

## The Age of Industrialisation

### LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (4 MARKS)

#### NCERT QUESTIONS

**Q.1. How did the East India Company procure regular supplies of cotton and silk textiles from Indian weavers? Additional Questions**

**Ans.** The East India Company adopted various steps to ensure regular supplies of cotton and silk textiles.

- (i) Established political power to assert monopoly right to trade.
- (ii) Developed a system of management and control that would eliminate competition, control cost and ensure regular supply of cotton and silk goods.
- (iii) Eliminated the existing traders and broker connected with cloth and established direct control with the weaver.
- (iv) Appointed paid servants called gomasthas to supervise weavers, examine the quality of the cloth and collect supplies.
- (v) Weavers were not allowed to contact other buyers. Weavers were given advances and were offered the loan to buy raw material. Those who took advance or loan could not contact any other trader.
- (vi) The weavers had to sell at a price dictated by the Company. By giving loan the Company tied the weavers with them.

**Q.2. Explain the various problems faced by the Indian weavers in 19th century.**

**Ans.** By turn of the 19th century weavers faced a new set of problems. As the cotton industry developed in England, Indian cotton weavers faced two problems - their export market collapsed and local market shrank being flooded with British goods. Indian handmade goods could not compete with fine machine made goods of England. By 1860, they faced a new problem. They could not get sufficient supply of raw cotton which was sent to England for their industries. The prices of raw cotton shot up and Indian weavers were forced to buy raw cotton at exorbitant prices. In most cases they were unable to pay.

By the end of 19th century, Indian weavers again got a blow when textile factories were set up in India flooding market with machine made goods. It was difficult for the weaver to survive.

**Q.3. Name any three managing agencies in India before the First World War. What were their main functions?**

**Ans.** Till the First World War, the three most important managing agencies were:

- (i) Bird Heigler's & Co    (ii) Andrew Yule and    (iii) Jardine Skinner & Co.

**Their main functions are:**

(i) These agencies controlled large sector of Industries.

(ii) Mobilised capital.

(iii) Set up joint stock companies and managed them.

In most cases, the Indian financiers provided the capital, while European Agencies made all investment and business decisions.

**Q.4. How did the pattern of Indian industry change in early 20th century?**

**Ans.** By the first decade of the 20th Century, a series of changes affected the pattern of industrialisation.

As the Swadeshi Movement gathered momentum in India, the nationalists mobilised people to boycott foreign cloth and other goods. Industrial groups organised themselves to protect their collective interests pressurizing the government to increase tariff protection and grant other concessions.

From 1906, export of India yarn to China declined. So Indian industrialists shifted their interest from yarn to cloth production leading to considerable production of cotton piece goods.

The beginning of First World War created a new situation. Since British mills were busy in producing war materials to meet their own war needs export of goods to India declined. This gave an opportunity to Indian industries to thrive. Indian mills now had a vast home market to supply. As the war continued, Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs, such as jute bags, cloth for army uniform, tents, leather boots, horse and mule saddles, etc. New factories were set up and old factories ran double shift.

After the war, industries in Britain got a severe setback. In India however local industrialists gradually consolidated their position substituting foreign manufactures and capturing home market. Handicraft production also expanded in the 20th century.