

Subject- S. S. T Class-8 Topic- Ruling The Rural Areas
Learn and Write

Quick Revision

A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) [Tick (✓) the correct options.]

- A group of villages was called
 (a) ryots (b) mahal (c) villages
- In.....system, the farmers paid land revenue directly to the government.
 (a) Ijaradari (b) Ryotwari (c) Mahalwari

B. Fill in the blanks.

- In 1917 visit to Champaran marked the beginning of a movement against the indigo planters.
- devised the Mahalwari system.
- landlords owned huge areas of land in the villages but lived in towns.
- The Indigo Revolt was led by.....and.....

C. Match the following.

1. Ijaradari	(a) Lord Cornwallis
2. Ryotwari	(b) Thomas Munro
3. Mahalwari	(c) Warren Hastings
4. Permanent settlement	(d) Holt Mackenzie

Answer The Following

A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) [Tick (✓) the correct options.]

- Jute processing units were set up in
 (a) Bihar and Bengal (b) Bengal and Assam (c) Kerala
- It was another system of indigo cultivation in which planters purchased or rented land.
 (a) mahal (b) ryot (c) nij

B. Write (T) for True and (F) for False statements.

- Under Permanent Settlement, peasants were owners of the land.

2. The *Ryotwari* system was also known as the Munro system.
3. The *Nij* system of indigo plantation was beneficial for the planters.
4. The Indigo Rebellion started in Bihar.

C. Short Answer Questions

1. Why was the East India Company in need of money?
2. What was the role of the moneylender in impoverishing the peasantry?
3. List the two main features of the Permanent Settlement.
4. Why did the British need indigo? Why was its cultivation encouraged in India?

D. Long Answer Questions

1. Discuss the effects of the Permanent Settlement on the *zamindars* and peasants.
2. Differentiate between (a) the *Ryotwari* system and the *Mahalwari* system (b) *Ryot* and *Nij* system in indigo cultivation.
3. Why did an acute shortage of food supply occur with the advent of the Industrial Revolution?
4. What was the Indigo Rebellion? Discuss the reactions of the intellectuals and the *zamindars* during this revolt.
5. Write short notes on:
 - (a) *Ijaradari* system
 - (b) Effect of the revenue policies on the common people

E. HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills) Questions

"After this the indigo planters shifted their operation to Champaran and Darbhanga in present-day Bihar."

- (a) What does 'after this' refer to?
- (b) Why was the operation shifted to Champaran and Darbhanga?
- (c) Do you think this shifting was a good solution?

F. Value Corner

3. Ruling The Rural Areas

EXERCISES

Quick Revision

- A.** 1. (b) 2. (b)
- B.** 1. Mahatma Gandhi 2. Holt Mackenzie
 3. Absentee 4. *Zamindars*, village headmen
- C.** 1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (a)

Answer The Following

- A.** 1. (a) 2. (c)
- B.** 1. False 2. True
 3. False 4. False

- C. 1. The East India Company was in need of money, to bear the cost of maintaining the administrative structure, meet war expenses and funds for buying Indian goods for exporting to England.
2. When the poor farmers could not pay the revenue, they borrowed money from the money lenders at a high interest. When they could not pay back the loan, their land was mortgaged and they migrated to the cities.
3. (a) The revenue to be collected was fixed permanently with no scope of revision later.
- (b) The local *zamindar* had to collect revenue from the peasants and pay to the company even if the crops had failed.
4. It was a popular dye in India exported to England to be used in the textile industry. The expansion of cotton production in England increased the demand for indigo so the colonial government encouraged indigo plantation in India.
- D. 1. (a) The peasants were left at the mercy of *zamindars*. They had to pay a very high revenue and could be evicted if they failed to do so.
- (b) Peasants had to borrow money from moneylenders at high interest. When they could not pay, their land was mortgaged and they migrated to the cities.
- (c) Neither the British nor the landlord made any investment in land to improve agricultural production.
- (d) The peasants were forced to grow cash crops such as indigo and cotton in order to earn maximum revenue.
- (e) The land revenue was fixed so high that even landlords barely managed. That is why in initial years, many *zamindars* lost their land.
2. (a) In the *ryotwari* system, revenue was directly collected from *ryots* or cultivators. *Ryots* were recognised as owners of the land who paid directly to the government. The land was surveyed and an assessment was made, which was usually very high (55%). It was also called the Munro system because it was developed by Thomas Munro.
- Under the *Mahalwari* system, land was inspected, measured and the customary rights of the different groups were recorded by the company officials. Estimated revenue from each plot within a village was added to calculate the revenue that each

mahal or village had to pay. The head of the village collected the revenue, which was about half of the total agricultural produce.

- (b) In the *ryot* system, the planters entered into an agreement with the *ryotwari*. The planters gave money in advance, at low rates of interest, to the *ryots* to cultivate indigo. The planter provided the seed and the tools, while the cultivator had to take care of the crop. The cultivator had to grow indigo in at least 25% of the area under him. Once the crop was harvested and delivered, a new loan was given. This was a never-ending cycle. However, indigo exhausted even the best soil and the farmers could grow nothing after indigo harvest.

Nij was a system of indigo cultivation in which planters bought or rented land to grow indigo. They owned the equipment required. They hired peasants on daily wages to produce and transport indigo. But the planters faced great difficulty in getting large tracts of land and had to invest heavily in purchasing ploughs and bullocks.

3. Due to the Industrial Revolution in England, there was an increase in demand for cash crops such as tea, coffee, indigo, jute, rubber, etc. These were grown on large estates called plantations (owned by Europeans) set up in Assam, Bengal and Kerala. Indigo, poppy and jute processing units were set up in Bengal and Bihar. Tribals and landless labourers were made to work on these plantations for meagre wages. Due to this practice, production of foodgrains declined and an acute shortage of food supply occurred.
4. The Indigo Rebellion of 1859-60 was directed against the European planters whose exploitation had pushed the peasants to the edge. The *ryots* refused to pay rent, attacked planters and *gomasthas* (agents of planters) and destroyed indigo factories. Women also actively participated in the rebellion even the Bengali educated class now supported the rebellion. Newspapers reported against the atrocities of the planters. The local *zamindars* and village headmen, (who were forced to sign contracts with indigo planters) mobilised the *ryots*. An indigo commission was set up which held planters guilty of intense oppression.
5. (a) Warren Hastings introduced the *Ijardari* system to improve the village economy and increase agricultural production. In this system, the right to collect revenue was given to the highest bidder for a period of 5 years. These bidders were called contractors but this system too, was not successful as the bids

were unrealistic. There was instability in revenue because income earned changed every year. So, it did not prove successful.

- (b) Due to abusive revenue policy of the English, the condition of the farmers deteriorated and they were forced to sell their land. They took loans and after had to sell their lands to repay the loans.

E. HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

- (a) 'After this' means after the Indigo Commission was set up and it declared the planters guilty and said that *ryots* would not be forced to cultivate indigo in Bengal.
- (b) It shifted to Champaran and Darbhanga because the situation was similar to Bengal and similar factors were available.
- (c) No, this shifting was not a good solution as farmers were exploited in Bihar too.

Value Corner