Glossary

acre 0.405 hectare or 4,047 square metres

anna one-sixteenth of a rupee

bataidar tenant-at-will paying rent in kind.

bazaar market

bhadralok literal meaning 'respectable people' but used as a category

to imply a status group in Bengal who came from the upper castes, often economically dependent on landed rents and

professional and clerical employment.

crore 10 million

ekka a two-wheel light trap, buggy, drawn by a pony

gur raw sugar; unrefined sugar

khas mahal government estate

khatiyan land register containing the full description of each holding

(plots, areas, boundaries, details of ownership and tenancy,

rents and dues)

khesra/khasra official village field book containing the list of plots and

showing their areas, crops and details of occupancy

kuccha (adj.) 'raw' (anglicised from Hindi kaccā); with reference

to buildings, it was used to refer to village houses or 'huts' made of mud and grass, or houses made of unfired brick and

unslaked lime.

kuccha-pucca used for describing a building made of kuccha and pucca

materials

lakh/lac 100,000

maund 82.2 pounds or 37.3 kilograms

mohalla locality

pie/pice/paisa/paise 1/12 of an anna

pucca (adj.) 'solid' (anglicised from Hindi pakkā); with reference

to buildings, it generally referred to constructions made of bricks or stone with mortar, or concrete as opposed to *kuccha*

or kuccha-pucca

rabi winter crop; crop sown after the rains and reaped in the first

three or four months of the year

raiyat (ryot) peasant, cultivator thana police station

zamindar landholder or landlord, usually hereditary, who pays a fixed

revenue to the government and collects rent from his tenants

zamindari (adj.) land-revenue system under zamindars; (noun) the land

covered by a zamindar

zarpeshgidar holder of a zarpeshgi lease, that is, holder of a mortgage with

possession

zirat private land of a zamindar