

## POLAND'S LAWS ON JEWS PROPERTY



### Issue

Property restitution laws have been changed in Poland after the lower house of the Parliament passed a bill in this regard.

### Background

The measure has attracted criticism domestically as well as internationally for being insensitive towards Jews.

### Details

- The Nazi government had seized properties of Jews during their occupation of Poland. Such properties could earlier be claimed by owners and their successors.
- The new legislation was undertaken to implement a decision by tribunal that there should be a time limit for reversing faulty administrative decisions.

### Effects on Jews

- Poland was occupied by Nazi Germany during the World War II. This was followed by widespread looting and killing of Jews.
- The entire Jewish population of the country was wiped out and their properties nationalised by the Communist government after the war.
- Jewish successors and organisations have been demanding compensation or restoring of such stolen properties.
- The process of restitution has been started since 1989, according to some estimates while others consider that it happened long ago.

- Many groups have recorded the importance of these properties for their Jewish owners and the memories associated with it.

### Importance of Jewish properties

Estimates have that Jewish properties played a major role in generating revenues for Poland after the war. The combined value of such properties valued more than \$30 billion.

### Poland's opinion

Poland says that it was also a victim of such War and it is not ready to bear the financial burden of giving compensation or returning properties.

### NOTES

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