

CLASS : 8
SUB : HISTORY
CH. 3 : RULING THE COUNTRYSIDE
EXERCISE SOLUTION
(BY : RKY)

Q1. Match the following:

ryot village

mahal peasant

nij cultivation on ryot's lands

ryoti cultivation on planter's own land

Ans.

ryot ----- peasant

mahal ----- village

nij ----- cultivation on ryot's lands

ryoti ----- cultivation on planter's own land

Q2. 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 _____.

Ans.

- (a) indigo
- (b) increased cotton textile production
- (c) synthetic dyes
- (d) indigo planters

Q3. Describe the main features of the Permanent Settlement.

Ans. The Permanent Settlement System was a land revenue system introduced in 1793 by East India Company. Rajas and taluqdars were recognized as Zamindars to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the Company.

The main features of the Permanent Settlement system were :

- a. The amount paid by the zamindars to the company was fixed permanently.
- b. The rajas and taluqdars were recognised as zamindars.
- c. Zamindars lost their right over the lands whenever they failed to make payments to the company.

Q4. How was the mahalwari system different from the Permanent Settlement?

Ans. Differences between the Mahalwari System and the Permanent Settlement were as follows:

Mahalwari System :

(i) It was introduced by Holt Mackenzie in 1822 during the period of governor-general William Bentick.

(ii) Under the Mahalwari System, the revenue amount was revised periodically.

(iii) In this system, the land revenue was collected by the village headman.

Permanent Settlement :

(i) The Permanent Settlement was introduced in 1793 by the governor-general Lord Cornwallis.

(ii) Under the Permanent Settlement, the revenue amount was fixed permanently.

(iii) In this system, the land revenue was collected by the zamindars.

Q5. Give two problems which arose with the new Munro system of fixing revenue.

Ans. Two problems which arose with the new Munro system of fixing revenue were :

(i) The revenue amount was fixed too high. Ryots were unable to pay it.

(ii) Ryots fled the countryside and many villages became deserted.

Q6. Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo?

Ans. The ryots were reluctant to grow indigo due to the following reasons:

(i) They were paid very low-prices for it.

(ii) They found that they would never earn any profit from the indigo plantation.

(iii) The farmers were insisted to grow indigo on the fertile parts of their land by the planters, but they preferred growing rice on the best soils.

Q7. What were the circumstances which led to the eventual collapse of indigo production in Bengal?

Ans. In March 1859 thousands of ryots in Bengal refused to grow indigo. They started protesting as they thought that they had the support of village headmen in their rebellion.

The headmen who were forced to sign the contract fought battles with the agents of the indigo planters.

The zamindars also supported the farmers as they were unhappy with the increasing powers of the planters.

The indigo farmers also believed that the British government would support them in their rebellion against the planters because the government did not want another rebellion after the Revolt of 1857. Following the protests, the Indigo Commission was constituted by the government which held the planters guilty of using coercive methods to deal with the indigo peasants and asked the planters to stop the cultivation.

These circumstances led to the eventual collapse of indigo plantation in Bengal.