

Village Statistics 1945

32	(vii) Leased to others than Arabs or Jews	2,656	593
	(viii) Earmarked for communal or public use	4,713	—
	(ix) Uncultivable sand, marsh or rocks	167,429	—
	(x) Unoccupied, including 'paper' claims	—	84,699
	(xi) Available for and offered on short term lease	20,082	—
	Totals:	615,961	926,719
	Grand Total:	1,542,680 ³	

Explaining the above figures, the statement stated that,

"It will be seen from a comparison of items (iii) and (iv) with items (v) and (vi) that the Jews have a substantial advantage over the Arabs in the matter of leases of State Domain which was at the free disposal of Government. The occupiers of Government land under item (ii) are Arabs; their right to occupation derives from the Ottoman regime and has never been seriously in dispute; the figure of 105,340 dunums covers lands, such as the sandy wastes of Rafah, which, although within the areas of Arab occupation, include considerable patches of land at present uncultivable. Even taking the areas under item (ii) into account, however, the position, on the proportions of each community to the total population, is in favour of the Jews. The figure of 619,858 dunums under item (i) includes forest reserves and consequently may include land which is claimed by private persons and which at land settlement may be found not to belong to Government. Item (x) contains an assortment of claims not yet verified even as to area or locality; they derive from various vague Turkish registrations or old records left by the Turks. Item (ix) may appear to be a subject for experimental development, but if it had been possible to transform anything from this item to item (xi) that would have been done for revenue purposes. The figure of 167,429 includes 105,000 dunums of marshy or rocky land surveyed during the operations of the Ghor Mudawwara commission; some of this may be allocated for afforestation or grazing and some may in due course become the subject of development leases and, in the case of the Beisan lands, of schemes for the consolidation of holdings. The remainder is rocky land in the Nazareth and Ramle sub-districts or sand-dunes in the Gaza area. The figure of 20,082 dunums given in item (xi) represents the

(3) *A Survey of Palestine 1945-1946*, Vol. I, Chapter VIII, p. 267.

The above figure of 1,542,680 dunums stated by Government to be State Domain almost coincides with the figure of 1,539,111 dunums for Palestine, excluding the Beersheba sub-district, shown in the 'Village Statistics 1945.' Table I reduces this figure by 49,700 dunums on which were planted citrus, bananas and other fruit trees, belonging to Arab farmers.