

Ruling the Countryside

Q1. 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

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 _____.

Answer.

(a) Growers of woad in Europe saw **Indigo** as a crop which would provide competition to their earnings.

(b) The demand for indigo increased in late eighteenth-century Britain because of the **expansion of cotton production**.

(c) The international demand for indigo was affected by the discovery of **synthetic dyes**.

(d) The Champaran movement was against **indigo planters**.

Q3. Describe the main features of the Permanent Settlement.

Answer. To achieve a steady revenue income, most of the officials of the East India Company believed that investment in land would have to be encouraged and agriculture reformed. Due to this, permanent settlement was started in 1793.

The main features of the Permanent Settlement system are:

- The amount to be paid was fixed permanently.
- Rajas were made landlords (zamindars).
- Whenever they failed to pay the company, the landlords lost their right over the land.
- The landlords had to pay a huge land price to the company (which they failed.)

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

Answer. Difference between Mahalwari System and Permanent Settlement are given below:

Mahalwari System	Permanent Settlement
Holt Mackenzie devised it and it came into effect in 1822	Permanent Settlement was brought by Lord Cornwallis in 1793
The center of the system was a village.	There was no such epicenter
The villages were called 'Mahals'	
Estimated revenue of each plot within a village was added to calculate each revenue. The village (palace) had to be repaid	The revenue was fixed that each zamindar had to pay to the company
Revenue was to be revised from time to time	Revenue fixed
The revenue collection fee responsibility was on the village head person	The revenue collection fee was on the village zamindar (Rajas / Talukdars)

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

Answer. The new Munro system of fixing revenue gave rise to two problems:

- a. Demand for revenue to farmers was very high pay
- b. Farmers were unable to pay the rent, which ended up in the deserted villages.

Q6. Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo?

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

- a. They were paid a very low price for this
- b. The ryots have never benefited from indigo plantation
- c. The ryots were asked by planters to grow indigo on fertile parts of their land which they were apprehensive about.

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

Answer. The decline of indigo production in Bengal occurred due to the following circumstances:

- a. Raits now refused to produce Indigo
- b. Protests started by farmers / raiyats supported by the zamindars
- c. After the protests, the Indigo Commission was formed by the government which acknowledged the defects of the planters and asked the planters to stop farming.
- d. The planters eventually moved out of the city