

# A roadside stand

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## Poetry section

Textual question & answers :

Think it out :

Q.1. The city folk who drove through the country side hardly paid any heed to the roadside stand or to the people who ran it. If at all they did, it was to complain which lines bring this out? What was their complaint about ?

Ans : The following lines bring this out :

(1) At having the landscape marred with the artless paint.

(2) Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong.

Their complaint was that the owner of the roadside stand spoiled the entire landscape with artless paint. They also complained that the letters 'N' and 'S' had been written, turned wrong.

Q.2. What was the plea of the folk who had put up the roadside stand ?

Ans : The men who had put up the roadside stand pleaded pathetically for some customers. They wanted to earn some money from them. They wished that the city folk would stop there to buy something from them.

Q.3. The government and other social service agencies appear to help the poor rural people but actually do them no good. Pick out the words and phrases that the poet uses to show their double standard.

Ans : The government and the party in power were thoroughly indifferent to the welfare of the poor rural people. No social services agencies were doing any good to them. The words and phrases show their double standard :

"While greedy good doers, beneficent beasts of prey..... That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits".

Q.4. What is the childish longing that the poet refers to? Why is it 'vain'?

Ans : The Poet thinks that the men who are running the roadside stand suffer from a childish longing. They are always waiting for their prospective customers. They keep their windows open to attract them. But when none turn up they become sad. They always wait to hear the sound of brake and stopping of an engine. But all those go in vain.

Q.5. Which lines tell us about the insufferable pain that the poet feels at the plight of the poor rural people ?

Ans : The following two lines tell us about the pain of the poet : "I can't help owning the great relief it would be/To put these people at one stroke out of their pain."