

A Shirt in the Market

Q1. What made Swapna sell the cotton to the trader instead of selling at the Kurnool cotton market?

Answer: Swapna was a small farmer. Cotton was produced in small quantities. He also did not have the capital to buy the seeds, pesticides and fertilizers needed to start cotton cultivation. The merchant was a powerful man of the village and the peasants depended on him not only for farming but also for meeting other needs like sickness, children's school fees. Also, there are many such times in the year when there is no work for the farmers and there is no income, so borrowing money is the only means of survival. Swapna had to take a loan at high interest from the merchant under a condition to sell her cotton. He was required to pay the principal loan amount and interest as well as sell his cotton to the merchant. For these reasons, Swapna Kurnool was forced to sell his cotton to the merchant instead of selling it in the cotton market.

Q2. Describe the conditions of employment as well as the wages of workers in the garment exporting factory. Do you think the workers get a fair deal?

Answer: The conditions of employment in the garment exporting factory are as follows:

Conditions of employment - The conditions of employment at garment exporting factories are deplorable. The factories are unhygienic and congested. The employees are hired on a temporary basis, so they can be fired at any time. There is an absence of basic facilities for employees.

Wages - Faced with pressures from the buyers, the garment exporting factories, in turn, try to cut costs. They get the maximum work out of the workers at the lowest possible wages. Overall, the workers do not get a fair deal and their employment conditions need to be improved.

No, the workers don't get a fair deal as they are paid very less for the work they do, in addition to being exploited by their employer. There is no job security as they can be asked to leave at a moment's notice.

Q3. Think of something common that we use. It could be sugar, tea, milk, pen, pencil, paper, etc. Discuss through what chain of markets this reaches you. Can you think of the people that help in the production or trade?

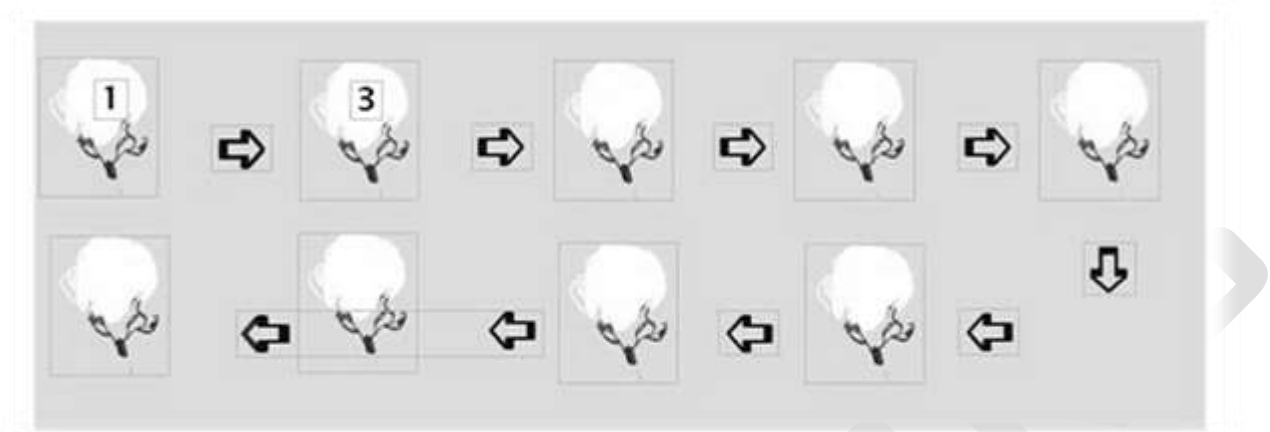
Solution: The chain of markets for milk production is as follows:

- Dairy cooperatives buy milk from dairy farmers at various places
- The milk is then transported to the milk factories run by the dairy cooperatives
- The milk is then pasteurized and packed in containers
- Packaged milk is given to merchants working with cooperatives who take them to places where the wholesaler will buy them
- Retailers then buy milk from wholesalers, who then sell packaged milk at booths spread across cities

Q4. Arrange the statement given below in the correct order and then fill in the numbers in the cotton balls accordingly. The first two have been done for you.

1. Swapna sells the cotton to the trader
2. Customer buy these shirts in a supermarket
3. The trader sells cotton to the Ginning Mill
4. Garment exporters buy the cloth from merchants making the shirts

5. Yarn dealers or merchants give the yarn to the weavers
6. The exporter sells shirts to the businessperson from the USA
7. Spinning mill buys the cotton and sells yarn to the yarn dealer
8. Weavers return with the cloth
9. Ginning mill cleans the cotton and makes it into bales



Answer:

1. Swapna sells the cotton to the trader
3. The trader sells cotton to the Ginning Mill
9. Ginning mill cleans the cotton and makes it into bales
7. Spinning mill buys the cotton and sells yarn to the yarn dealer
5. Yarn dealers or merchants give the yarn to the weavers
8. Weavers return with the cloth
4. Garment exporters buy the cloth from the merchants for making shirts
6. The exporter sells shirts to the businessperson from the USA
2. Customers buy these shirts in a supermarket