

1(a) A Char may be (i) reformation in Situ (same place) of land previously diluviated or (ii) land gained by gradual accession from the recess of a river or sea or (iii) new formation. In case of (i) if the reformation takes place within 20 years of diluvian, the old tenant is entitled to repossession subject to payment of fair and equitable rent. In case of (ii) the tenant to whose land it is annexed is entitled to hold it subject to payment of fair and equitable rent. If, however, in either case, the reformed or accreted land, together with the other lands already held by the tenant concerned, exceeds 375 standard bighas, he shall not be entitled to the excess land and the excess land shall be at the disposal of Government. In case of (iii) all new formations become Government properties.

All agricultural lands at the disposal of Government are settled with bonafide cultivators, landless cultivators and cultivators having small quantities of land, including refugees and tenants of diluviated land and ex-servicemen, being given preference.

(b) No. The position is as stated against item (a).

(c) Government khas lands are settled as stated above, the price being charged at the rate of 50% of the estimated market value. Any bonafide cultivator may, however, purchase agricultural land of a tenant by negotiation, the price being settled by agreement between the parties. Under the law, nobody can, however, acquire land in excess of 375 standard bighas in the aggregate, which is the maximum ceiling upto which an individual family can hold land.

(d) Under the law, he is a trespasser and is liable to be evicted as such. There is also a special law for summary eviction of trespassers on Government khas lands.

(e) Yes. The legal position has been stated against item (a).

2. A char becomes cultivable when it is sufficiently raised by deposit of silt. As regards the time, it depends on the progress of deposit of silt. Generally, it takes about 5 to 10 years.

3. Generally, grass, boḡla, khagra and small thorny and other bushes grow initially without human help, after about 3 years of the formation.

4. No wild animals find their way to the chars unless they are contiguous to the forests in the main land. Snakes and crocodiles are more or less found in every char. Common wild animals in the plains are leopards, wild boars, jackals and foxes.

5. Wild ducks visit the chars in the winter.

6. There are many such cases.