

Class 8th
Chapter – 3
History
Ruling The Country Side

1. Match the following:

Ryot	village
Mahal	peasant
Nij	cultivation on ryot's lands
Ryoti	cultivation on planter's own land

Answer :

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

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 the 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 :

- (a) Indigo
- (b) The expansion of cotton production as a result of industrialisation, which in turn created an enormous demand for cloth dyes.
- (c) Synthetic dyes.
- (d) Indigo planters.

3. Describe the main features of the Permanent Settlement.

Answer : In order to get a stable revenue income, most of the East India Company's officials believed that investment in land had to be encouraged and agriculture had to be improved. This led to introduction of permanent settlement in 1793

→ By the terms of the settlement the rajas and taluqdars were recognized as zamindars.

→ They were asked to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the company.

→ The amount to be paid was fixed permanently.

→ It was felt that this would ensure a regular flow of revenue into the company's coffers and at the same time encourages the zamindars to invest in improving the land.

→ If the zamindars failed to pay the revenue, which they usually did as the fixed revenue was very high, they lost their zamindari.

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

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

→ Driven by the desire to increase the income from land, revenue officials fixed too high a revenue demand.

→ Peasants were unable to pay ryots fled the countryside and villages became deserted in many regions.

5. Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo?

Answer : The ryots reluctant to grow indigo because:

→ The planters paid a very low price for indigo.

→ The ryots 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.

→ The planters insisted that the peasants cultivate indigo on the most fertile parts of their land, but the peasants preferred growing rice on the best soils as after an indigo harvest, the land could not be used for sowing rice.

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

Answer : 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.