

Social Science

(History) (Chapter – 3) (Ruling the Countryside)
(Class – 8)

Let's recall

Question 1:

Match the following:

ryot	village
mahal	peasant
nij	cultivation on ryot's lands
ryoti	cultivation on planter's own land

Answer 1:

ryot	peasant
mahal	village
nij	cultivation on planter's own land
ryoti	cultivation on ryot's lands

Question 2:

Fill in the blanks:

- (a) Growers of woad in Europe saw _____ as a crop which would provide competition to their earnings.
(b) The demand for indigo increased in late eighteenth-century Britain because of _____.
(c) The international demand for indigo was affected by the discovery of _____.
(d) The Champaran movement was against _____.

Answer 2:

- (a) Growers of woad in Europe saw *Indigo* as a crop which would provide competition to their earnings.
(b) The demand for indigo increased in late eighteenth-century Britain because of *increased cotton textiles production*.
(c) The international demand for indigo was affected by the discovery of *Synthetic dyes*.
(d) The Champaran movement was against *Indigo planters*.

Let's discuss

Question 3:

Describe the main features of the Permanent Settlement.

Answer 3:

According to the Permanent, the rajas and taluqdars were recognized as zamindars and were given the responsibility of revenue collection from the peasants. The amount to be paid was fixed permanently and hence the name Permanent Settlement.

Question 4:

How was the mahalwari system different from the Permanent Settlement?

Answer 4:

S. No.	Permanent Settlement	Mahalwari Settlement
1.	Permanent Settlement was introduced in Bihar and Bengal.	The system of Mahalwari was introduced in western part of Gangetic Valley, North-West Province, parts of Central India and Panjab.
2.	It was introduced in 1793.	It came into effect in 1822.

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| <p>3. The amount to be paid as land revenue was fixed. The government could not enhance the land revenue.</p> <p>4. The zamindar has the charge of collecting the revenue.</p> | <p>The amount of land revenue was revised periodically. The government could revise the revenue.</p> <p>The charge of collecting the revenue and paying it to the Company was given to the village headman.</p> |
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Question 5:

Give two problems which arose with the new Munro system of fixing revenue.

Answer 5:

- The revenue officials wanted to increase the income from land. Hence, they fixed very high revenue demand.
- Peasants were not able to pay the revenue. The ryots fled the countryside and villages became deserted in many regions.

Question 6:

Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo?

Answer 6:

The planters paid a very low price for indigo. The ryot was not in a position to even recover his cost, earning a profit was a far-fetched idea. This meant that the ryot was always under debt. Hence, the ryots were reluctant to grow indigo.

Question 7:

What were the circumstances which led to the eventual collapse of indigo production in Bengal?

Answer 7:

The ryots began to refuse to grow indigo. They were supported by the village headmen and some zamindars in their fight. The scale of protest was so much that the government had to intervene. The Indigo Commission of set up to enquire into the problems. The Commission accepted the faults of the planters and allowed the ryots to grow whatever they wished. This led to eventual collapse of indigo production in Bengal.

Let's do

Question 8:

Find out more about the Champaran movement and Mahatma Gandhi's role in it.

Answer 8:

After the collapse of Indigo production in Bengal, the European planters of Indigo shifted their operations to Bihar. When Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa, a peasant from Bihar persuaded him to visit Champaran and look at the plight of the Indigo cultivators there.

This visit of Mahatma Gandhi in 1917 was marked as the beginning of the Champaran movement against the Indigo planters. The European planters oppressed the peasants. Mahatma Gandhi reached Champaran to witness the miserable conditions of the peasants. The district officials ordered him to leave Champaran but he refused to comply the orders and started the Satyagraha.

Question 9:

Look into the history of either tea or coffee plantations in India. See how the life of workers in these plantations was similar to or different from that of workers in indigo plantations.

Answer 9:

Do yourself.