

Revision Notes

Class- 8 Social Science(History)

Chapter 3 - Ruling the countryside

The Company becomes the Diwan.

- The East India Company was named the Diwan of Bengal by the Mughal Emperor on August 12, 1765.
- This meant that the British became the chief financial administrator of Bengal, which was now under their control. For the benefit of the Company, they had to devise effective administrative and revenue collecting policies.
- The Company had to devise ways in which the revenues collected could meet the growing expenses of the Company.
- Being a foreign power in India, the East India Company had to carefully decide how it would rule the countryside. This included controlling revenue resources, producing the desired crops, and redefining the rights of the local people under its rule.

Revenue for the Company.

- Even though the East India Company had become the Diwan of Bengal, at its core, it was still a trading company. This meant that it put the Company's economic success before the well-being of the people.
- The organization exclusively centered around separating as much as income conceivable from individuals and purchasing crude materials like fine silk and cotton from the locale at costs as modest as could really be expected.
- Earlier, the East India Company had to trade gold and silver from Britain to buy raw materials. Be that as it may, subsequent to turning into the Diwan of Bengal, the income gathered from Bengal was utilized to purchase and fare crude materials.
- This harmed the economy of Bengal. Artisans were forced to sell their goods at low prices to the Company while their taxes kept on increasing. Thus, their economic condition became worse with time, and they were unable to meet their debts. This forced them to desert their villages.

- Artisans leaving their villages increasingly caused the artisanal production to fall. The agricultural industry was also under strain due to the economic burden of the state.
- Finally, a terrible famine occurred in 1770, which took the lives of at least one-third of the population of Bengal. Almost 10 million people lost their lives to this calamity.

The need for improving agriculture.

- With the drastic fall in agriculture, it was difficult for the Company to collect as much revenue as it wanted. To secure proper revenue from the land, the Company devised several policies which would ensure regular revenue income and would also force the people to look after the land so as to improve the agricultural output.
- Some of these systems are Permanent Settlement, Mahalwari system, and Munro system.
- To ensure that the Company secured revenue from the land, they introduced a revenue system in 1793 known as the Permanent Settlement.

Permanent Settlement system

- The "talukdars" and "rajas" were recognized as "zamindars." The zamindars had to pay certain fixed revenue to the Company for their authority over the land.
- The revenue to be paid was extracted in the form of rent from peasants of the region. Since the revenue was fixed, the surplus production collected could be enjoyed by the zamindar. This would encourage the zamindars to invest in agriculture.

The problem with Permanent settlement.

The system of permanent settlement created problems for everyone involved.

- The Company expected that they would be tempted by higher income; the new zamindars would take effort to improve the land for cultivation. However, that did not happen. The revenue was fixed so high that most zamindars could not meet the demand and had to lose their rights to the property. Others were forced to sell off parts of their lands to pay the revenue in auctions.

- In the early 19th century, agricultural production improved, and the market prices rose. This meant that there was an excess income from agriculture. However, due to the principle of a fixed revenue, the Company could not benefit from the agricultural boom.
- The zamindars were still not interested in improving the land. Some had already lost their rights, while others saw this settlement as a way to secure more money without investment as they realized that as long as they rented their land to peasants, they did not have to invest for the improvement of the land.
- The worst effect was seen on the farmers who were forced to pay high rent. Failing to pay the rent got them evicted. This forced them to take loans from moneylenders. Even with high rents, the peasants had no rights on the land.

Mahalwari system.

After realizing the problems of the Permanent Settlement System, the company officials came up with a new system of revenue collection called the Mahalwari System. It was devised by Holt Mackenzie in 1822. This was practiced mostly in the North-Western Provinces of the Bengal Presidency.

- This system recognized villages as important social institutions. The revenue collectors thus directly dealt with the village through representatives.
- The collector had to inspect villages and, depending on the available land, condition of the land, and various other factors, calculated the revenue to be paid for each plot in the village. This was added to calculate the given revenue that each village or "mahal" had to pay.
- The headman of the village was responsible for collecting the revenue and paying it to the Company.
- In contrast to the Permanent Settlement System, the income to be paid was not fixed and could be inspected intermittently.

The Ryotwari System.

- There was a separate system of revenue collection practiced in the southern part of the country. The system was first introduced by Alexander Read and later improved and made popular by Thomas Munro.
- Due to the absence of traditional zamindars in the south, the Company had to deal with the farmers themselves directly. The land was carefully assessed, and

then revenue was fixed by the Company that the cultivators were required to pay.

- Despite the introduction of a revenue collection system, the plight of the native people could not be addressed. Due to high revenues, the workers were forced to flee their land. This reduced the revenue from land. Agriculture also suffered due to the shortage of peasants willing to work.

Munro System.

- In this system, farmers or cultivators are considered owners of the land. They own property and can sell, mortgage, or give away land. The government collects taxes directly from farmers.

Growing indigo in India.

- Indigo is a crop grown to be used as a dye for its rich color. Indigo was in high demand all over Europe for dying, which can only be grown in temperate regions.
- The British realized the demand for the crop and forced the farmers in India to grow indigo. This was done in two elaborate ways, namely the Nij System and the Ryoti System.
- In the Nij system, the farmer's own land was cultivated for indigo. Due to scarcity of land and high labor demands of cultivation, it was very difficult for the farmers to make a profit.
- In the Ryoti framework, ranchers were given development credit for development.
- The farmers were also given land for cultivation. However, due to the low selling price of indigo, loss of land due to indigo cultivation, and a brutal system of loaning, the farmers were not satisfied with this system.

The Blue rebellion and after-effects.

- Due to the ruthlessness of the framework, in March 1895, the cultivators in Bengal started to revolt against the specialists. The neighborhood zamindars and town headmen additionally took part in the mobs.
- The grower was boycotted, and the indigo creation was halted. The ranchers likewise waged war to battle against the framework.

- Their discontent was clear to Lieutenant Governor, who visited Bengal that colder time of year. In dread of insubordination, the lead representative expressed that it was not obligatory for cultivators to develop indigo.
- As the disobedience spread, even the educated people from Calcutta joined their battle through writing.
- Finally, a commission was set up to investigate the matter. The commission tracked down that the development was drilled shamelessly by the grower, and they were considered answerable for it.
- It additionally reasoned that the development was not beneficial for Ryotis, and they could decline to develop indigo get-togethers end of the existing agreement.

Important Questions and Answers.

1. Discuss in brief the problems with indigo cultivation.

Ans: Indigo plantation in India had a number of problems, they are:

1. Indigo farming required a lot of labour. This meant that a lot of effort had to be put into cultivation.
2. The cultivation required a lot of fertile lands, which were not available. Farmers were forced to use land mainly for rice cultivation.
3. The crop had deep roots that could strip away the fertility of the soil very soon, thus rendering the soil infertile. This resulted in the loss of fertile land for farmers.
4. The planters were forced to sell indigo at low prices, which caused distress among the cultivators.

2. Discuss the difference between the Permanent Settlement and Mahalwari System

Ans: The difference between the permanent settlement system and the mahalwari system are:

Permanent settlement	Mahalwari settlement
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The zamindar was given the right to the land.	The right of the land was with the villagers.
There was a fixed revenue collection.	The amount of revenue can be changed because of scrutiny.
The zamindars were dealing with the payment after the revenue was collected by the labourers.	The village headman was usually the person to give payment after the collection.
On the basis of land, the revenue was fixed.	According to the number of factors, the revenues were decided.
For single zamindar the revenue was always fixed.	For each plot of land, the revenue was fixed.

3. Discuss the drawbacks of the permanent settlement system.

Ans: The significant downsides of the extremely durable settlement framework are given underneath:

- The organization expected the new zamindars to work on the development of their properties when enticed by higher pay. In any case, it didn't go as arranged, as it demolished their conditions as they wound up losing their property and needed to offer them to pay the income in barter.
- The zamindars barely put resources into land improvement.
- The overabundant income which was acquired due to further developed economic situations didn't profit the organization.
- The ranchers were the most exceedingly awful influenced ones as they needed to pay high leases yet couldn't tie down rights to their territories

4. Write a short Note on Permanent Settlement.

Ans: Permanent settlement:

- The Permanent Settlement of Bengal, which was likewise called "The Permanent Settlement," was an arrangement between the British East India Company and the property managers of Bengal.
- Under this framework, the zamindars were given the rights to land for which they needed to pay a certain income.

- The incomes were to be raised from those grounds, which, thusly, had expansive ramifications for both the current rural strategies and the efficiency of the land.
- On the off chance that the landowner neglected to pay the income, he would lose the rights to his territory, which would then be sold by the organization.
- The zamindars gathered incomes from the workers as loans. The add-up to be paid as income was always fixed and couldn't be changed.

5. What were the two systems of indigo cultivation in India and their drawbacks?

Ans: The two systems of indigo cultivation in India and their drawbacks are as follows:

- The Permanent Settlement of Bengal, which was likewise called "The Permanent Settlement," was an understanding between the British East India Company and the property managers of Bengal.
- Under this framework, the zamindars were given the rights to land for which they needed to pay a certain income.
- The incomes were to be raised from those grounds, which, thusly, had expansive ramifications for both the current farming strategies and the usefulness of the land.
- In the event that the landowner neglected to pay the income, he would lose the rights to his territory, which would then be sold by the organization. The zamindars gathered incomes from the laborers as loans. The add-up to be paid as income was fixed perpetually and couldn't be changed.

6. Write a short note on blue revolt.

Ans: BLUE REVOLT:

- In Bangladesh, in March 1859, thousands of ryots started a rebellion against indigo cultivation, called the Blue Rebellion or Indigo Rebellion. Ryots, armed with spears, bows, and swords, attacked the indigo factory and plantation.
- The Blue Rebellion began two years after the Great Uprising of 1857, and it plagued the British.

- The rebellion prompted the government to send troops to protect the plantation owners and set up an Indigo Committee to investigate the situation further. After the

- Blue Rebellion, indigo production in Bangladesh collapsed and indigo growers moved their base to Bihar.

- In 1917, Gandhiji visited Champaran in Bihar and was moved by the plight of the ryots and launched a campaign against indigo growers called the Champaran Movement.