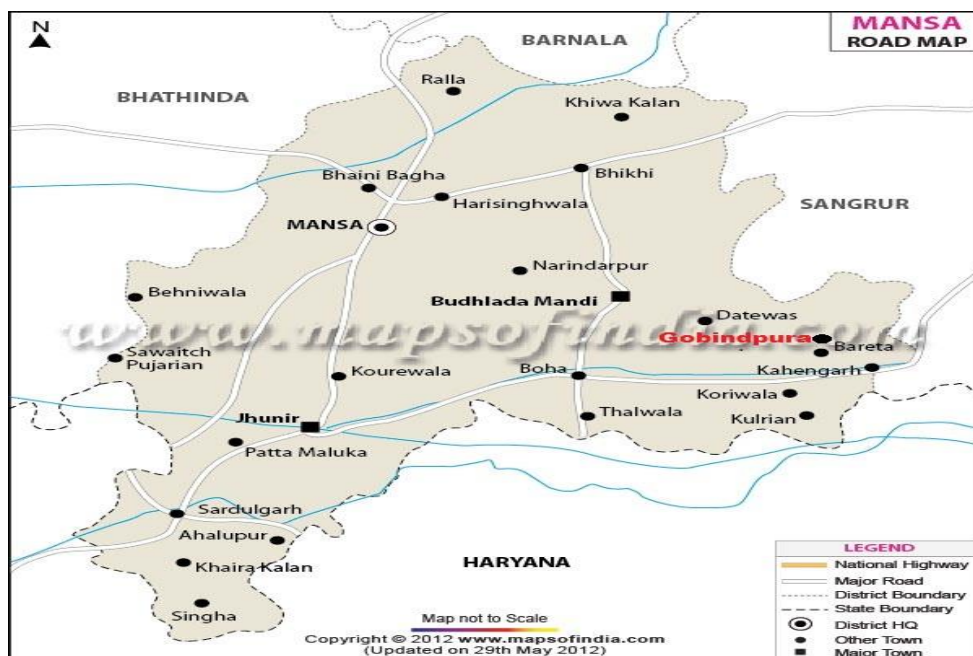
Thus, it is clear from the previous peasant movements that land acquisition is a serious concern for the land dispossessed people. There is a need for necessary modifications to be in the LARR-2011 implemented.

Chapter III

Study Area and Methodology

Gobindpura village is situated at Budhlada Mandal, Mansa District in the State of Punjab in India, a distance of 15.8 km from Gobindpura Mandal town and 25.2 km distance from the district headquarters of Mansa. Sirsiwala, Dialpura, Dariapur, Achanak and Datewas are the adjoining villages of Gobindpura. The total population of Gobindpura is about 2500 household, out of which 40 per cent of the population belongs to scheduled castes and the other backward castes (Mukti Marge, 2011). The population of Gobindpura represents the different classes of people, like, Agricultural Labourers, Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Ramdasia Sikhs, Weavers, etc. At present the total number of electorates in Gobindpura village is 1400 and the Gram Panchayat is headed by Smt. Karamjit Kaur who belongs to the Scheduled Caste (Jeet, 2011).

Fig 3.1: Map of Mansa district



Source: www.Googlemap.com

Fig 3.2: Map of Gobindpura



Source: www.Googlemap.com

Collection of the data

In order to achieve the envisaged objectives of the study, both primary as well as secondary data were collected. The primary data was collected on the basis of snowball sampling technique from villagers and leaders of Kissan and Mazdoor unions and other social activists through personal interview method using pre tested schedule. The primary survey was conducted to assess the level of information and the role played by different respondents in the agitation against the construction of thermal power plant. The filled schedules are processed and all information is entered in a master table. From the master table a number of specific tables are framed, for the preparation of analytical chapters. The secondary data related to land acquisition problem in India is collected from various sources like journals, books, newspapers etc.

Selection of Sample

From the Gobindpura Village in the Mansa district, samples were collected on the basis of snowball sampling technique. This type of sampling technique works like chain referral. The process of snowball sampling is much like asking your subjects to nominate another person with the same trait as your next subject. The researcher then observes the nominated subjects and continues in the same way until obtaining

the sufficient number of subjects (Saravanel, 2008). The total of 185 households was involved in land acquisition process. During the collection of sample many people were not agreed for interview therefore snowball technique was used. The totals of 100 sample respondents were interviewed on the basis of this technique, out of which 83 respondents were farmers and 17 were labourers.

The structured schedule was prepared in order to record respondents' observations and their perceptions about the project. These schedules were framed in the light of socio-economic behavior, living standards and problems faced by the land dispossessed people in Gobindpura. The survey was firstly conducted by personally interviewing the sample respondents with the help of pre tested schedule (Appendix-A). In order to start the interview, firstly the respondents were made comfortable by explaining the significance of the study so that genuine replies can be obtained. The schedule was in English but the questions from respondents were asked in Punjabi so as to make them easily understandable. The survey conducted in the November 2012. The interview of respondents was taken sometimes personally from the head of the household and sometime in group of respondents collectively but in some case when the head of the household was not present at the interview time interview was taken from the other family members. The survey also took the interview of nine women among them five were widows and four women were those whose husband was not present at the time of the interview.

The schedule is prepared in seven sections mentioned below:

1. Demographic and general information about the sample respondents includes their name, age, educational qualification, occupation, family status, caste etc.
2. Land details include the facts of area of land owned, leased in and out by respondents.
3. Income details include annual income of respondents, which is the total income from all sources in one year including agricultural income, income from allied activities (dairying, poultry, beep keeping etc.), and income from other private or government work if they are engaged in it.
4. Agriculture details include area cultivated by respondents under different crops, agricultural assets owned by them and also other assets used for irrigation.

5. Compensation details include compensation amount given to respondents and their utilization by them.
6. Details of the struggle include type of participations by the people, role of different organizations in struggle and the benefits of the struggle.
7. Social issues include the impact of land acquisition process upon education, marriages, village unity, migration, labor class and it includes the environmental issues also.

Distribution of Farmers according to the Size of Land Holding

The farmers are divided into four groups mentioned in Table 3.1. Groups are classified on the basis of different studies (Gill and Singh, 2006 and Sarkar, 2011). Keeping view of their important contribution towards Punjab agriculture; the study has followed their classification which is based on size of land holdings.

Table 3.1: Distribution of Farmers according to the Size of Land Holding

Category of Farmers	Size of Land holding
Marginal Farmers	Below 2.5 acres
Small Farmers	2.5 to 5 acres
Medium Farmers	5 to 12 acres
Large Farmers	Above 12 acres

Source: Gill and Anita, 2006 and Sarkar, 2011

Statistical Tools: The following statistical tools are used in the study mentioned below:

Mean: The most commonly used average is the arithmetic mean, briefly referred to as the mean. The mean can be found by adding all the variables and dividing it by the total number. It gives a brief picture of a large group, which it represents and gives a basis for comparison with other groups. Mean is used to calculate average age of the respondents, average land holdings, average leased ‘in and out’ land, average annual income, etc.

Standard Deviation: In Statistics standard deviation (σ) shows how much variation or dispersion exists from the average or expected value. A low standard deviation indicates that the data points tend to be very close to the mean and high standard

deviation indicates that the data points are spread out over a large range of values. This statistical method is used in find out variations in various variables used in the study such as age of respondent and amount of compensation.

Scale: Likert Scale is a psychometric scale commonly used in questionnaires and is most widely used scale in survey research (Saravanel, 2008). The respondents were interviewed to identify the level they agreed or disagreed to the given statements on a Likert scale as given below

Table 3.2: Likert Scale

Strongly Disagree	1
Disagree	2
Undecided	3
Agree	4
Strongly Agree	5

Chapter IV

Socio Economic Implications of Land Dispossession in Gobindpura

In October 2010, the Government of Punjab had decided to establish a Thermal Power Plant of 1320 Mega Watt (MW) in Gobindpura with the help of Poena Power Company, which is subsidiary of the India Bulls Infrastructure Ltd. The total land area of the village is 1458 acres, out of which 806 acres of land was acquired by the State Government of Punjab for establishing the Thermal Power Plant. At first, the Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr.Sukhbir Singh Badal announced the location of thermal plant in Bhupal village (Mansa) but due to agitation, the location of the plant was shifted to the village Gobindpura. Regarding the land acquisition, Government of Punjab issued three notices from October 2010 to January 2011. As per these three notices, a great part of land was acquired from Gobindpura and also from neighbouring villages such as Phulleuwala Dod, Sirsiwala, Jalbahera, and Baretta., some portion of land was acquired for thermal power plant. It was declared by the Punjab Government that multi-crop yielding lands would not be acquired without farmer's consent (The Indian Express, 18 October, 2012). Despite of such recommendations, fertile and multi-crop yielding land was acquired at Gobindpura where more than 80 percent of the farmers were not in favour of the construction of thermal power plant on their land. It is evident from the rigorous confrontation by the land owners.

The forceful acquisition of agricultural land had an adverse impact on those farmers who had specific marginal land and such farmers turned into landless labourers after the land acquisition. Nearly sixty two families became landless, 123 families were left with very small land holdings. The total compensation package given to land dispossessed people for their land acquisition was very less ranging from Rs. 23.23 lakhs to Rs. 23.77 lakhs per acre; including displacement allowances (Jeet, 2011). Before October 2010, the prevailing price was Rs. 11 lakhs per acre for un-irrigated (Barani) land and Rs. 15 lakhs per acre for irrigated land in Gobindpura. The agreement for selling the land at the rate of Rs.15.10 lakhs per acre was executed just before issuing the notification. It does not go with the earlier promises of

the local leaders who promised to pay Rs. 50 lakhs per acre as the compensation amount (Jeet, 2011). During that time, land prices in the neighboring villages shot up to Rs.30 lakhs per acre and the persons displaced due to this project were unable to buy good land with the amount of compensation they received. According to Rehabilitation Policy of Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill drafted in 2011, there is no provision for providing employment to affected families. In fact, the Government has never announced any Rehabilitation & Resettlement policy for these people.

The large scale land acquisition at Gobindpura has negative impact on the society as a whole and the local communities in particular whose source of livelihood i.e. agricultural land has been hampered by the land acquisition process. In addition to it, this project has social issues, negative environmental effects as evidently seen in the clearing of vegetation cover, depletion of water resources and soil degradation. The present chapter is an attempt to analyze the socio-economic implications concerning the Gobindpura Land Acquisition.

Age Group and Social Categories

For the current study, it becomes important to analyze the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The study finds out that the male respondents are nine times to the female respondents. Thus, the dominance of male respondents in the village has an important role to play in the socio-economic and political situation of the village. Although most of the women in village are house wives yet they have the adequate knowledge regarding such matters as land acquisition, compensation, land prices and others. The information from 100 sample respondents was collected, out of which 17 sample respondents belong to schedule caste and work as labourers. Other 83 respondents belong to farming class out of whom 12 respondents are Hindu Brahmins and are Jat Sikh by caste. The age of these respondents is presented in Table 4.1. The perusal of Table 4.1 revealed that seven per cent of sample respondents lies in the age group of below 30 years. It was found that majority of the sample respondents are in the age group of 31 to 50 years and the overall average age of this age group is 41.30 per cent. It was noticed that the respondents above 50

years are 43 percent of the sample. The average age of the full sample is 47.18 years.

Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondents Based on Age

Age of Respondents	No. of Respondents	Mean	Standard Deviation
Up to 30	07	24.57	3.86
31 to 50	50	41.30	4.21
Above 50	43	57.69	7.10
Total	100	47.18	11.52

Source: Sample Survey

Educational Status

Another important factor regarding the respondents is their education. Because education is the process through which desired changes in the behavior of an individual can be brought. There are number of studies, which have shown the changes in attitude and character of respondents through education. The educational status of the respondents is recorded and the resultant data is presented in Table 4.2. Table 4.2 revealed that the majority of respondents i.e. 56 percent do not have any kind of formal education, 10 percent of them have only primary education, 11 percent studied up to middle, 14 percent have matriculation, 6 percent have completed their higher secondary education where only 2 percent respondents have completed graduation and only 1 percent of the respondents are post graduates. This indicates that low literacy rates inhibit them to understand the ongoing market development and make quick farm level adjustment at their individual levels.

Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondents Based on Education

Education	Number of persons
Illiterate (not attended school)	56
Primary (up to 5 th)	10
Middle (up to 8 th)	11
Matric (up to 10 th)	14
Higher Secondary (up to 12 th)	06
Diploma	----
Graduate /degree	02
Post Graduate	01
Total	100

Source: Sample Survey

Family System

For the survey, it is necessary to know about what type of families are living in the village Gobindpura. So the respondents were asked to identify their family type i.e., nuclear or joint. Nuclear family system means the family having only husband, wife, and children. The joint family means a family where in addition to the children and parents, the wife's or husband's parents, sisters or brothers of husband or wife also live with them. Family system reflects the nature of family bondage, also helping in calculating their economic conditions. The study indicates that 15 per cent of the respondents have joint family system while 85 per cent belong to the nuclear family. The study found that in the village, joint family system has been dwindling as only 15 per cent of the respondents have joint family system while 85 per cent belong to the nuclear family. After the introduction of technology, the requirements of more persons in agriculture have reduced. Due to which, the trend of joint family culture has also been reducing. In village Gobindpura, after land acquisition many disputes have

emerged between the joint family members, which are also responsible for the nuclear families in this village.

Occupational Profile

After finding out the type of families, the respondents are being asked about their main family occupation that has been practiced by their ancestors or the majority of the persons of their households. Data in this regard are presented in Table 4.3. Table 4.3 revealed that the main occupation of the villagers is farming. The majority of the population directly or indirectly is engaged in agricultural activities. It was noticed that 93 percent of the population is working as farmers and agricultural labourers. The study further revealed that 76 percent families were engaged in farming and 17 percent of the respondents belong to the labour class. The rest of the respondents comprising of small business persons, government servants and others have also lost their land after land acquisition. These three categories are comprised of 7 percent of the total respondents, out of which 4 percent depends upon government jobs, 2 percent engages in small business and 1 percent in business as their family head's occupation. The above result shows that majority of the respondents belong to farming community.

Table 4.3: Distribution of Respondents Based on Occupation

Occupation	Number of respondents
Farming	76
Agricultural labour	17
Small business	02
Business	01
Govt. Services	04
Total	100

Source: Sample Survey

Land Ownership

The total land area of 1458 acres of Gobindpura has been occupied and owned by the villagers till the land acquisition. Out of 1458 acres, the Government of Punjab has acquired 806 acres of land for the thermal power plant in Private Sector. After the acquisition of land, the villagers are left with 652 acres of land for their livelihood. They have lost more than the half proportion of their land in the process of land acquisition. Among the remaining 652 acres of land, 140 acres have no canal water facility and it is not worthy of agriculture. At present, only 512 acres of irrigated and fertile land are available for cultivation, which is the main source of livelihood for the people of Gobindpura. The distribution of sample respondents based on land area is presented in Table 4.4. The study further revealed that 83 families belong to farming class and out of which 18.07 percent were marginal farmers. After the land acquisition, the number of marginal farmers has increased because this land acquisition has resulted in the loss of landed property of the medium and small farmers and thereby has pushed them to the category of marginal farmers. The number of small farmers has also declined from 31.33 percent to 26.87 percent. However, the number of medium farmers has declined from 41 percent to 19 percent. It is evident from the data that the total number of farmers has reduced from 83 to 67 after the land acquisition. The major share of the land holdings remains with the large and medium farmers even after the acquisition. The large and medium farmers, encompassing 25 percent of the total farmers own 170 acres of land while the small and marginal farmers which account for 75 per cent of the total, possess merely 111 acres of land. However, the decline of land holdings of the large farmers is comparatively very less and the data shows that their average share in the available land has increased after acquisition as they have purchased land in other villages with the compensation amount. The average land holding per family has also declined after the land acquisition i.e. from 6.51 acre to 4.19 acre.

Thus, total owned land has decreased from 541 acres to 281 acres including land of 115 acres in other sites which was purchased with the compensation amount.

Table 4.4: Impact on Category of Farmers due to Land Acquisition

Category of farmers	Marginal Farmers (Below 2.5 acres)	Small Farmers (2.5 to 5 Acres)	Medium Farmers (5 to 12 Acres)	Large Farmers (Above12 Acres)	Total
Before Land Acquisition					
No. of Respondents	15	26	34	8	83
(%)	18.07	31.33	40.96	9.64	100
Land (Acres)	28	90	280	143	541
Avg.	1.87	3.46	8.23	17.87	6.51
After Land Acquisition					
No. of Respondents	32	18	13	4	67
(%)	47.76	26.87	19.40	5.97	100
Land (acres)	53	46	46	21	166
Land* (acres)	---	12	48	55	115
Land (Acres)	53	58	94	76	281
Avg.	1.66	3.22	7.23	19	4.19

Source: Sample Survey

‘*’ indicates the land purchased in other villages.

Impact on Land Leased ‘in and out’

Generally, small farmers and marginal farmers take the land on lease from large farmers and large farmers lease out land to small farmers and marginal farmers. But in Gobindpura, the mixed picture has been observed. Large farmers as well as small farmers lease out land. After land acquisition, there is a decline in such land which used to be in surplus with the large farmers. Table 4.5 indicates the picture of ‘lease in’ land before and after land acquisition. It shows image of 26 respondents having leased in 152 acres of land before land acquisition. The highest ‘leased in’ land is amongst the marginal and small farmers’ i.e.120 acres land out of 152 acres.

Four medium farmers' leased in land is 27 acres and only one large farmer's leased in land is 5 acres. However, after land acquisition, the 'leased in' process has reduced to 37 acres from 152 acres. Only 7 families have taken land on lease after land acquisition, out of which 5 belong to marginal and small farmers, 2 belong to medium farmers. After paying the rent of land, the small and marginal farmers usually take land on lease, which is another source of their income but now, as most of the small and marginal farmers lost their own land, therefore they are not ready to cultivate on leased land also.

Table 4.5: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of 'Leased in' Land

Leased in	Before Land Acquisition		After Land Acquisition	
	No. of Respondents	Acres	No. of Respondents	Acres
Marginal Farmers	10	57	4	19
Small Farmers	11	63	1	8
Medium Farmers	4	27	2	10
Large Farmers	1	5	-	-
Total	26	152	7	37

Source: Sample Survey

Table 4.6 shows the picture of land 'lease out' before and after land acquisition. Before land acquisition, 15 respondents leased out 131 acres of land. The study shows that 9 medium farmers leased out 80 acres of land, only 4 marginal and small farmers leased out 9 acres and the two large farmers leased out 36 acres. The medium farmers leased out highest amount of land before land acquisition. But after the land acquisition, the pattern of leased out system has changed. The number of leased out farmers remain 14. Out of which, small farmers are 3 and they lease out land 12 acres of land while medium and large farmers are 8 and 3 respectively. Presently out of 281 acres of owned land, 105 acres of land has been leasing out.

Table 4.6: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of 'Leased out' Land

Leased out Category of Farmers	Before Land Acquisition			After Land Acquisition		
	No. of Respondents	Acres	Average	No. of Respondents	Acres	Average
Marginal Farmers	3	5	1.66	---	---	---
Small Farmers	1	4	4.00	3	12	4.00
Medium Farmers	9	86	9.55	8	48	6.00
Large Farmers	2	36	18.00	3	45	15.00
Total	15	131	8.73	14	105	7.5

Source: Sample Survey

Cropping Pattern

Due to intensification of agriculture, the cropping system of the State has changed drastically. The whole State is progressing towards a rice wheat mono cropping system from the multi - crop husbandry practices. In the village Gobindpura land is very fertile. The main crops grown in this area are- Wheat, Rice and Cotton. Land Acquisition process in this village has reduced the area of agricultural land. Table 4.7 depicts that the land under wheat has reduced from 479 acres to 248 acres due to the acquisition of land. Similar tendency has been seen in other crops. The area under rice has reduced from 254 acres of land to 112 acres, in case of cotton, the area under cultivation was 225 acres which has come down to 136 acres. Due to the reduction in area of different crops, the gross returns of farmers have also decreased for these crops after land acquisition. Three marginal farmers used to cultivate vegetables in the area of 4 acres but after land acquisition they are left with no land. The fodder is also grown by farmers for the food of their tamed animals. The area under it has been reduced from 58 to 33 acres of land at present. It shows the

resultant reduction in the agrarian land under different crops due to the process of land acquisition.

Table 4.7: Cropping Pattern in Gobindpura before and after land acquisition

Cropping Pattern	Before Land Acquisition				After Land Acquisition			
	Acres	Yield (qt./acre)	Price (Rs.) (Per qt.)	Gross Returns (Rs.)	Acres	Yield (qt./acre)	Price(Rs.) (Per qt.)	Gross Returns (Rs.)
Wheat	479	16	1285	98,48,240	248	16	1285	50,98,880
Paddy	254	24	1280	78,02880	112	24	1280	34,40,640
Cotton	225	7	4500	70,87500	136	7	4500	42,84,000

Source: Sample Survey

Share of Allied Activities

In addition to agriculture, people of Punjab state indulge in other allied activities for the growth of their economy. It has become necessary for the farmers to do other allied activities along with agriculture because of rising prices of the entire livelihood items. But most of the people of Gobindpura are not engaged in allied agricultural activities like bee keeping, dairy farming, fishery etc. The data collected from the survey of 100 households in the village Gobindpura pinpoints that these people are not involved in other allied activities such as bee keeping, fishery, poultry etc. People of Gobindpura keep few buffaloes and cows for the production of milk to sale and to use in their homes. However, nobody is involved in dairy farm or large scale production of milk in the village. The total number of buffaloes is more than cows in village. The study finds that the number of animals has also been reduced after land acquisition. There were 337 dairy animals which have now reduced to 220 after land acquisition. Because of land acquisition, the land previously used for growing the fodder for these animals has also been reduced.

Table 4.8: Distribution of Respondents Involving in Dairying

Category of Farmers	Before land acquisition		After land acquisition			
	No. of Buffaloes and Cows	Total	No. of Buffaloes and Cows	Total		
Marginal Farmers	Buffaloes	29	42	Buffaloes	25	38
	Cows	13		Cows	13	
Small Farmers	Buffaloes	72	80	Buffaloes	35	35
	Cows	08		Cows	---	
Medium Farmers	Buffaloes	139	158	Buffaloes	74	102
	Cows	19		Cows	28	
Large Farmers	Buffaloes	32	37	Buffaloes	29	32
	Cows	05		Cows	03	
Labourers	Buffaloes	11	20	Buffaloes	11	13
	Cows	09		Cows	02	
Total			337	220		

Source: Sample Survey

Impact on Income

It is found in the survey that agriculture is the main occupation of respondents. The overall income of the respondents during one year earned from all agriculture sources is known as his/her annual income. It reflects not only the economic conditions of the respondents but also describe their living style. The data regarding this aspect is presented in Table 4.9. Table represents that the annual income of 27 families had been Rs. 1 lakh before the acquisition of land. Among these 27 families, 17 belonged to labour class and 10 belonged to marginal farmers. The other 22 families out of which 5 were marginal farmers and 17 were small farmers had the annual income ranging between Rs. 1 to 2 lakhs; 21 families had the annual income of Rs. 2 to 4 lakhs; out of which 9 were small farmers and 12 medium farmers. 19 medium farmers families had the income of Rs. 4 to 6 lakhs. While 3 per cent families had an annual income of Rs. 6 to 8 lakhs, 2 per cent families had of Rs. 8 to 10 lakhs and 6 per cent families had above 10 lakhs.

Table 4.9: Average Annual Income of the Respondents before Land Acquisition

Category of Respondents	Up to 1lakhs	1 to 2 lakhs	2 to 4 lakhs	4 to 6 lakhs	6 to 8 lakhs	8 to 10 lakhs	Above 10 lakhs	Total	Average (Rs.)
Marginal Farmers	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	15	109,133
Small Farmers	-	17	9	-	-	-	-	26	223,488
Medium Farmers	-	-	12	19	3	-	-	34	515,929
Large Farmers	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	8	1,166,500
Labourers	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	53,294
Total	27	22	21	19	3	2	6	100	343927

Source: Sample Survey

Table 4.10 depicts that after the land acquisition, 62 families belong to labour, landless and marginal farmers having an average annual income up to 1 lakhs. The number of families has increased after land acquisition because many small and medium farmers have come into the category of marginal farmers and 16 families have become land less and have converted into labour class. 19 families are having an average annual income of Rs. 1 to 2 lakhs, out of which 3 belong to marginal farmers and 16 belong to small farmers. The families having 2 to 4 lakhs as their average annual income are 7 after land acquisition, out of which 2 belong to small farmers and 5 belong to medium farmers. Eight families had an average annual income is Rs. 4 to 6 lakhs and all these families belong to medium farmers. Only one large family is having an average annual income of Rs. 8 to 10 lakhs and 3 large families have the average annual income above 10 lakhs. According to this table, we can conclude that an average annual income of respondents has been decreased after land acquisition, due to reduction in the size of their agricultural land & also their engagement in the other allied activities.

Table 4.10: Average Annual Income of the Respondents after Land Acquisition

Category Of Respondents	Up to 1lakhs	1 to 2 lakhs	2 to 4 lakhs	4 to 6 lakhs	6 to 8 lakhs	8 to 10 lakhs	Above 10 lakhs	Total	Average (Rs.)
Marginal Farmers	29	3	-	-	-	-	-	32	80,281
Small Farmers	-	16	2	-	-	-	-	18	169,222
Medium Farmers	-	-	5	8	-	-	-	13	434,462
Large Farmers	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	1,157,250
Landless Farmers	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	48,500
Labourers	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	39,029
Total	62	19	7	8	-	1	3	100	173,315

Source: Sample Survey

Impact on Agricultural Machinery

Table 4.11 presents the data about agricultural machinery such as tractor, trolley, plough and reaper owned by 100 families before and after land acquisition. In whole village, there is only one family having its own reaper, this is used for self-agriculture and business purpose and harvesting combine is not found in the whole village. After land acquisition, the agricultural machinery in village Gobindpura has also been reduced. The figures show that before land acquisition there were 61 tractors, 45 trolleys, 47 ploughs and only 1 reaper being owned by the villagers. After land acquisition, the number of tractors remained 38 out of 61 while Trolleys 21 out of 45 and ploughs remained 29 out of 47, after land acquisition reaper has not been sold or purchased. There are some persons whose whole land have been acquired by Thermal Power Plant but they did not sale their tractor and trolley because they are of the view that when the construction work of thermal plant would start, they would use their machinery tools like tractor, trolley for loading purpose to earn a living. It is found in the survey that no family in the village has purchased any harvesting combine and reaper etc .with the compensation amount.

Table 4.11: Agricultural Machinery used in Gobindpura before and after Land Acquisition

Category	Tractor		Trolley		Plough		Reaper	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Marginal Farmers	5	3	3	2	1	-	-	-
Small Farmers	17	18	12	7	11	12	-	-
Medium Farmers	30	12	24	8	27	13	-	-
Large Farmers	9	5	6	4	8	4	1	1
Labourers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	61	38	45	21	47	29	1	1

Source: Sample Survey

Irrigation sources

As other inputs like seeds, fertilizers, agricultural machinery is important for the development of agriculture, Irrigation sources are also considered as important input for it. Only tube wells and canal water are two important sources of irrigation for Gobindpura agriculturalists. The survey found that total number of tube wells in the village for the purpose of irrigation before and after land acquisition. Before land acquisition the total number of tube wells was 77. Out of which, the marginal farmers had 9 tube wells. After land acquisition, it has reduced to 43, but with marginal farmers, it has increased to 12. It may be due to increase in number of marginal farmers from 15 to 32 after the land acquisition. With other categories of farmers, tubewells have decreased. With small farmers, it has reduced from 18 to 13; while with medium farmers from 35 to 11 and with the large farmers from 15 to 7. Those families that withdraw their land from acquisition process are indulging in dispute with village panchayat for these canal irrigation facilities and at present this dispute has reached into the court.

Table 4.12: Tube Wells- as the Main Source of Irrigation

Farmers Category	No. of Tubewells Before	No. of Tubewells After
Marginal Farmers	9	12
Small Farmers	18	13
Medium Farmers	35	11
Large Farmers	15	7
Total	77	43

Source: Sample Survey

The irrigation facility is hampering due to land acquisition process. Poena Power Project has acquired more than half of the land of village Gobindpura. Many tube wells situated in village have gone under the acquired land. Canal water is another main source of irrigation after tube wells, which also got affected due to the same land acquisition process. Because of the land acquisition, the link between canal and remaining agricultural land has descanted. Out of remaining 652 acres, 140 acres of land have no access to canal water from either side, because there is plant land on one side and railway line on the other.

Land Acquisition Process

According to New Land Acquisition Bill draft in 2012, 80% people must be willing for land acquisition for the setting up of the private project, 70% people must be willing for land acquisition by the Public Private Partnership. In Gobindpura, the power plant is planned to establish under the Public Private Partnership. In that village, most of the people are against the land acquisition process of thermal power plant.

The study reveals that only 20% respondents gave positive response about the land acquisition process in village Gobindpura. However, 80 % respondents are against this process. Out of 80%, 30 respondents have given land under pressure while remaining 50% of the respondents claim that land has been taken forcefully from them (Table 4.13).

Table 4.13: Respondents statement regarding Land Acquisition Procedure

Statement	Frequency
Given at own will	20
Given under pressure	30
Forcefully taken over with police help	50
Total	100

Source: Sample Survey

Compensation for Land

The compensation amount received by the people of village Gobindpura is very less than the earlier promised amount by the authority. According to the villagers, the promised compensation amount was Rs. 50 lakhs per acre earlier. But at the time of land acquisition the compensation amount given to the farmers ranged between Rs. 23.23 lakhs per acre to Rs. 23.77 lakhs per acre, including displacement allowances.

Table 4.14: Respondents views about Compensation

Activities	Mean	Standard Deviation
The amount is too low, I cannot afford to buy any land as substitution for acquired Land	4.34	1.056
It is just fair	2.03	1.004
The compensation amount is good	1.60	0.994
The amount is too low, I make more money on that land annually	1.32	0.583

Source: Sample Survey (Likert-type scale)

No litigation incentives or any other incentives have been given to them, it has created a very meager situation in the village. Five point Likert-type scale has been employed for grading each of the operations and respondents' weighted mean scores have also determined. The respondents are interviewed to identify the level they

agreed or disagreed to the given statements on a Likert scale as given below: Strongly disagree-----1, Disagree----2 Undecided-----3, Agree-----4, strongly agree---5.

Table shows the opinions of different land dispossessions about the compensation amount. Most of the persons are strongly agreed to the option no.1 i.e. 'the amount is too low, I cannot afford to buy any land as substitution for acquired land', as its mean is equal to 4.34 and its standard deviation is 1.056. Most of the persons disagreed with the second statement i.e. 'the compensation amount is just fair' as its mean is equal to 2.03 and its standard deviation is 1.004. For the statement, 'the compensation amount is good', has mean equal to 1.60 and its standard deviation .is 0.994 showing that respondents are disagreed with this statement and also, less variations in respondents' perception with this statement have been found. The similar type of trend has been found for another statement i.e. 'the amount is too low, I make more money on that land annually' but there is a strong disagreement for this by the respondents.

Utilization of Compensation

Utilization of compensation is one of the major concern in resettlement and rehabilitation. Therefore, it becomes important to know how the compensation amount received by the people is utilized by them. People affected by the acquisition of land in village Gobindpura are being enquired for the same. They have not kept proper account of such amount. They can roughly estimate the amount spent on different heads of expenditure. They do not correctly report the amount received by them. Yet, they receive whatever amount, they are telling to narrate how to spend it. Table 4.15 indicates that 25 per cent respondents of the sample have utilized the compensation amount in the construction process of their houses, 40 per cent respondents have purchased new motorcycle or scooter and 12 per cent respondents purchase car after land acquisition. Just 42 per cent farmers have purchased new agricultural land with the compensation amount. Some farmers have purchased land, which is not as much fertile as the earlier land was fertile. While 21 per cent respondents would use their compensation amount in social ceremonies like marriage

ceremony. Two persons have migrated to Canada and Australia with the compensation amount. The data present in below mention table shown percentage of respondents, who spend their compensation amount in more than one expenditure head. Very few people have used the compensation amount for any productive purpose.

Table 4.15: Compensation Amount as used by Respondents

Expenditure Head	Number of Respondents(%)
Construction House	25
Motorcycle/Scooter	40
Car	12
Agricultural land	42
Marriage ceremony	21
International migration	2

Source: Sample Survey

Alternative Source of Income

As the survey finds that land is the only source of the people's income and after land acquisition their income source has affected greatly. As the government has not taken any special step for the resettlement and rehabilitation of those people who are affected with the land acquisition process at the village Gobindpura. The government did not provide any alternative agriculture land for the affected people of village Gobindpura. After the struggle started by the villagers, the Government has provided some government jobs to the affected families' members who have qualified at least higher secondary level (+2). Twenty persons have got the government job from the 100 hundred families. According to villagers, the level of qualification (+2) for government jobs is high because most of the affected families' members are illiterate or are studied up to matric level only.

Social Issues

The land acquisition process does not concern only with the issues regarding land, it is also concerned with some social issues. In other words, it can be said that land acquisition does not affect the people economically only, but socially also. In India, agriculture is an important source of income of people. More than the half proportion of Indian population directly depends upon agriculture for their survival. Therefore, they are attached with it emotionally, traditionally and culturally also. Therefore with the acquiring of agricultural land, social structure is disturbed totally. All these types of disturbances have been witnessed in Gobindpura also. This process of land acquisition at Gobindpura has disturbed the social structure completely. The study finds that before land acquisition, the whole village had been knotted in a fiber of unity, but after the land acquisition process, whole society of this village has completely disintegrated. It tears apart the social fabric & the existing patterns of social organization. Production systems are dismantled, kinship groups & family systems are often scattered & people's cultural identity is put at risk. Lives sustaining informal social networks of mutual help among people local voluntary association, self-organized service arrangements etc. are dispersed & rendered inactive. Such elusive disintegration process undermines livelihoods in ways unaccounted by the planners & for such type of social disintegration there is no compensation. In that the whole village is divided into two groups. One group favours the Kissan Union against the land acquisition and other group supports the Village Panchayat favour of land acquisition. In both of these groups differences have increased at such a level that both of these groups have stopped to attend social ceremonies of each other like marriages etc. Due to land acquisition, social life of villagers of Gobindpura has been disturbed severely.

With the process of land acquisition, the family system is also affected in the village. Different sorts of disputes have come up among different families in the same village. The study shows that 58 families out of 100 are indulge in such disputed after land acquisition. The main reasons for these disputes are connected with the distribution of compensation amount among the family members and also connected with the utilization of compensation amount among the family members.

Table 4.16: Impact on Social Issues after Land Acquisition

Statement	Yes	No	Reason
Family dispute	58	42	Distribution of compensation amount
Affected the children's. education	65	35	Outside entry banned during Struggle
Delay the marriage	9	91	Disturbance in village
Impact on marriage in future	74	26	Land is very important in Jats family

Source: Sample Survey

Table 4.16 revealed the impact of Gobindpura land acquisition on social issues concerning education and marriage. The children of 65 families are affected due to the process of land acquisition because village schools are up to primary level only. The children have to go to other village for getting high and secondary education. A barrier in the education of children has been created by the process of land acquisition through the tough entry and exit in the village during agitation. Responses of 35 families have told that their children are not affected by this process because either their children have studied in their own village or they are not going to any school. Most of the Children or students are studying in schools or colleges, which are situated in other villages or nearby city. Some students could not appear in that final exam at that time due to the entry ban. Land acquisition has also an impact on the marriage ceremonies of the village. The response of nine villages shows that there was marriage delay due to the acquisition of land and the resultant tension in village. The 91 respondents have told that this process has no impact on marriage whereas 74 respondents have told that it would affect the future marriage plans. The considerable implication is withdrawn from this issue is that land still plays a significant role in marriage of Jats because land is the source of income as well as symbol of social status for them.

Trends in Migration

After discussing the social impacts of land acquisition, the survey further finds that migration is another impact related to land acquisition process.

Table 4.17: Migration Pattern after Land Acquisition

Type of farmers	No. of respondents	Type of migration
Labourers	2	Inter -State migration
Small farmers	8	Inter- State migration
Medium farmers	2	International migration

Source: Sample Survey

After land acquisition, the level of human migration or displacement has increased very rapidly. Mainly the rural people are depending upon agriculture land for their livelihood. However, after land acquisition their sources of income hampered. Therefore, they started moving to some other places in the search of employment. Table 4.17 revealed that the trends of migration in Gobindpura after land acquisition. According to respondents, 10 persons have migrated from Gobindpura village to other village or cities in the country. Out of 10, two belong to labour class and eight are small farmers. The members of 2 families utilize the compensation amount for international migration. Some other families are thinking about migrating in near future. However, most of the families are staying in the village after land acquisition because they hope that after the establishment of power plant there will be a lot of availability of work to do in the village, which will be livelihood in future.

Merits and Demerits of the Project

Table 4.18 explains the merits or demerits of Power Project in Gobindpura and its future impact on the local people. The ranking is given in the table according to the choice of respondents. The work opportunity has highly increased which gives them revenue and also increases their standard of living. On the other hand, supply of

electricity and value of land has also increased respectively. All these things may increase the financial condition of the farmers and their families. Regarding the demerits of the power project, according to respondents, loss of the social unity of the village is the main demerit of the project. And also, agricultural production of village has also decreased. It has increased the environment degradation and rise in pollution which would highly affect the health of these people.

Table 4.18: Merits and Demerits of the Project as seen by the Respondents

Merits	Rank	Demerits	Rank
Work opportunities shall Increase	First	Loss of social unity	First
Good supply of electricity	Second	Loss of agriculture land	Second
Value of land shall increase	Third	Environmental pollution	Third
Development in area	Fourth	Less agriculture production	Fourth

Source: Sample Survey

Impact of Land Acquisition on Agricultural Labour

Agricultural labourers have also been affected seriously along with the farmers' class by this land acquisition process. Though study's representative class is of land owners but to find out impact of land acquisition on them, seventeen labourers families have been surveyed. Five out of these seventeen families are long term agricultural labourers while other 13 belong to casual labourship. The long-term agricultural labour shares 1/10 part of any crop in agriculture. Due to land acquisition, there is a great reduction on their income. The husband of the village head Karamjit Kaur is Mr. Harbhajn Singh, who belongs to SC family and believes that Thermal Project is very beneficial for the sake of village. He is also working as long-term agricultural labour with the farmer and Akali leader namely Balwan Singh. Before land acquisition, Mr. Balwan Singh had 22-acres land. However, after land acquisition only 8 acres of land has left. Therefore the labour share of Harbhajn Singh has been reduced 2/3 of their income.

Casual agricultural labourers also got affected through this land acquisition process. Previously they were easily getting work within the same village but after land acquisition due to shortage of agriculture land in this village, they are mostly unemployed or have to go to some other villages or cities in search of daily employment. Some of these families are thinking for permanently shifting in some other village or city. Female members of their families became unemployed who were previously engaged at the time of collection of cotton bud and earning 10 to 12 thousand per session.

Houses of fourteen labourers are also included in acquired land in which more than 100 members used to live. They purchased the housing land from farmer Vaswa Singh but they could not get that land registered on their names. Therefore, at the time of land acquisition they did not get any compensation in place of their houses acquired by Poena Power Company. Thus, agricultural labourers did not get any compensation amount & any other alternative piece of land, while their whole families depend for their livelihood on agriculture.

The overall study intends that Gobindpura is a small village in Mansa district consisting of less educated people. Most of the people depend upon agriculture for their living. After the land acquisition, very less agrarian land has been left. As a result, it has shoddily affected the all categories of farmers as well as the labourers. They are even not much engaged in allied activities except dairying, on which a negative impact is observed. Moreover, some social impacts on the lives of the people of Gobindpura village, such as disputes in families, children's education being affected by it and delay in marriages etc. has also been found. After land acquisition, some villagers have migrated to other villages or cities in search of some other options for their livelihood. Some respondents are of the opinion that work opportunities and supply of electricity will be increased with the initiation of the project, although some demerits are also coupled to it like the loss of social unity, loss of agricultural land and environmental pollution. Due to the low compensation and less value of land these people are not capable to buy new land. Therefore, the farmers have started agitation against the Power Project.

Chapter V

Struggle of Land Dispossessed in Gobindpura

There are a number of cases dealing with land acquisition process in India, such as the case of Singur in West Bengal, Noida in Uttar Pradesh, and Kalinagr in Orissa etc. Dispossessed people in all these cases struggled a lot for compensating their loss or getting their land back. The case of Gobindpura village is not an exception to the norm. The present chapter deals with the struggle being faced by displaced people of village Gobindpura.

As per three notifications issued, the total land acquired by Punjab Government for Gobindpura thermal power plant is 880 acres, out of which, 806 acres of land acquired is only of Gobindpura. In last notification, the Punjab Government has acquired 166 acres of land at the village Gobindpura for thermal plant (Jeet, 2011). People of this village were not in favour of land acquisition and they started agitation against land acquisition in the village. There are many reasons behind the land dispossessed people's agitation against land acquisition. Firstly, the compensation amount they got in place of their acquired land is very less; people are unable to buy another agricultural land with the compensation amount, second reason is concerned with acquisition of 166 acres of land. Owners of this land did not agree with the land acquisition. Thirdly, government could not provide any alternative job as source of income for these people, fourthly, a large number of labourers who were dependent upon the agricultural land were also affected but they did not get any compensation or other benefits, fifth reason is that the houses of 14 Dalit labour class families were also acquired without giving any compensation amount.

The day of agitation i.e. 21st June 2011, administration started demarcation of the project site with a strong contingent of police. The villagers protested on the railway track and blocked the traffic. Two farmers' organizations Bhartiya Kissan Union (Ugrahan) & Bhartiya Kissan Union (Dakonda) marched towards the village Gobindpura with workers. Many farmers were arrested by the police. After that many other Farmers and Mazdoor organizations of Punjab joined the agitation against land

acquisition in Gobindpura. The seventeen unions including Kissan and Mazdoor Unions formed “Coordinating Sangarsh Committee” against land acquisition. The seventeen unions i.e. Bhartiya Kissan Union Ekta (Ugrahan), Bhartiya Kissan Union Ekta (Dakonda), Bhartiya Kissan Union Ekta (Sidhupur), Punjab Kissan Union, Bhartiya Kissan Union Krantikari, Kirti Kissan Union, Jamhoori Kissan Sabha, Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union, Paindu Mazdoor Union Mishal, Paindu Mazdoor Union Punjab, Mazdoor Mukti Morcha Punjab, Dehati Mazdoor Sabha, Krantikari Paindu Mazdoor Union are the part of “Coordinating Sangarsh Committee”.

In this struggle, the level of participation by the farmers and agricultural labourers of Gobindpura village as well as the workers of the different Kissan and Mazdoor Unions is very high. The women and students of village Gobindpura also participated in the movement.

Major Demands of the Gobindpura Struggle

- Demand for the repossession of 166 acres of land acquired at the last stage of acquisition.
- Demand for compensation to 14 Dalit labour class families who lost their houses.
- Demand for compensation to labourers who lost their source of livelihood.
- Demand for government jobs to the affected families by Kissan unions.
- Demand to withdraw all illegal cases against farmers and protesters.

Incidents of Struggle

Many newspapers covered the incidents of the Land Dispossession Movement of Gobindpura. The newspapers documented the incident differently. The very first incident took place on 21st June 2011. The Indian Express, Bathinda covered the story of this day under the headline “Land acquisition row hits Gobindpura Power Plant”.

On 21st June 2011, early in the morning, the administration started demarcating the project site with a strong contingent of police. “The villagers -

men, women, small boys & girls resisted it. They sat on railway track blocking the traffic. The police after threatening and assaulting them, forcibly took into custody 19 women, 47 men & 6 minor girls and put them into lock-up at Bhikhi Police Station. Two farmers' organizations BKU (Ugrahan) & BKU (Dakonda), after coming to know about the developments called their workers from adjoining villages to march towards Gobindpura. The police however put barricades on all entry points of village Gobindpura for restricted the entry. About 100 persons from various places were arrested and locked-up in Boha and Budhladha Police Stations. Many leaders of Kissan organizations were also arrested.¹

D.C and S.S.P Mansa reached at Bhikhi Police Station late night on the same day and started negotiations with BKU leaders. After discussions, administration released all arrested protesters and fixed a meeting with them on the next day. On the next day, residents of Gobindpura village along with a number of Kissan and Mazdoor Unions workers protested at District Administration Complex, Mansa. This story was covered by The Times of India, 23 June 2011, Mansa under title "Protest over 'Forcible' Acquisition of Mansa land".

On June 22, 2011, early morning, "hundreds of farmers and residents of various villages of Mansa district staged a dharna in front of the District Administration Complex, Mansa to protest the forcible acquisition of their land holdings by Punjab Government. Large numbers of policemen were deployed on all entry points of Mansa, but even then, residents of Sirsiwala, Chak Ali Sher, Bahadurpur, Gobindpura & other villages managed to reach Mansa in large numbers. The meeting between members of different union and authorities was held during these incidents. Administration agreed to stop demarcation and construction of pillars on 166 acres land. It was promised that this part of land would be excluded from acquisition. The farmer's organization laid a pre-condition that until the notification excluding their

¹ ENS (2011) " Land acquisition row hits Gobindpura power plant" *The Indian Express*, 22 June 2011. Bathinda. P-2

lands from acquisition proceedings is issued, the demarcation process shall not be re-started. The farmers were permitted to cultivate their lands.²

For one month, the situation remained normal. After one month, on July 23, the administration took the possession of 166 acres land, which was earlier promised to be excluded from acquisition. The day story covered by The Tribune, 25 July 2011, Bathinda, entitled “Gobindpura Agitation against Land Acquisition”

Authorities started putting up barbed wire fencing around the entire 880 acres of land. The civilians started again agitation in the form of dharna. The police arrested 26 men & 12 women and took them to Bhikhi Police Station. More persons including leaders of BKU (Ugrahan) and BKU (Dakonda) were taken in custody along with women & 6 girl students out of which three were minor. All of them were charged with apprehension of breach of peace u/s 107/151 Cr.P.C. The six girls were released by the jail authorities in the mid of the night, without making any arrangements for their transportation from Bathinda to Gobindpura, at a distance of more than 80 Kms.³

The next day story was covered in the following manner in the same newspaper under the title Mansa thermal plant ‘350 farmers rounded up as admn takes control of land’. On July 24th, both the “farmers’ organizations again called to march towards Gobindpura. Scuffles took place between the protesting farmer and the police at many places. Farmers from Cheema, Phaphre Bhaike, Bhikhi, Dhaipai area were marching towards Gobindpura. 60 farmers were arrested from village Burj Rathi, 70 from village Ranghrial, about 12 kms. from Bhikhi. Some of them were released in the evening, except 29 who were sent to Ferozpur jail. About 400 farmers were arrested in an operation supervised personally by Sh. Ravinder Singh DC and Sh. PS Garewal DIG. The arrests continued.⁴

² Parkash, C. (2011) “Mansa farmers stage dharna against land acquisition”. *The Tribune*, 23 June 2011. Mansa.p-5

³ Parkash, C. (2011) “Mansa thermal plant ‘350 farmers rounded up as admn takes control of land”. *The Tribune*, 24 July 2011. Mansa.p-4

⁴ Parkash, C. (2011) “Villagers and Kissan Unions protest against acquisition of their land for thermal power plant”. *The Tribune*, 25 July 2011. Mansa.p-4

During 28th to 31st July, the major leaders of opposition political parties tried to enter the village but police arrested them. 'The Tribune' covered these incidents in the following manner:

The police did not allow even Congress legislators & CPI leaders to visit the village. On July 29 & 30, some Congress legislators & an MP were arrested while going to the village. Later on an Ex-MLA belonging to CPI was also detained for few hours while going to Gobindpura along with other CPI leaders.⁵

On the 2nd August, agitation was converted into a strong resistance. The Farmers and members of Mazdoor Unions protested at different places in Malwa region of Punjab. The story covered by The Tribune 3 August 2011, Barnala, under the title "Thousands attend cremation of farmer who died at Mansa" in the following way:

When on a call of 17 Kissan and Mazdoor organizations, thousands of farmers and Khet Mazdoors were marching towards Gobindpura then police attacked on them with weapons. They were brutally lathi charged at village Kot Dunne in Barnala District and result of this action was the death of one farmer – Surjit Singh Hamidi and injuries to more than 60. The police smashed and extensively damaged most of the vehicles in which the protestors were traveling. In another incident at Maur Kainchiyan (Railway Crossing), the police resorted to firing & lathi charge on the protestors. Earlier to prevent this protest march massive hunt of Kisan and Mazdoor Union leaders was conducted and hundreds were put into jail.⁶

Many newspapers under different news have reported this struggle on different days such as:

On August 13, the police resorted to lathi-charge at Gobindpura, on the protestors, including women, who were uprooting the demarcation pillars put

⁵ Parkash, C. (2011) "Jagmeet Brar Sneaks into Gobindpura; held". *The Tribune*, 31 July 2011. Mansa.p-5

⁶ Parkash, C. (2011) "Farmer dead in Mansa land acquisition stir". *The Tribune*, 3 August 2011. Mansa.p-2

up by the project authorities over their land. About 80 people including women & children were detained.⁷

On August 26, farmers protested against the land acquisition in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office at Mansa and police made lathi charge on the protestors.⁸

The former Chief Minister of Punjab Capt Amarinder Singh with his fellow party men also “jumped into the ongoing farmers’ agitation against land acquisition for a private sector thermal power plant near Gobindpura”.⁹

While more than 250 farmers blocking the Bathinda-Mansa road in protest against “forcible” acquisition of land in Gobindpura village were arrested by the police on October 12, 27 persons, including 14 women which were booked by the Baretta police station for attacks on policemen. On 11thOctober, cases were registered against 24 unidentified persons.¹⁰

The State Assembly election was to be held in Punjab in January 2012, so the Government was trying to solve the issue before election. The Chief Minister of Punjab invited the leaders of ‘Coordinating Sangarsh Committee’ to discuss the land issue of Gobindpura.

On 26 November Chief Minister of Punjab Parkash Singh Badal met the farmers’ leaders to discuss their demands about the Gobindpura issue at Circuit House in Bathinda at 6.30 pm. He promised the farmers leaders that the government would accept all the demands, such as providing employment to the affected people, to abolish the hold of 166 acre land under acquisition, fulfilling the demands of farmers and to pay compensation to Dalit householders.¹¹

⁷ Parkash, C. (2011) “Gobindpura tense over India bulls power plant”. *The Tribune*, 14 August 2011. Mansa.p-4

⁸ Sharma, H. (2011) “Farmers oppose acquisition” *The Indian Express*, 27 August 2011. Mansa.p-6

⁹ Sharma, H. (2011) “Capt interacts with Gobindpura residents after rally Baretta” *The Indian Express*, 2 September 2011. Mansa.p-6

¹⁰ Khanna, B. (2011) “Mansa Land Acquisition 275 farmers held captive”. *The Hindustan Times*, 13 October 2011. Mansa .p-4

¹¹ ENS (2011) “ C.M meet Gobindpura farmers at Bathinda” *The Indian Express*, 27 November 2011. Bathinda.P-2

Role of the Women

In Gobindpura agitation, women also participated in large number along with others villagers who faced the same problem. Many men had already been arrested, thrown in jail, and tortured. The women of Gobindpura continued the agitation against land acquisition. The women were not treated differently. Their clothes were torn and their hair pulled. They were arrested and detained after police investigation. Gobindpura women and girls made the conscious decision of becoming a part of the protest along with men, for the lands at-risk were as much markers of their ancestry, identity, and livelihood as that of their male counterparts.

Role of the Students

School and college students also participated in this struggle and played crucial role in it. The children of farmers who had to lose their land in land acquisition participated in the agitation. The girl students also took part in this movement very actively. They participated all time in the dharna and protest movements within the village and outside as well.

Sandeep Kaur, student of 10+2 class participated in this agitation. She had to go to police station several times. The police filed a case under 307 IPC against Gagandeep Kaur, who has N.T.T and E.T.T degree and is eligible for the profession of a teacher. Her father Gurlal Singh, mother, brother and sister Amanpreet Kaur were also charged under the same IPC, other three girls Amandeep Kaur, Harpreet Kaur and Harmandeep Kaur were also charged with the similar sort of case. They were arrested many times and were sent to police station out of which they were once sent to Bathinda Jail also.

On 23 July 2011 all these six girls protested against the land acquisition at Bhikhi Police station with many other villagers and Kissan Union leaders where they were arrested by the police and were put into the Jail. The jail authorities released these six girls at midnight, without making any arrangements for their transportation from Bathinda to Gobindpura, which is at a distance of more than 80 Kms. The education of these students suffered during the time of struggle and they were unable

to appear in their final examinations. Even after all such difficulties the girl students did not step back and remained the part of this agitation till the last moment.

Role of the Political parties

The process of Land Acquisition was favoured by the Punjab Government which included Shromani Akali Dal and its partner Bhartiya Janta Party. They gave the reason for such process by saying, "The land acquisition is necessary for the electricity development". The main opposition political party in Punjab was congress at that time which was against the land acquisition in Gobindpura. Top Congress leaders of Punjab namely Captain Amarinder Singh, Rajinder Kaur Bhattal and Jagmeet Singh Brar had supported the agitation of the farmers and had accused the Parkash Singh Badal-led coalition government for favouring the privatization process by capturing the fertile land from farmers and providing it for the private industry. Bhattal visited the Mansa district and extended support to the agitating farmers. She announced that the acquired land would be return to the farmers if the Congress came to power in the state.¹² But the politically conscious people and social activists blamed the Congress party for making false promises to gain votes in the upcoming assembly election.

Manpreet Singh Badal, president of People's Party of Punjab (PPP) also accused the SAD-BJP government for forcible acquisition of land for setting up power plant. Manpreet accompanied by star artist Bhagwant Mann while addressing largely attended rally, at Bareta on 27 August 2011 and said that land should not be acquired without landowner's consent. PPP will soon file a writ in the Punjab and Haryana high court against the forced land acquisition of Gobindpura further Punjab government should have waited for the bill on land acquisition to be pass before going in for land acquisition.¹³

¹² Sharma, H. (2011) "Capt interacts with Gobindpura residents after rally Bareta" The Indian Express,2 September 2011.Mansa.p-6

¹³ Goyal, S. (2011) "PPP for HC stay wants six-fold relief of farmers". The Tribune, 28 August 2011. Mansa.p-4

Role of the Kissan and Mazdoor Unions

Farmers and members of Mazdoor unions in Punjab are divided in many groups. These groups do not contest the elections but work as a pressure group and influence the government policies. Farmers' organizations are very strong in Mansa-Bathinda Malwa region. The Kissan and Mazdoor Unions time to time work together for the joint interests of the farmers and the labour class people. In Gobindpura movement 17 Kissan and Mazdoor Unions collaborated and established "Coordinating Sangarsh Committee" for the help of the land dispossessed people.

The Kissan and Mazdoor Unions played an important role in the Gobindpura agitation. Thousands of workers who belong to these organizations continued their protest for a long time period against the land acquisition process. Many workers were injured and were sent to jail during agitation. The farmers and the leaders Mazdoor Unions played a pivotal role in bringing an agreement between the villagers and the Government.

Respondents Views about Struggle and Harassment

At the beginning of the agitation the whole village was involved in it, but after sometime some people had to leave the agitation due to the pressure and bribe offered to them by the state authorities. According to the survey, 85 respondents participated in village dharna and 78 respondents participated at the time of dharna in city. The police arrested many villagers at the time of these dharna's as demonstrated in the survey, 58 respondents were arrested by police and 37 respondents out of these were sent to jail also. 22 persons out of 37 were jailed for 21 days whereas the other 16 remained in prison for more than one month.

Table 5.1: Type of Participation in Struggle

Type of Participation	No. of Respondents
Village Dharna	85
Dharna in city	78
Arrested by police	58
Jail	37

Source: Sample Survey

The authorities employed different types of 'Harassment' strategies, such as lathi charge, police case, punishment in jail, etc to stop these dharna's or agitations. According to the survey, 51 respondents had been beaten during police lathi charge. 37 respondents were charged with police cases during agitation for which they were sent to jail. Due to all these harassment processes, which continued for more than six months many people suffered economically as well. It is depicted in the survey that 95 respondents accepted the fact that the struggle left them economically weaker. During the time of agitation farmers could not get enough time for farming which resulted in the less production of these crops. In those days Police allowed neither the villagers to work in their fields nor the outside labour to enter and work in the village.

Table 5.2: Harassment during the Struggle

Type of Harassment	No. of Respondents
Lathi charge	51
Police case	37
Economically weaken during struggle	95

Source: Sample Survey

The present study reveals the views of villagers about the benefits they got from the struggle. Many respondents accepted that they succeeded in getting

increased amount of compensation and obtained government jobs. Some of the respondents who got success in withdrawing their acquired land from thermal plants are shown in Table 5.3. According to the survey, 85 respondents were those who got success in getting the increased amount of compensation due to the struggle, while 20 respondents got government job as a benefit from this struggle and 35 respondents successfully withdrawn their acquired land from thermal plant. Different social and political organizations played their respective role during the time of struggle. The following table explains the positive and negative roles played by these organizations in this struggle. According to the survey, 80 respondents opined that the Kissan and Mazdoor Unions played very positive role at the time of struggle because these Unions were always in favour of protestors and against the authorities and the government. At the same time, 20 respondents who were close to village Sarpanch and Panchayat viewed that Kissan Union played a negative role. Out of hundred, 8 respondents accepted the positive role played by the political parties in these movements while the other 92 respondents rejected such views. 15 respondents claimed that the present Akali Government also played a positive role during struggle while the other 85 respondents did not agree on this point. Rather they blamed the state government along with village Panchayat for playing a negative role by always favouring the thermal plant authorities. Among these respondents 15 regarded the role played by village Panchayat at the time of struggle as positive while 85 respondents negated such views. All the 100 respondents from different families were of the unified view that the police always played a negative role during agitation times.

Table 5.3: Benefits of Struggle as observed by Respondents

Perceived Benefits of Struggle	No. of Respondents
Increase compensations	83
Got job	20
Some area of acquired land is withdrawn from thermal plant	35

Source: Sample Survey

Table 5.4: Role of Different Organizations in the Struggle as observed by the Respondents

Organization	Positive/Supportive	Negative	No Role
Kissan /Mazdoor Unions	80	20	-
Political Parties	08	-	92
Government	15	85	-
Role of Panchayat	15	85	-
Role of Police	-	100	-

Source: Sample Survey

Success of the Struggle

On 26 November 2011 the Chief Minister of Punjab S. Parkash Singh met the villagers, the leaders of Kissan and Mazdoor Unions at Bathinda and promised to fulfill their demands. He also promised to provide government jobs to one member from each affected family, to provide compensation of Rs. 3 lakhs per labour class family, to provide compensation amount to the 14 labour class families who had to lose their houses. The compensation amount was increased by Rs. 2 lakhs per acre and the police cases were taken back within a month.

The present state government provided jobs to some people but many families are still left and authorities demanded the job applications from affected families' members in March 2013. Out of the 166 acres of land, 92 acres of land was released from the land acquisition process and the rest of the 72 acres land is in process of providing land to the dispossessed people at some other site. The labourers could not get the promised compensation amount till now. The Kissan Unions and other organizations warned the Government that if the given promises will not be fulfilled in the given time, they would again start the agitation.

Thus, it is clear from the above explanation that the Coordinating Sangarsh Committee formed by the Kissan and Mazdoor Unions played a significant role in the struggle. Many villagers and members of Kissan and Mazdoor Unions got injuries while protesting against land acquisition process. The police sent the villagers and leaders of Coordinating Sangarsh Committee to jail. The women and students,

especially the girls played a very crucial role in the agitation by participating in dharnas. The opposition political parties, Congress and People's Party of Punjab also protested against land acquisition in Gobindpura but they totally failed to lead the movement like Trinamool Congress in Singur. After a long struggle of six months, the Punjab Government promised to fulfill the demands of the protesters, which are still pending.

Chapter VI

Conclusion

The present study aimed at examining the socio-economic implications of dispossession of land of the people of Gobindpura village in the Mansa district of Punjab. It also aims to study the nature of struggle being faced by Gobindpura due to the loss of land and livelihood. The study also includes an overall understanding of problems related to the land acquisition in India.

In order to achieve the envisaged objectives of the study, the data is collected from primary as well as secondary sources. The primary data is collected from 100 households of Gobindpura with the help of a structured schedule. The secondary data related to the process at Gobindpura Land Acquisition is collected from journals, books, magazines, newspapers and the internet.

Land acquisition is found to be one of the burning issue in India today affecting the people economically as well as socially. The economic reforms today and neo-liberal policies of the state have constituted several new factors for the acquisition of land. In furtherance of its new economic policy, the Government of India has enacted Special Economic Zone Act in 2005. Following this Act, a large area of agricultural land was acquired widely across the country for making special economic zones. Due to the rapid growth of urbanization in India, several agricultural lands were acquired for feeding the expanding cities. Land is necessary for the construction of houses, shopping malls, hotels, hospitals, industries and for other development projects also. In India many states acquired agriculture land for the promotion of tourism also. Energy projects are another factor grabbing the land in the country as electricity demand is very high in the country and thermal power plant is the main energy source in India. At present 500 coals based plants are under construction and proposed in India.

The legalities inherent in the process of land acquisition process in India are also relevant in this regard. The genesis of land acquisition in India started with the Bengal Act in 1824, which was enacted to promote the British commercial interest in India.

Thereafter, The British fortified the Land Acquisition Act in 1894 in order to speed up the land acquisition with the minimum compensation for public purpose. However, the term public purpose is neither defined nor explained for the purpose of acquiring private land. Even after the end of the colonial rule, the Indian government has not brought any changes in Land Acquisition Act and this colonial law remains the main guider in land acquisition until now. After realizing the problem with the colonial act in the new situation under neo-liberal growth, the government introduced 'Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill' in Lok Sabha in India on 7 September 2011. After much discussion in the Lok Sabha the bill was sent to the parliament committee for review and suggestion. In 2012 the parliament committee submitted their report and the cabinet subsequently made some changes to the draft. However, the new Land Acquisition Bill has not been passed by the parliament till date.

Land acquisition in the country for various projects has led to popular protests in different parts of the country. Many projects were delayed due to protest against land acquisition in many states. Protests against land acquisition in Singur and Nandigram in West Bengal, against Pohang Iron and Steel Company (POSCO) in Orissa, Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh and protest against land acquisition for thermal power plant in Jhajjar of Haryana are a few examples. A similar situation occurred in Gobindpura situated in the Mansa district of Punjab, where land was acquired for establishing a new thermal power plant. The present study is based on land acquisition at Gobindpura and its socio-economic implications.

The respondents from the present study belong to an average age of 47 years. Education level is very low in the sample as 56 respondents out of 100 are illiterate. The study found that in the village, joint family system has been dwindling as only 15 per cent of the respondents have joint family system while 85 per cent belong to the nuclear family. Agriculture is the main occupation in village Gobindpura. The majority of the population directly or indirectly is engaged in agriculture activities. About 93 percent of the samples are farmers and agricultural labourers. The rest 7 percent of respondents are engaged in small business, government servants, etc

The total land area of the village is 1458 acres, out of which 806 acre land has been acquired by the State Government of Punjab for establishing the thermal power plant for which 183 farmers have lost their agriculture land. Due to this, the process of land acquisition has altered cropping pattern significantly in the village Gobindpura where land is very fertile. In the recent decades the state of Punjab has seen a rice wheat mono cropping system from the multi-crop husbandry practices. Before the Land Acquisition the main crops grown in this area were- wheat, rice, cotton and fodder. After the acquisition not only the area sown under these crops has reduced but also the gross returns. Land under wheat has found drastic reduction from 479 acres to 248 acres due to the acquisition of land. Similar results have been found for other crops. The area under rice has been reduced from 254 acres of land to 112 acres, in case of cotton; the area under cultivation was 225 acres which has come down to 136 acres whereas the area under fodder has been reduced from 58 to 33 acres of land. Three marginal farmers used to cultivate vegetables in an area of 4 acres but after land acquisition they are left with no land for the same. Therefore, there is a clear reduction in the agrarian land under different crops due to the land acquisition.

Due to this, the owned land got reduced from 1458 acres to 652 acres for the village. This means that they have lost more than the half of their land in the process of land acquisition. Thus, it has a greater impact on their owned land. The study revealed that 83 families belong to farmer class out of which, only 18 percent people were marginal farmers before land acquisition. After the land acquisition, the number of marginal farmers has increased as land has been acquired for the thermal power plant. The loss of land property has pushed many medium and small farmers to the category of marginal farmers. Now, the large and medium farmers, encompassing 26 per cent of the total farmers own 170 acres of land while the small and marginal farmers which account for 74 per cent of the total, possess merely 111 acres of land. Thus, total owned land has decreased from 541 acres to 281 acres including 115 acres of land in other villages which has been purchased with the compensation amount.

Small farmers and marginal farmers take the land on lease from large farmers for their subsistence of life. However, after land acquisition, the surplus land with the

large farmers has declined for leasing to small and marginal farmers. Before land acquisition, out of 152 acres 'leased in' land was 120 acres taken by small and medium farmers from large farmers. After land acquisition it remained 37 acres. The pattern of leased out has also changed. Before land acquisition, 15 farmers lease out 131 acres land. But after the land acquisition, the number of leased out farmers remain 14. Out of which, small farmers are 3 and they lease out 12 acres of land. The medium and large farmers are 8 and 3 respectively. Out of remaining 281 acres of owned land, 105 acres of land has been leased out.

The people of village Gobindpura are totally dependent upon agriculture because they have no other source of income from other allied activities in village. Agriculture is the only source of their earning. The data collected from the survey of 100 agricultural families in the village Gobindpura pinpoints that these people are not involved in other allied activities such as bee keeping, fishery, poultry etc. People of Gobindpura keep few buffaloes and cows for the production of milk to sale and to use in their homes. However, nobody is involved in dairy farm or large scale production of milk in the village. The total number of buffaloes is more than cows in village. The study finds that the number of animals has also been reduced after land acquisition. There were 337 dairy animals which have now been reduced to 220 after land acquisition. Because of land acquisition, the land previously used for growing the fodder for these animals has also been reduced.

Further, the study found that annual income of respondents has decreased after land acquisition due to reduction in the size of agricultural land and also their engagement in the other allied activities in the village Gobindpura. The agricultural machinery owned by them has also reduced. After land acquisition the number of tractors has remained 38 out of 61, trolleys 21 out of 45 and ploughs remained 29 out of 47, but reaper has not been sold or purchased. There are some respondents whose whole land have been acquired by thermal power plant but they did not sale their tractor and trolley because they are of the view that when the construction work of thermal plant would start, they would use their machinery tools like tractor, trolley for loading purpose to earn a living. It is found in the survey that no family in the

village has purchased any harvesting combine and reaper etc. with the compensation amount.

Irrigation facility is also being hampered due to land acquisition process. The number of tube wells and other irrigation sources reduced after land acquisition and at present 140 acres of land out of remaining 652 acres of land is without any irrigation source. Before land acquisition the total number of tube wells was 77. Out of which, the marginal farmers have 9 tube wells. After land acquisition, it has reduced to 43, but with marginal farmers, it has increased to 12. It may be due to marginal farmers increase from 15 to 32. The families which withdrew their land from acquisition process are indulging in dispute with village panchayat for these canal irrigation facilities and at present this dispute has reached into the court.

The study revealed that only 20 per cent of respondents were in favour of land acquisition while 80% were against it. The present study found that the amount of compensation received by the people of village Gobindpura is very less than the earlier promised amount by the authority i.e. 50 lakhs earlier. However, at the time of land acquisition the compensation amount given to the farmers ranged from Rs. 23.23 lakhs per acre to Rs. 23.77 lakhs per acre, including displacement allowances. The utilization of compensation amount is one of the major concerns in resettlement and rehabilitation. The study revealed that the villager does not use the compensation amount in any productive purpose. As the survey finds that land is the only source of people's income and after land acquisition their income source has been affected greatly. Because, after acquiring their land, the government has not taken any special provision for the resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected people in Gobindpura. According to the survey, the government does not provide any alternative agriculture land for the affected people of village Gobindpura. After the struggle, started by the villagers the Government has provided some government jobs to the affected families' members who have qualified up to higher secondary level (+2). Twenty persons have the government job from these 100 hundred families.

The land acquisition process does not concern only with the issues regarding land, it is also concerned with some social issues. The present study found that

before land acquisition, the whole village was knit in the fibre of unity, but after the land acquisition process, whole society of this village got completely disintegrated. It teared apart the social fabric and the existing patterns of social organization. Production systems dismantled, kinship groups and family systems were scattered and people's cultural identity put at risk. Due to land acquisition, social lives of Gobindpura villagers have been disturbed very much. Many types of disputes have emerged in the village families. The data reveals that 54 families out of 100 families are engaged in some of the other disputes. The main reasons for these disputes are connected with the distribution of compensation amount among the family members and the different views for the utilization of compensation amount among them. At the time of struggle for the withdrawal of acquired land, the study pattern of village children also got affected very much. The process also made an impact on the marriage ceremonies of the village. Land plays a significant role in marriage of Jats because land is the source of income of Jat families. 74 respondents have told that it would affect their future marriage plans also. After discussing the social impacts of land acquisition, the survey further finds that migration is another impact related to land acquisition process. After land acquisition, the level of human migration or displacement has increased very rapidly. Mainly the rural people depend upon agriculture land for their livelihood. However, after land acquisition their sources of income are hampered. Therefore, they have moved to some other places in the search of employment. The study found that 12 persons from selected 100 families migrated after land acquisition process. 10 persons migrated to other states and 2 to other country. The study also enquired about the merits and demerits of the project from respondents and found that most of the respondents view that the work opportunity has highly increased which gives them revenue and increases their standard of living. On the other hand, supply of electricity and value of land has also increased respectively. Regarding the demerits of the power project, according to the respondents, loss of the social unity of the village is the main demerit of the project. In addition, agricultural production of village has decreased. It has increased the environment degradation and created pollution, therefore affecting the health of these people.

Labourers are also affected seriously along with the farmers' class because the labour class depends upon agriculture for their livelihood. Fourteen respondents belong to labour families, whose houses are also included in acquiring land. They did not get any compensation in place of their houses acquired by Poena Power Company. Due to land acquisition, these families are fully unemployed and their income has also reduced. Agriculture labour did not get any compensation amount and any other alternative piece of land, while their whole families depend for their livelihood on agriculture.

The next part of study is the story of struggle against land acquisition faced by the villagers of Gobindpura. Many newspapers in different news covered their agitation. Coordinating Sangarsh Committee formed by the Kissan and Mazdoor Unions played an important role in this movement. Many villagers and workers of Kissan and Mazdoor Unions were injured during protest against land acquisition. The villagers and leaders of coordinating Sangarsh Committee were also sent to jail by the police. The women and students especially for girls have played crucial role in agitation. After 18 months of struggle, the Punjab Government has promised to fulfill the demands of protesters.

The present study concludes that all these land acquisition problems in India are due to paying less compensation to the land owners, land acquired for the private projects in the name of public purpose, not providing the alternative source of income to land acquisition affected people and ignoring the agriculture labour.

Suggestions for Policy Intervention

The following policies and suggestions would be useful to minimize the problems related to the theme of the study:

All over India, the problem of lesser compensation has been noticed in land acquisition case including Gobindpura. Industrial or development project will increase the prices of real estate, which have adverse impact on the displaced farmers because with the less compensation amount they will not be able to purchase land in other places. The compensation amount being decided by the government is based on the official price. However, the actual market price will be far different from official

price (Singh, 2012; Ghatak and Ghosh, 2011). So the compensation amount should be decided according to the actual market value of land.

Not only the farmers but agricultural labourers are also affected by the process of land acquisition. Labourers depend on agriculture land for their livelihood. Labourers are always ignored by the authority at the time of land acquisition they do not get any compensation. Therefore, some provisions should be made for compensating the loss of work and livelihood of agricultural labourers.

In Gobindpura, most of the people did not agree with the land acquisition. Therefore, there is a need for improving the existing policies on land acquisition. Definition of "Public Purpose" in a new Land Bill and similarly, many of the provisions/laws regarding compensation, particularly pricing, provision for de-notification of excess land, provision of time limit for filing the cases for arbitration, and market valuation methodology etc., need greater clarity (Levien, 2011). Land acquisition process should take the affected parties into confidence and it should be based on their 'informed consent'. People should have the trust that everything will be done properly and transparently for them (Desai, 2011).

Private industry can set examples for others by developing attractive compensation packages such as sharing of economic benefits by giving land displaced people higher compensation, shares, debentures, options, etc. in some of the projects (Ghatak and Ghosh, 2011). The Gobindpura power project established under the public private partnership and government may think of giving jobs in the thermal plant to be established.

Government should also be concerned over the environmental impact of such projects. Besides Gobindpura, two thermal power plants have already started working in the Bathinda-Mansa region, one is at Bathinda and second is at Lehra Mohabbt. The two thermal power plants under construction in this region are the Giderbaha and at village Wanawali (Mansa) and a third thermal power project is proposed at Kot Shmeer in Bathinda. Within the 80 to 100 km radius, five thermal power plants are being constructed or already functioning in this Bathinda- Mansa region, which will be responsible for the environmental pollution in this area.

Government should reevaluate the existing land acquisition policies of India. Agriculture sustains livelihood of maximum number of people in India. The agricultural land acquired for purpose of development projects will make them unemployed, who are unskilled to fetch other jobs. This will not only result in the rise of unemployed people but also aggravate the problem of food security in future.

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APPENDIX-A

Schedule

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB (BATHINDA)

Land Acquisition Study in village Gobindpura District Mansa (Punjab)

Title:-Problem of Land Acquisition –A Case Study on Gobindpura

No. _____

Investigator: _____

Date: _____

1. Background information of the respondent

a.	Name:	b.	Father's/ Husband name:	c.	Mother's name:
d.	Contact No. Landline: Mobile:	e.	Age:	f.	Caste:
g.	Religion:	h.	Educational level:	i.	Other occupation:

Respondent profile

Respondent (First Name)	
Surname	
Father's Name/Husband Name	
Mother's Name	
Caste	
Religion	
Age	
Contact No.	

3. Land Details

3.1

Land (Acres)	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Ownership			
Leased in			
Leased out			
Total			

3.2

Land (Acres)	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Irrigated			
Un-irrigated			

3.3

Irrigation Source	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Canal			
Tube well			

3.4

Source of Irrigation	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Own			
Hired			
Others			

3.5

Have you purchased any land after land acquisition?	Yes	No	If yes where?
---	-----	----	---------------

3.6. Value of land acquired:

Land value before Land acquisition per acre	Land value after Land acquisition per acre	Specify Reason for difference

4. Income from agriculture before/after land acquisition

Returns	Before land acquisition				After land acquisition				
	Products	Acre	Yield(qt./acre)	Price (Per qt.)	Gross return	Acre	Yield(qt./acre)	Price (per qt.)	Gross return
Wheat									
Paddy									
Sugarcane									
Cotton									
Maize									
Pearl									
Sorghum									
Groundnut									
Fruits									
Vegetables									
Pulses									
Fodder									
Others									
Grand total					Grand total				

5. Occupation Structure

Occupation status	Before		After		If change occupation specify reason
	Sr.No.	Occupation	Income	Occupation	
1					
2					
3					
4					

6. Details of Allied Activities

6.1

Dairying	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Buffaloes (Nos.)			
Cows (Nos.)			
Milk Production (Lts.)			
Annual sale (Rs.)			

6.2

Poultry	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Birds (Nos.)			
Annual Production			
Annual income (Rs.)			

6.3

Bees Keeping	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Number (Box)			
Annual Production			
Annual income (Rs.)			

6.4

Particulars	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Numbers			
Annual Production			
Annual income (Rs.)			

7. Agriculture Machinery**7.1**

Name of Machinery	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Tractor (Hrs. Power)			
Trolley			
Plough			
Harvesting Combine			
Reaper			
Others (Specify.....)			

7.2

Tube wells	Before	After	Specify the reason for difference
Number of Tube wells			
Electric			
Diesel			

8. Land Acquisition Procedure**8.1**

Were you been informed about the procedure of acquisition by the authorities	Yes	No
--	-----	----

8.2

If yes, have they followed the same procedure	Yes	No
---	-----	----

8.3

If no, how it is different?	
-----------------------------	--

8.4

Do you agree with the decision of government to acquire land for thermal plan?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

8.5

according to you your land acquisition process	Your Will	Under Pressure	Forcefully	Other
Specify				

9. Environment Issue**9.1**

Do you know about the environmental impacts and pollution caused by the thermal power plant?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

9.2

If yes, which type of the environmental impacts and pollution?	
Global warming (climate change)	
Acid rain	
Degrade drinking water quality	
Carcinogen (cancer)	
Respiratory diseases (asthma, T, B.etc.)	
All	

9.3

Is your house also included in the land acquisition area?	Yes	No
---	-----	----

9.4

If yes, you got any compensation amount for house.	Yes	No
--	-----	----

9.5

If yes, how much	Yes	If no, why	
------------------	-----	------------	--

10. Compensation and alternative source of income

10.1

The government has provided adequate amount of money for your property?	Yes	No
---	-----	----

10.2

What is the amount of compensation	you received	Promises earlier
------------------------------------	--------------	------------------

10.3 What is your opinion about compensation amount for acquired land?

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The compensation amount is good					
The amount is too low, I make more money on that land annually					
The amount is too low, I cannot afford to buy any land as substitution for acquired Land					
It is just fair					

10.4

Whether government has provided any alternative source of income or employment to your family?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

10.5 If yes, which type of alternative source of income or employment provided to your family?

Fallowing type	Specify income (per month)
Govt. services	
Semi govt.	
Only money	
Other land	
Any others	

10.6 How will you use the compensation amount?

Buy farming land in other area	
Construction House	
Buy car/motorcycle	
Social ceremonies, like marriages etc	
Go abroad	
others	

11. Struggle against land acquisition

11.1

Have you or your family member participated in the struggle?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

11.2

Name. of Member	Gender*	Type of participation **	Harassment #

*male-1, Female-2, **village dharna-1, Dharna in city-2, arrested by police-3, jail-4, others (specify...)-5

#Lathiicharge-1, Police case-2, physical punishment in jail -3, others (specify....)-4.

11.3

Do you think your participation in struggle has made you economic weaker?	Yes	No
---	-----	----

11.3

If yes how	
------------	--

11.4 What are the benefits of the struggle?

Increase compensation	
Got job	
Some area of acquired land is withdrawn from thermal plant	
Any other (specify.....)	

11.5 Role of different organizations in the struggle

Organization	Positive/Supportive	Negative	No Role	Specify it
Kisan Unions				
NGOs				
Political Parties				
Government				
Role of Panchyat				
Role of Police				
Any other				

12. Social issue

12.1

Do you think, that the people who don't have the land also affected by this acquisition?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

If yes, how they affected	
---------------------------	--

12.2

Have you faced any land dispute among your family members during land acquisition?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

If yes, what is the reason?	
-----------------------------	--

12.3

Does land acquisition affect the education of your children?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

If yes, how they affected	Positive	Negative
---------------------------	----------	----------

12.4

Is there any delay in the marriage of any family member due to land acquisition?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

If yes, what is the reason?	
-----------------------------	--

12.5

Is there any member of your family want to go abroad with the compensation amount or have already gone?	Yes	No
---	-----	----

12.6

Is there any one from your family migrated to some other village/city after land acquisition?	Yes	No
---	-----	----

If yes, what is the reason?	
-----------------------------	--

12.7

Do you have any future plan to migrate from this village?	Yes	No
---	-----	----

If yes, what is the reason?	
-----------------------------	--

12.8

Do you think that land acquisition affected the unity of your village?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

If yes, how	
-------------	--

13.1 What are the benefits of the project? (Tick more than one)

Good supply of electricity	
Work opportunities shall increase	
Value of land shall increase	
Others (specify.....)	

13.2 What are the demerits of the project? (Tick more than one)

Loss of social unity	
Environmental pollution	
Loss of agriculture land	
Others (specify.....)	

Appendix-B

Images of Gobindpura people injured during the protest against land acquisition



Khanna, B. (2011) "Mansa Land Acquisition 275 farmers held captive". The Hindustan Times, 13 October 2011. Mansa .p-4

Contd...



People Protest against Gobindpura land acquisition at Mansa and Bathinda

Parkash, C. (2011) "Mansa farmers stage dharna against land acquisition". The Tribune, 23 June 2011. Mansa.p-5
 Parkash, C. (2011) "Villagers and Kissan Unions protest against acquisition of their land for thermal power plant". The Tribune, 25 July 2011. Mansa.p-4



The Farmer put the wire our land and the policemen stopped it

Parkash, C. (2011) "Mansa thermal plant '350 farmers rounded up as admn takes control of land". The Tribune, 24 July 2011. Mansa.p-4



People protest at Breata

Sharma, H. (2011) "Farmers oppose acquisition" The Indian Express, 27August 2011.Mansa.p-6