

**CLASS : 8, SUBJECT : HISTORY**

**CH 6: Weavers, Iron Smelters and Factory Owners**

**Exercise Solution**

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**Q1. What kinds of cloth had a large market in Europe?**

**Ans:**Various types of Indian cloth like chintz, cossaes(khassa) and bandanna had a large market in Europe.

**Q2. What is Jamdani?**

**Ans:**It is a fine muslin cloth on which decorative motifs are created on the loom. The base textiles are usually grey and white in colour while motifs are often woven with cotton and gold threads.

**Q3. What is bandanna?**

**Ans:**It is a brightly coloured and printed piece of cloth which is worn/tied around the neck and head for protective or decorative purposes. The word "bandanna" is derived from the Hindi word "bandhna"(to tie).

**Q4. Who are the Agaria?**

**Ans:**The Agarias were an Indian community of iron smelters. They lived mainly in Central India (regions of MP and Chhattisgarh). In the late nineteenth century, after a series of famines and the decline of Indian iron smelting industry, many of them stopped the work of iron smelting and left their villages in search of other works.

**Q5. Fill in the blanks:**

- (a)The word chintz comes from the word \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b)Tipu's sword was made of \_\_\_steel.
- (c)India's textile export declined in the \_\_\_century.

**Ans:**(a) chhint  
(b) wootz  
(c) nineteenth

**Q6. How do the names of different textiles tell us about their histories?**

**Ans:**By tracing the origins of the names of different textiles, we can find out about their histories. The histories of different types of textiles are as follows :

**Muslin**-European traders first encountered fine cotton cloth from India carried by Arab merchants in Mosul in present-day Iraq. So they began referring to all finely woven textiles as “muslin”(derived from Mosul).

**Calico**-The Portuguese first landed in Calicut (Kerala). The cotton textiles which they took back to Europe came to be called "calico" (derived from Calicut).

**Chintz**-The word “chintz” is used for cloth with small and colourful flowery designs. It is derived from the Hindi word “chhint”.

**Bandanna**-The word “bandanna” refers to any brightly coloured and printed scarf which is used to tie around the neck and head. The word "bandanna" is derived from the Hindi word "bandhna"(to tie).

**Q7:Why did the wool and silk producers in England protest against the import of Indian textiles in the early eighteenth century?**

**Ans:**By the early eighteenth century, the wool and silk producers in England were worried by the popularity of Indian textiles. They found themselves unable to compete with Indian textiles and wanted to secure markets within their country. Hence, the wool and silk producers in England protested against the import of Indian textiles in the early eighteenth century.

**Q8:How did the development of cotton industries in Britain affect textile producers in India?**

**Ans:**The development of cotton industries in Britain affected textile producers in India in several ways:

(i)Indian textiles now had to compete with British textiles in the European and American markets.

(ii)Exporting textiles to England became increasingly difficult since very high duties were imposed on Indian textiles imported into Britain.

(iii)English made cotton textiles successfully ousted Indian goods from their traditional markets in Africa, America and Europe. Thousands of

weavers in India became unemployed. Bengal weavers were the worst hit.

(iv) By the 1830s British cotton cloth flooded Indian markets. This affected not only specialist weavers but also spinners.

### **Q9: Why did the Indian iron smelting industry decline in the nineteenth century?**

**Ans:** The Indian iron smelting industry declined in the nineteenth century due to the following reasons:

(i) The new forest laws of the colonial government prevented people from entering the reserved forests. Now it became difficult for the iron smelters to find wood for charcoal. Getting iron ore was also a big problem.

(ii) In some areas, the iron smelters were given access to the forest. But they had to pay a very high tax to the forest department. This reduced their income.

(iii) By the late 19th century iron and steel was being imported from Britain. Ironsmiths in India began using the imported iron to manufacture utensils and implements. This lowered the demand for iron produced by local smelters.

### **Q10: What problems did the Indian textile industry face in the early years of its development?**

**Ans:** In the early years of its development the Indian textile industry had faced following problems:

(i) It was difficult to compete with the cheap textiles imported from Britain.

(ii) In many countries, governments supported industrialisation by imposing heavy duties on imports. In India, the government didn't provide such protection to local industries.

**Q11:What helped TISCO expand steel production during the First World War?**

**Ans:**In 1914 the First World War broke out. Steel produced in Britain now had to meet the demands of war in Europe. Imports of British steel into India declined dramatically and the Indian Railways turned to TISCO for supply of rails. As the war dragged on for several years, TISCO had to produce shells and carriage wheels for the war. By 1919 the colonial government was buying 90 per cent of the steel manufactured by TISCO. It became the biggest steel industry within the British Empire.