

## RULING THE COUNTRYSIDE

I Fill in the blanks:

1. Agents of the planters were called Gomasthas
2. Bigha is a unit of measurement of the land before British rule.
3. When Indigo production collapsed in Bengal, the planters shifted their operations to Bihar.
4. The visit of Champaran ~~in~~ in 1917 marked the beginning of the Champaran movement against the indigo planters.

II Answer in a sentence:

Q.1) Who were acknowledged as the zamindars through the ~~per~~ Permanent Settlement?

A.1) In the Permanent Settlement, the rajas and ~~talukdars~~ taluqdars were recognised as Zamindars.

Q.2) How did the East India Company purchase goods in India before 1865?

A.2) Before 1865, the Company had purchased goods in India by importing gold and silver from Britain.

Q.3) Why did cloth ~~dyer~~ dyers in Europe prefer Indigo over woad?

A.3) Cloth dyers preferred indigo over dye because it produced a rich blue colour, whereas the dye from woad was pale and dull.

III) Answer the following:

Q.1)

a) Describe the main features of the Permanent Settlement of Bengal.

A.1a) The main features of the Permanent Settlements are:

- ~~An~~ Rajas and taluqdars were recognised as Zamindars, and they were to collect a fixed revenue, from peasants ~~to~~ and paying to the company.

- Revenue demand was permanently fixed and wouldn't be changed on the Company's behalf.

• ~~This would ensure a regular flow~~

- It was felt that this would ensure:

↳ Regular flow of revenue into the Company's coffers

↳ Encourage Zamindars to invest in improving the land

↳ ~~Zamind~~

b) Mention the demerits of this system.

A. 1b) The Permanent Settlement created problems:

- The revenue fixed was so high that ~~the~~ Zamindars found it hard to pay.

- Anyone who failed to pay the revenue lost his zamindari, and several such ~~z~~ zamindaris were sold off in the Company's auctions.

- Zamindars ~~didn't~~ weren't investing in improvement of land, but were ~~to~~ benefitting themselves.

Q.2) Explain the Munro system and state the problems which arose with this system of fixing revenue.

A.2) In British territories of the south, the new system that was devised, came to be known as Ryotwar or Ryotwari.

- Tried on small scale by Captain Alexander Read in some areas taken over by the Company after wars with Tipu Sultan, this system was subsequently developed by Thomas Munro and extended all over South India.
- There was absence of zamindars in the south, ~~so~~ therefore it was argued that the settlements be made directly with the cultivators (ryots) ~~who~~ who had tilled the land for generations.
- Munro thought the British should act as paternal father figures to protect the ryots under the in charge.
- The conclusion was not well driven by the desire to increase the income from land revenue, officials fixed too high revenue demand.

- Some problems that were faced :

- ↳ Peasants failed to pay

~~for~~

- ↳ Ryots fled the countryside

- ↳ Villages became deserted in many regions.

- Therefore, a complete failure of the Munro system also known as the ryotwari system happened & during that time.

Q.3) What were the circumstances which led to the collapse of indigo production in Bengal?

A.3) The 'Blue Rebellion' led by ryots in 1859 in Bengal eventually led to the collapse of indigo cultivation

- Thousands of ryots refused to grow indigo, refused to pay rents to the planters, and attacked indigo factories. The gomasthas - agents of planters - who came to collect rent were beaten up.

- In many villages, headmen mobilised the indigo peasants and fought pitched battles with the lathiyals. In other places, even zamindars went

around villages, urging the ryots to resist the planters.

- Worried by the rebellion, the government set up the Indigo Commission to enquire into the system of indigo production. The commission held the planters guilty for the coercive methods they used with indigo cultivators. It declared that indigo production was not profitable for ryots. The Commission told ryots that they could refuse to produce indigo in the future.
- Finally, the planters moved their operation to Bihar.

Q.4) How was the Mahalwari Settlement different from the Permanent Settlement?

A.4) PERMANENT SETTLEMENT	MAHALWARI SETTLEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Imposed in 1793, aimed at collecting land and revenue, to ensure regular flow of Revenue into the Company's account.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Imposed in 1822 by Holt Mackenzie, in need of changing the revenue collection system, in the Bengal Presidency.</li></ul>

### PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

- Zamindars were asked to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the Company. It was a fixed revenue.

- The demand was permanent, so the zamindars and Company would benefit from the land and revenue.

### MAHALWARI SETTLEMENT

- There was an estimation done by collectors from village to village, after which, ~~estimated~~ estimated revenue of each plot within village was added up to calculate revenue that each Mahal (village) had to pay.

- The demand was revised periodically, so the change of collecting revenue and paying to the Company was given to the Village headman, benefitting land and villages.

This is how the Mahalwari system worked and was different from Permanent Settlements.

Q.5) What were the two main systems of indigo cultivation in colonial India? Explain the problems with nij cultivation.

A.5) Two main systems of indigo cultivation were:

- ↳ Ryoti cultivation system
- ↳ Nij cultivation system

★ The problems with Nij cultivation were:

- The planters found it difficult to expand the area under nij cultivation. ~~as~~ Indigo could only be ~~so~~ cultivated on fertile lands, and these were already densely populated.

Only small plots scattered over the landscape could be acquired. Planters need large areas in compact blocks to cultivate indigo in plantations.

- They attempted to lease in the land around the indigo factory, and evict the peasants from that area.

But this always led to conflicts and tension.

Nor was labour easy to mobilise. A large plantation required a vast number of hands to operate. Labour was needed precisely at a time when peasants were usually busy with their rice cultivation.

- Nij cultivation on a large scale also required many ploughs and bullocks.

One bigha of Indigo cultivation required two ploughs. This meant that a planter with 1000 bighas would need 2000 ploughs.

Not only was investing on purchase and maintenance of ploughs a big problem, but also, supplies could not be bought easily from the peasants, since their ploughs and bullocks were busy on their rice fields, again, exactly at a time that the indigo planters needed them.

Q.6) Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo in Bengal?

A.6) Peasants soon realised that the indigo system was harsh and oppressive.

- The price they got for indigo they produced was very low and the cycle of loans from planters was neverending.
- The planters usually insisted that indigo be cultivated on the best soils in which peasants preferred to cultivate rice. Indigo, moreover, had deep roots and it exhausted the soil rapidly. After an indigo harvest, the land couldn't be sown with rice.