

Colonialism and the Countryside

(The Mughal Courts)

Introduction

In Bengal, Rajmahal hills and Deccan, laws were introduced by the state that have consequences for people. They determine the criteria of being rich and the poor and acquisition of land. However, people resisted these laws with every possible means. According to various sources, historians faced problems in interpreting these histories. The sources include records, surveys, journals and account left by surveyors and travellers and reports produced by enquiry commissions.

Bengal and the Zamindars

Bengal was the first province in India where the colonial rule was established. The earliest attempts to reorder rural society, establish new regime of land rights and a new revenue system were made in Bengal. Problems, changes and incidents associated with starting years of Company rule in Bengal were as follows:

An Auction in Burdwan

In 1797 there was an auction in Zamindari of Burdwan. The permanent settlement had come into operation in 1793. The payable revenue of the Zamindars was fixed by the British East India Company. The Zamindars who failed to pay their estates were to be auctioned to recover the revenue.

As the Zamindars who were usually known as the Razas had accumulated huge arrears, thus hisestate was auctioned. A number of mahals (estates) of

CHAPTER CHECKLIST

- Introduction
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- A Revolt in the Countryside : The Bombay Deccan
- The Deccan Riots Commission

The Problem of Unpaid Revenue

With the advent of colonial rule in Bengal by 1770's, the rural economy was in crisis due to continuous famines and low agricultural output. The officials thought that agriculture, trade and the revenue sources could be developed by increasing investment in agriculture.

Hence, a new revenue system was introduced in 1793 which was known as the Permanent Settlement. Charles Cornwallis or Lord Cornwallis was the Governor General of Bengal when the Permanent Settlement was introduced. The settlement was done by securing rights of property and permanently fixing the rates of revenue demand.

By fixing the revenue demand, the Company (East India Company) could have a regular flow of revenue while entrepreneurs could have a sure earning of profit from their investment in agriculture.

The idea behind Permanent Settlement was to create a class of yeomen (a person who owns a small farm) farmers and rich landowners who would have the capital and enterprise to improve agriculture. They would also be loyal to the Company.

The British made the settlement with the *rajas* and *taluqdars* of Bengal classifying them as zamindars. They were supposed to pay the revenue demand that was fixed for a long period of time. Hence, they were just revenue collectors rather than landowners.

There were several villages (sometimes 400) under one zamindari which in company calculations, formed one revenue estate. The zamindar collected rent from the different villages, paid the revenue to the company and retained the difference as his income. If he failed to pay the revenue his estate could be auctioned.



Zamindars Defaulted on Payments

Even after the surety of revenue, zamindars regularly failed to pay the revenue demand and unpaid balances accumulated. The reasons behind such default includes:

Firstly, Company kept the revenue price high. They believed that with low initial price they would never be able to set high income from land when prices rose and cultivation expanded. Hence, the Company argued that the burden on zamindars would decline with expanded agricultural production and price rise.

Secondly, during the 1790s, the prices of agricultural produce were depressed which made the *ryots* difficult to pay their dues to the zamindar.

Thirdly, as the revenue was fixed, it had to be paid punctually on time regardless of the harvest. A law was introduced which came to be known as the Sunset Law.

According to the law, if payment did not come in by sunset of the specified date, the zamindari was liable to be auctioned.

Fourthly, the power of the zamindar was initially limited to collect rent from the *ryot* and manage his zamindari.

Problem Faced by Zamindars

The duty of collecting revenue was under zamindars, but they were brought under some limitations. These were:

- The zamindars troops were disbanded (dissolve) and custom duties abolished. Their *cutcheries* (courts) were brought under the supervision of a collector appointed by the company which gradually emerged as an alternative source of authority. They also lost the power to organise local justice and the local police.
- Bad harvests and low prices made the *ryots* difficult to pay dues to the zamindars. Sometimes *ryots* deliberately delayed the revenue payment.
- Rich *ryots* and village headmen, *jotedars* and *Mandals* were against the zamindars.
- The judicial process was long drawn to prosecute defaulters. In Burdwan, there were over 30,000 pending suits for arrears of rent payment in 1798.

The Rise of the Jotedars

A group of rich peasants called Jotedars consolidated their power at village level with declining position of zamindars at the end of eighteenth century.

Francis Buchanan has given a vivid description of *jotedars*

Factors Responsible for Power of Jotedars

The *jotedars* were more powerful than the zamindars in villages. A number of factors were responsible for it:

- *Zamindars* used to live in urban areas, whereas the *Jotedars* were located in the villages which helped them to have direct control over a section of poor villagers.
- They cultivated their land through sharecroppers also known as *adhiyars* or *bargadars*. These people brought their own ploughs, laboured in the field, and handed over half of the produce to the *jotedars* after the harvest.
- Local trade and moneylending was also controlled by them, hence exercising immense power over poorer cultivators of the region.
- *Jotedars* resisted efforts by zamindars to increase the revenue demand of the village and prevented zamindari officials to do their duty. They also mobilised dependent *ryots* and delayed payments of revenue to the zamindar.
- The estates of zamindars who failed to pay the revenue were purchased by *jotedars* during auctions.

As a result, there was a growth in the power of the *jotedars*, particularly in North Bengal. In some places, *jotedars* were known as *haoladars*, elsewhere they were known as *gantidars* or *mandals*. Their rise inevitably weakened zamindari authority.

Powers of Zamindars, Jotedars and Ryots

Zamindars were responsible for paying revenue to the company and distributing the revenue demand (*jama*) over villages.

Each village *ryot* big or small paid rent to the zamindar. *Jotedars* gave out loans to other *ryots* and sold their produce. *Ryots* cultivated some land and gave out the rest to under-*ryots* (low level farmers). Under-*ryots* paid rent to the *ryots* for that land.



The Zamindar Resist

Zamindars devised ways of surviving pressure as they faced high revenue demand and possible auction of their estates. New context produced new strategies which are discussed below :

- Fictitious sale was one such strategy. The zamindars transferred their zamindari to women, since the Company had promised that they would not take over the property of women. For example, Raja of Burdwan transferred his zamindari to his mother.
- The auctions were manipulated by the zamindar's agents. During auction, the zamindar's men bought the property and refused to pay the purchase money, so that the state had to be resold. Again it was bought by the zamindar's agents. Such process was repeated endlessly. The state and other bidders became exhausted and at last the estate was sold at a low price back to the zamindars. Thus, the zamindars never paid the full revenue demand and the company rarely recovered the balances unpaid. Such transactions took place at a large scale during the period 1793-1801 AD.
- The outside purchasers were attacked by the *lathiyals* of the former zamindar or were even opposed by the *ryots* who considered themselves as the *proja* (subjects) of the zamindars. Thus, the zamindars were not easily displaced.

The Fifth Report

The changes that occurred in the East India Company were elaborately documented in a report, submitted to the British Parliament in 1813.

It was the fifth of a series of reports on the administration and activities of the East India Company in India, therefore, it is referred to as 'The Fifth Report'.

It contained 1002 pages of which over 800 pages were appendices. It reproduced petitions of :

- zamindars and *ryots*
- reports of collectors from different districts,
- statistical tables on revenue returns,
- notes on the revenue and judicial administration of Bengal and Madras written by officials

Causes of the Presentation of Report

Various significant causes contributed to the presentation of the fifth report which were as follows :

- Since the establishment of Company's rule in Bengal in the mid 1760s, its activities were watched and debated in England. Many groups in Britain were opposed to the monopoly, the Company had over trade with India and China. They wanted a revocation (cancellation) of the Royal Charter giving company this monopoly.
- Many private traders wanted a share in the trade with India and industrialists of Britain wanted to access Indian markets for British manufactures.
- According to some political groups, the conquest of Bengal was not benefitting the British nation as a whole but only the Company.
- The misrule and administration of Company were discussed in Britain and the deeds of greed and corruption by Company officials were publicised in the press.

Hence, the British Parliament passed a series of acts in the late 18th century to regulate and control Company rule in India.

The Company was forced to produce regular reports and committees were appointed to enquire into the affairs of the company. The Fifth Report was one such report produced by a Select Committee.

Critical Examination of Fifth Report

The fifth report has shaped our conception of the events that took place in rural Bengal in the late 18th century. It also became the basis of intense parliamentary debates on the nature of the East India Company's rule in India.

However, there were some limitations of the report.

These were :

- Researchers pointed out that fifth report exaggerated the collapse of traditional zamindari power.
- It also overestimated the scale on which zamindars were losing their land.

Check Point 01

1. Name the province where colonial rule was first established.
2. Who was the Governor General of Bengal when Permanent Settlement was introduced?
3. Mention one reason for the failure of payment of revenue by

Rural Areas of Bengal

In the early 19th century, Buchanan travelled through Rajmahal hills. According to him, the hills appeared impenetrable (dense), a zone where few travellers ventured and an area that signified danger. He also discussed about the folks living in these hills.

In the hills of Rajmahal

The people living around the Rajmahal hills were known as Paharias. They lived on forest produce and practised shifting cultivation.

They cleared patches of forest by cutting bushes and burning the undergrowth. These patches were enriched by the potash from the ash. They grew a variety of pulses and millets for consumption.

They scratched the ground lightly with hoes, cultivated the cleared land for few years and then left it fallow so that it could recover its fertility and move to a new area.

Life of the Paharias

The Paharias lived in huts within tamarind groves. They collected *mabua* (a flower) for food, silk cocoons, resin, etc for sale and wood for charcoal production.

The patches of grass provided pasture for cattle. Thus, the Paharias were hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers and silkworm rearers.

For them, the entire region was their land, the basis of their identity as well as survival. They had chiefs who maintained the unity of the groups, settled disputes and led the tribe in battles with other tribes and plains people. The Paharias used to raid the plains where settled agriculturists lived. These raids were necessary for survival specially during scarcity. On the other hand, these raids were a way of asserting power over settled communities and negotiating political relations with outsiders.

The zamindars paid tributes to the hill chiefs for peace settlement. Traders too gave small amount to the hill folk to use the passes controlled by them. This was a kind of a toll or tax to the chief who gave surety of protection to the traders.

British Policies to Control the Paharias

With the expansion of agriculture, there was a

The British in the 1770s followed a brutal policy of extermination, hunting and killing the Paharias. By the 1780s, Augustus Cleveland, the collector of Bhagalpur, proposed a policy of pacification. As per the policy, the Paharia chiefs were given annual allowance and were made responsible for the proper conduct of their men. They were expected to maintain order in their localities and discipline their own people.

Many Paharia chiefs refused the allowance, while those who accepted, lost their authority within the community. They came to be perceived as subordinate employees or stipendiary (working for payment rather than voluntarily) chiefs after getting paid by the British.

Impact of British Policies

- As the campaign for pacification continued by the British, the Paharias withdrew deep into the mountains carrying on a war with outsiders.
- Their perception has been changed for British Government. Now every white man was regarded as the destructor of their way of life. They even viewed Buchanan with suspicion and distrust when he travelled in the region in the winter of 1810-11.

The Battle between Hoe and Plough

In 17th century, Santhals were pouring into the area. They cleared forests, cut down timber, ploughed land and produced rice and cotton. With this the Paharias receded deeper into the Rajmahal hills. The Paharias life was symbolised by the hoe and the settlers represented the power of the plough. The battle between the hoe and the plough was a long one.

The Santhal : Pioneer Settlers

The Santhals came into Bengal in the 1780s. They were hired by zamindars to reclaim land and expand cultivation. The Britishers invited them to settle in the Jangal Mahals of Rajmahals hills as they failed to change the Paharias into settled agriculturalist.

For Britishers, Santhals appeared to be ideal settlers who cleared forests and ploughed the land with vigour. They settled down cultivating a range of commercial crops for the markets and dealing with traders and moneylenders.

Expansion of Santhal Settlements and Effect on Paharias

A large area of land was provided to the Santhals by 1832

Santhals were asked to clear and cultivate one-tenth of the area within the first ten years. The area was surveyed and mapped. The area was separated from the world of the settled agriculturists and the Paharias.

The demarcation of Damin-i-Koh resulted into expansion of Santhal settlements. The Santhal population also increased from a mere 3000 in 1838 to over 82,000 in 1851. With the advent of Santhals in the Rajmahal hills, the Paharias were forced to move deeper into the barren and rock hills. This deeply affected their lives.

The Paharias resisted the coming of Santhals but were forced to withdraw deeper into the hills. They were confined to the dry interior and to the more barren and rocky upper hills. This had an affect on their lives for a long term. As shifting cultivation depended on using new and fertile land, it became inaccessible to the Paharias. The hunters amongst them faced the problems when forests were cleared for cultivation. On the other hand, the Santhals now settled down, cultivating a range of commercial crops for the market and dealing with traders and moneylenders.

Santhal Revolt

The Santhals soon realised that the land they had brought under cultivation was slipping away from their hands. Heavy taxes were imposed by the state on the lands cleared by the Santhals. Moneylenders (*dikus*) charged them high rate of interest and if debt remained unpaid, then zamindars started controlling the Damin area.

Due to these conditions, Santhals decided to revolt against zamindars, moneylenders and colonial state. After the Santhal revolt (1855-56), Santhal *pargana* was created, carving out 5,500 square miles from the districts of Bhagalpur and Birbhum.

The Accounts of Buchanan

Francis Buchanan was a physician who came to India and served in Bengal Medical Service. He was an employee of British East India Company. He marched everywhere with large army of people. The British East India company borne all the cost of his travel as it needed the information collected by Buchanan.

Buchanan was a great observer. He obsessed over stones and rocks. He searched for minerals iron ore

His assessment of what was necessary was shaped by commercial requirement of the Company. He was critical about the lifestyles of forest dwellers and felt that forests had to be turned into agricultural lands.

Check Point 02

1. Mention any one policy of British to control Paharias.
2. The large area of rajmahal hills where Santhals settled is called
3. Why did the Paharias used raids?
4. Who was Francis Buchanan?

A Revolt in the Countryside : The Bombay Deccan

Peasants in various parts of India rose in revolt against moneylenders and grain dealers through the 19th century. One such revolt occurred in 1875 in the Deccan.

Account Books are Burnt

The peasant movement began at Supa, a large village in Poona (Present day Pune) district. It was a market centre where moneylenders and shopkeepers lived.

A large number of *ryots* gathered on 12th May, 1875 and attacked the shopkeepers and demanded their *bahi khatas* (account books) and debt bonds.

The revolt spread to Ahmednagar and further over an area of 6,500 square km. More than 30 villages were affected. The *sabukars* left the villages, leaving their property and belongings behind.

The British officials were threatened by the *revolt* spreading so fast. They established police posts in villages to frighten rebellious peasants. Troops were called in and around 951 people were arrested, while many were convicted. It took several months to bring down the countryside under control.

A New Revenue System

As the British rule expanded from Bengal to other parts of India, new systems of revenue were imposed. But the Permanent Settlement of Bengal was rarely extended to any other region. The reason behind this was rise in agricultural prices after 1810 which increased the value of harvest produce. As the revenue demand was fixed under the Permanent Settlement, the company was not

A new revenue system *Ryotwari* settlement was introduced in the Bombay Deccan. Under the *ryotwari* settlement, the revenue was directly settled with the *ryot*. The revenue was fixed according to the estimation of average income from different types of soil and assessment of the revenue paying capacity of the *ryot*. Survey of lands was conducted after every 30 years and the revenue rates increased. Hence, the revenue demand was no longer permanent.

Revenue Demand and Peasant Debt

The revenue settlement in the Bombay Deccan was made in the 1820s for the first time. But the demand was kept so high that it was impossible for peasants to pay it. Hence, they deserted their villages and migrated to some other place.

Less rainfall and poor harvest aggravated the situation. However, the collectors did not stop to demand the revenue and extracted payment with utmost severity. If someone failed to pay, then his crops were seized and a fine was imposed on the whole village.

The prices of agricultural products fell sharply after 1832 and continued for over a decade and a half which declined the peasants income. On the other hand, the countryside was struck with a famine in the years 1832-34. One-third of the cattles of the Deccan were killed and half of the human population died. Unpaid balances of revenue increased.

Peasant Debt

As there was no money remained, the peasants had no other way but to depend on moneylenders for loans. They needed loans to buy their everyday needs and meet their production expenditure. But once a loan was taken, the *ryot* found it difficult to pay it back.

By 1840s, officials witnessed increasing levels of peasant indebtedness everywhere. In the mid 1840s, there were some signs of economic recovery.

It was realised by the officials that settlements of the 1820s had been harsh. Hence, the revenue demand was moderated to encourage peasants to expand cultivation. Agricultural prices also recovered after 1845. Cultivators moved to new areas and started transforming pastureland into cultivated fields. But to expand cultivation, they were in need of more ploughs, cattle, seeds and land. For all this, they again had to return to moneylenders for loans.

David Ricardo's Idea of Land Ownership

David Ricardo was an economist, who became a celebrated figure in England by the 1820s. In Maharashtra, the British officials implemented the Ricardian ideas of revenue settlement.

According to the Ricardian idea, a landowner was supposed to have a claim only to the 'average rent' prevailing at that time. When the land yielded more than this 'average rent', the landowner had a surplus that the state needed to tax.

If tax was not levied, cultivators were likely to turn into rentiers, and their surplus income was unlikely to be productively invested in the improvement of the land.

Cotton and its increasing Demand

Britain was depended on America for cotton. Before the 1860s, 3/4th of raw cotton imports into Britain came from America. But British was also worried about the cutoff of supply of cotton from America in future.

To solve this issue, the Cotton Supply Association was founded in Britain in 1857 and the Manchester Cotton Company was formed in 1859.

The main objective was to encourage cotton production in every part of the world suited for its growth. India was suited for the cotton production as it had a suitable soil, favourable climate for cotton cultivation and cheap labour.

Impact of the American Civil War on the Supply of Cotton

There was a steep decline in the supply of cotton from America because of the break out of American Civil War in 1861. Raw cotton imports fell to less than 3% of the normal. Therefore, messages were sent to India and other countries to increase cotton exports to Britain.

The merchants dealing in cotton in Bombay went round the districts producing cotton. The cotton exporters of Bombay started trying to purchase as much cotton as possible in order to meet the British demand.

They gave huge advances to the urban *sabukars* who in turn gave loans to the rural moneylenders who made promise to secure produce.

Rise in Cotton Production

It became very easy for the *ryots* to get loans from the *sabukars*. They were being given ₹100 as advance for every acre they planted with cotton. During American

from India but it did not bring prosperity to all cotton producers as the cotton expansion meant heavier debt for small producers.

Decline in Cotton Export

As the cotton production was booming, the cotton merchants in India thought to replace America in cotton production and capture the world market. But after the civil war ended, cotton production in America revived and Indian cotton exports declined.

Sabukars were no longer providing long-term loans to peasants as the demand for Indian cotton fell and cotton prices too declined. Many of them closed their operations, restricted advances to peasants and demanded repayment of debts. On the other side, the revenue demand also increased dramatically from 50 to 100%.

The Experience of Injustice

Moneylenders were violating the customary norms of the countryside which infuriated the *ryots*. According to such norm, the interest charged could not be more than the principal.

It was done to limit the moneylenders exactions and was defined as 'fair interest'. But the norm was broke down. In one case investigated by the Deccan Riots Commission, the moneylender charged over ₹ 2000 as interest on a loan of ₹100.

Problem between Ryots and Moneylenders

For the *ryots*, moneylenders were dishonest and unethical. A Limitation Law was passed in 1859 by the British stating that the loan bonds signed between moneylenders and *ryots* would have validity for only three years. It was to check the accumulation of interest over time.

However, the moneylenders turned the law which forced the *ryots* to sign a new bond every 3 years. With every new bond, the original loan and the accumulated interest was entered as the principal on which a new set of interest charges was calculated.

For the *ryots*, deeds and bonds were misery to their lives. Moneylenders used a variety of means to short change the *ryots* which were described in the petitions collected by Deccan Riots Commission. These means were

- Moneylenders refuse to give receipts when the loan was

- Ryots were made to sign and put thumb impressions on documents without having any knowledge of what they were signing.

Ryots were unaware of the clauses inserted by moneylenders in the bonds. They had no choice but to sign because moneylenders refused to give loans without legal bonds.

Method of Mounting Debts

In a petition to the Deccan Riots Commission, a ryot explained how the system of loans worked: A sowkar lends his debtor ₹ 100 on bond at ₹ 3-2 annas per cent per mensem. The latter agrees to pay the amount within eight days from the passing of the bond. Three years after the stipulated time for repaying the amount, the sowkar takes from his debtor another bond for the principal and interest together at the same rate of interest, and allows him 125 days' time to liquidate the debt. After the lapse of 3 years and 15 days a third bond is passed by the debtor. This process is repeated at the end of 12 years. His interest on ₹ 1000 amounts to ₹ 2028 -10 annas -3 paise.

The Deccan Riots Commission

When the revolt of peasants spread in the Deccan, the Government of India forced the Government of Bombay to setup a commission of enquiry to investigate into the causes of the riots. This Commission came to be known as the Deccan Riots Commission.

The commission submitted its report before the British Parliament in 1878. The report was known as the Deccan Riots Report. The commission collected many significant pieces of information through :

- Enquiries were held in riot-affected districts.
- Statements of *ryots*, *sahukars* and eyewitnesses were recorded.
- Statistical data on revenue states were compiled.
- Reports sent by district collectors were compiled.

Problems of Using Official Sources

The Deccan Riots Commission was specifically asked to study whether the level of government revenue demand was the cause of the revolt. It submitted its report blaming the moneylenders rather than the anger of peasants for the outbreak of revolt. The official reports

Check Point 03

1. Who was David Ricardo?
2. Name two companies which were formed to increase cotton production?
3. When was limitation law was passed by British?
4. What was the ryotwari system?
5. When did Deccan Riots Commission was established?

Timeline

1765	English East India Company acquires Diwani of Bengal
1773	Regulating Act passed by the British Parliament to regulate the activities of the East India Company
1793	Permanent Settlement in Bengal
1800s	Santhals begin to come to the Rajmahal hills and settle there
1818	First revenue settlement in the Bombay Deccan
1820s	Agricultural prices begin to fall
1840s-50s	A slow process of agrarian expansion in the Bombay Deccan
1855-56	Santhal rebellion
1861	Cotton boom begins
1875	Ryots in Deccan villages rebel

TERMS TO KNOW (FROM NCERT)

- ② **Raja** (pg. no. 258) A term often used to designate powerful zamindars.
- ③ **Taluqdar** (pg. no. 259) One who holds a *taluuq* or a connection. *Taluq* came to refer to a territorial unit.
- ③ **Perpetuity** (pg. no. 259) A bond or other security with no fixed maturity date.
- ③ **Ryot** (pg. no. 260) A peasant, tenant, farmer or cultivator.
- ③ **Jotedar** (pg. no. 261) It referred to class of rich peasants.
- ③ **Benami** (pg. no. 263) Transactions made in the name of a fictitious or relatively insignificant person where the real beneficiary remains unnamed.
- ③ **Lathyal** (pg. no. 263) One who wields (holds) the *lathi* or stick, functioned as a strongman or the zamindar.
- ③ **Aquatint** (pg. no. 267) A picture produced by cutting a copper sheet with acid and then printing it.
- ③ **Extermination** (pg. no. 269) It means to bring a definite end or to finish completely.
- ③ **Pacification** (pg. no. 269) It means an attempt to create or maintain peace.
- ③ **Demarcation** (pg. no. 271) It is the act of marking off a boundary or setting a limit.

NCERT FOLDER

C Answer in 100-150 words.

1 Why was the *jotedar* a powerful figure in many areas of rural Bengal?

- Ans** The *jotedars* were more powerful than the zamindars in villages. A number of factors were responsible for it. They are given below:
- *Zamindars* used to live in urban areas, whereas the *Jotedars* were located in the villages which helped them to have direct control over a section of poor villagers.
 - Local trade and moneylending was also controlled by them, hence exercising immense power over poorer cultivators of the region.
 - *Jotedars* resisted efforts by zamindars to increase the revenue demand of the village and prevented zamindari officials to do their duty. They also mobilised dependent *ryots* and delayed payments of revenue to the zamindar.

2 How did zamindars manage to retain control of their zamindaris?

- Ans** Even after the power of zamindars declined, they did not collapse. They devised several ways to retain control of their zamindaris:
- Fictitious sale was one strategy adopted by them. Their own men would make highest bid and later refused to pay up. After repeating this method, the government would be tired and sell it back to zamindar at lesser rate.
 - Zamindari was transferred to female members due to the rule that property of women would not be taken over by the government.
 - It was difficult for an outsider to take into possession of the zamindari bought in the auction as they were attacked by the *lathiyals* of the former zamindar.
 - Sometimes even *ryots* who considered themselves as the subjects of the zamindars opposed such auction.

3 How did the Paharias respond to the coming of outsiders?

- Ans** The Paharias who lived in the hills of Raj Mahal were replaced by the santhals. The Britishers invited Santhals to settle in the Jangal Mahals. Hence, the response of the Paharias to the coming

- They were confined to the dry interior and more barren and rocky upper hills.
- The shifting cultivation done by the Paharias became more and more difficult due to proper and stable settlements.
- The hunters amongst them faced problems due to clearance of forests for cultivation.

Thus, the lifestyle and living of Paharias underwent change due to coming of outsiders.

4 Why did the Santhals rebel against British rule?

- Ans** By 1832, a large area of land was provided to the Santhals which came to be known as Damin-i-Koh. The Santhals were asked to live within it, practise plough agriculture and become settled peasants. However, problems started between the Santhals and the Britishers which led to the Santhal revolt in 1855-56.

Following are the main causes for their rebellion:

- The Santhals realised that the land under them was slipping away from their hands.
- The tax rates imposed on the land were high and exploitative.
- Moneylenders also charged them high rate of interest and took away lands if debt remained unpaid.
- The zamindars began to exercise greater control on the areas brought under cultivation by Santhals.
- The British created the Santhal Pargana from the districts of Bhagalpur and Birbhum.
- It was believed that the creation of a new state and passing of special laws for their protection would conciliate the Santhals.

5 What explains the anger of the Deccan *ryots* against the moneylenders?

- Ans** The reasons for the anger of the Deccan *ryots* against the moneylenders are:
- It was a customary norm that the interest will always remain less than the principal amount. But in many cases interest payable was more than the principal itself. For instance, in one case the moneylender charged over ₹ 2000 as interest on a loan of ₹ 100.
 - According to a Limitation Law (1859), the loan bonds signed between moneylenders and *ryots*

With every new bond, the original loan and the accumulated interest was entered as the principal on which a new set of interest charges was calculated.

- Moneylenders also refused to give receipts when loans were repaid.
- Ryots complained about forging of documents and other fraudulent activity by the moneylenders.

C Write a short essay (about 250-300 words) on the following.

6 Why were many zamindaris auctioned after the Permanent Settlement?

Ans The reasons for auctioning of zamindaris even after the Permanent Settlement were:

- Company kept the revenue price high with an idea that if the initial price would be low, then they would never be able to claim a share of increased income from land when prices rose and cultivation expanded. Hence, the Company argued that the burden on zamindars would decline with expanded agricultural production and price rise.
- During the 1790s, the prices of agricultural produce were depressed which made the ryots difficult to pay their dues to the zamindars.
- The revenue was fixed and it had to be paid punctually on time regardless of the harvest. A law was introduced which came to be known as the Sunset Law. According to the law, if payment did not come in by sunset of the specified date, the zamindari was liable to be auctioned.
- The power of zamindars were reduced. Their troops were disbanded, custom duties were abolished and their power to meet out local justice was curbed. This made it difficult for zamindars to assert their power over the peasants and *jotedars* to ensure timely payment.

7 In what way was the livelihood of the Paharias different from that of the Santhals?

Ans The people living around the hills were known as Paharias. The life of Paharias :

- They lived on forest produce and practised shifting cultivation.
- They grew a variety of pulses and millets.
- They collected *mohua* (a flower) for food, silk

- They used the patches of grass on the land as pasture for the cattle.
- They also raided the plains where the settled agriculturalists lived. It was necessary for survival specially during scarcity.
- They used to get tributes from the zamindars for peace settlement.
- Traders too gave small amount to them to use the passes controlled by them.
- the Paharias were hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers and silkworm rearsers.

On the other hand, the Santhals came into Bengal in the 1780s. The life of Santhals

- They cleared forests and cut down timber.
- They ploughed land and grew rice and cotton.
- They settled down cultivating a range of commercial crops for the market.
- They also dealt with traders and moneylenders.

8 How did the American civil war affect the lives of ryots in India?

or Explain the impact of American Civil war of 1861 on Indian peasants. **Delhi 2011**

Ans The effect of American Civil War on the lives of ryots in India can be explained through the following events :

- Britain was depended on America for cotton. Before the 1860s, 3/4th of raw cotton imports into Britain came from America. To reduce this dependency, Britain was always on the lookout for alternative sources of supply.
- To solve this issue, they established the Cotton Supply Association in 1857 and the Manchester Cotton Company in 1859. The main objective was to encourage cotton production in every part of the world suited for its growth specially in India.
- When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, there was a steep decline in the supply of cotton. Many attempts were made to increase cotton exports to Britain.
- The cotton exporters of Bombay started trying to purchase as much cotton as possible in order to meet the British demand. They gave huge advances to the urban

- The *ryots* were now getting loans from the *sahukars* very easily. They were being given ₹ 100 as advance for every area they planted with cotton. However, while rich peasants benefitted by these developments, cotton expansion meant heavier debt.
- After the civil war ended, cotton production in America revived and Indian cotton exports declined. *Sahukars* began to restrict advances to peasants and demanded repayment of debts. The revenue demand also got increased. When the peasants once again turned to *sahukars*, they refused to give them loans. This enraged the impoverished peasants and fuelled the outbreak of the peasant revolts in Deccan.

9 What are the problems in using official sources in writing about the history of peasants?

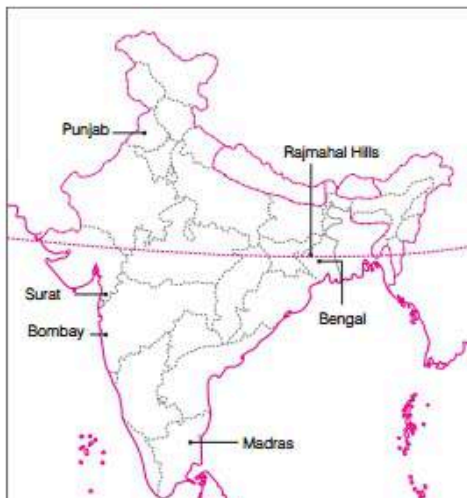
Ans The problem that historians face in using official sources in writing about the history of peasants were as follows :

- The Deccan Riots Commission was asked to study whether the level of government revenue demand was the cause of the revolt. It submitted its report blaming the moneylenders rather than the anger of peasants for the outbreak of revolt.
- There was a persistent reluctance on the part of the colonial government to admit that popular discontent was ever on account of government action. It becomes important to keep some particular points in mind while making use of the official reports in reconstructing the history.
- It must be remembered that the official reports should be studied with care. The evidence available from the official reports should be checked with evidence pulled from newspapers, unofficial accounts, legal records and where possible, oral sources.

10 On an outline map of the subcontinent, mark out the areas described in this chapter. Find out whether there were other areas where the Permanent Settlement and the ryotwari system were prevalent and plot these on the map as well.

Ans Following areas were mentioned in this chapter :

- (a) Bengal (b) Bombay presidency (c) Madras presidency
 (d) Mahalwari system was introduced in Eastern part of Punjab (e) Surat
 (f) Rajmahal hills



CHAPTER PRACTICE

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1 When did permanent settlement came into operation?
(a) 1891 (b) 1793
(c) 1792 (d) 1893
Ans. (b) 1793
- 2 What was being auctioned in Burdwan in 1797?
(a) Estates (b) Jewelleries
(c) Paintings (d) Clothes
Ans. (a) Estates
- 3 Who was Governor General of Bengal when the permanent settlement was introduced?
(a) Lord Irwin (b) Lord Buchanan
(c) Lord Cornwallis (d) Lord William
Ans. (c) Lord Cornwallis
- 4 Zamindars were responsible for
(a) extraction of minerals from the hills.
(b) cotton trade with the British.
(c) maintaining *bahi khatas* for the British.
(d) paying revenue to the British.
Ans. (d) paying revenue to the British.
- 5 What do you mean by cutcheries?
(a) Court (b) Police Station
(c) Zamindar's house (d) Hospital
Ans. (a) Court
- 6 Why couldn't *ryots* pay dues to the Zamindars?
(a) Bad harvest (b) Low prices
(c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of these
Ans. (c) Both (a) and (b)
- 7 What were rich *ryots* called?
(a) Mandals (b) *Jotedars*
(c) Zamindars (d) All of these
Ans. (b) *Jotedars*
- 8 When did the *jotedars* becomes powerful?
(a) Early 19th century
(b) Late 19th century
- 9 To save their property, whom did the zamindar transferred it to?
(a) Children (b) Servants
(c) Women (d) None of these
Ans. (c) Women
- 10 When was the Fifth Report submitted?
(a) 1810 (b) 1811
(c) 1813 (d) 1815
Ans. (c) 1813
- 11 Who travelled through Rajmahal Hills in the 19th Century?
(a) Buchanan (b) William
(c) Cleveland (d) Ricardo
Ans. (a) Buchanan
- 12 Who lived in Rajmahal Hills?
(a) Bengals (b) Paharias (c) Singhal (d) Rajputs
Ans. (b) Paharias
- 13 Which of the following explains Paharias?
(a) Hunters (b) Shifting Cultivator
(c) Food gatherers (d) All of these
Ans. (d) All of these
- 14 Who came into Bengal in the 1780s?
(a) Santhals (b) Paharias
(c) Rajputs (d) None of these
Ans. (a) Santhals
- 15 What was created after Santhals revolt?
(a) Damin-i-koh (b) Santhal Pargana
(c) Dikus (d) Ryotwari
Ans. (b) Santhal Pargana
- 16 What did Buchanan searched for?
(a) Mineral (b) Iron ore
(c) Mica (d) All of these
Ans. (d) All of these
- 17 Where did the revolt started in Deccan?
(a) Supa (b) Mumbai
(c) Boriwalli (d) Hyderabad
Ans. (a) Supa
- 18 Under the Ryotwari system, the lands were surveyed every

19 What was founded by Britishers to acquire more cotton?

- (a) The Cotton Supply Association
- (b) The Manchester Cotton Company
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c) Both (a) and (b)

20 What was the source of cotton after American Civil War break out?

- (a) Australia
- (b) India
- (c) Africa
- (d) Sri Lanka

Ans. (b) India

21 Which of the following is true?

- (i) Santhals were hired by zamindars.
- (ii) They settled in Burdawan.
- (iii) A large area was provided to Santhal known as Damin-i-koh.

Codes

- (a) Only (i)
- (b) (i) and (ii)
- (c) (i) and (iii)
- (d) Only (iii)

Ans. (c) (i) and (iii)

22 Which of the following is true?

- (i) Paharias followed jhoom cultivation.
- (ii) They lived in huts within tamarind groves.
- (iii) They collected Mahua flower for food.

Codes

- (a) Only (i)
- (b) (ii) and (iii)
- (c) (i) and (ii)
- (d) (i) and (iii)

Ans. (b) (ii) and (iii)

23 Which of the following is true?

- (i) Auction of estate was held in Burdawan in 1797.
- (ii) The Raja of Burdawan failed to pay his dues.
- (iii) The Britishers purchased the estates.

Codes

- (a) Only (iii)
- (b) (i) and (ii)
- (c) (i) and (iii)
- (d) (ii) and (iii)

Ans. (b) (i) and (ii)

24 Which of the following is correct?

- (a) The colonial rule was first established in the Bengal.
- (b) The earliest attempts were made to reorder rural society.
- (c) The permanent settlement had come into operation in 1793.
- (d) The East India Company had fixed revenue that each Zamindar had to pay.

Codes

25 Identify the name of the person from the information given below.

- (i) He was a physician who came to India and served in the Bengal Medical Service from 1794 to 1815.
- (ii) For few years, he was surgeon to the Governor-General of India, Lord Wellesley.
- (iii) During his stay in Calcutta he organised a Zoo that became the Calcutta Alipore Zoo.
- (iv) He was also incharge of the Botanical Gardens for a short period.

Ans. Francis Buchanan

26 Identify the name of the law from the information given below:

- (i) It was passed by British in 1859.
- (ii) According to this law, the loan bonds signed between moneylenders and ryots would have validity for only three years.
- (iii) This law was meant to check the accumulation of interest over time.

Ans. Limitation Law

Fill in the Blanks

27 The British made the settlement with the rajas and talukdar of Bengal classifying them as

Ans. Zamindar

28 For Britishers Santhals appeared to be ideal

Ans. settlers

29 ____ is the person who wields the Lathi or stick.

Ans. Lathyal

30 is the transaction made in the name of a fictitious or relatively insignificant person where the real beneficiary remains unnamed.

Ans. Benami

Assertion-Reason

31 Assertion (A) After American Civil War, there was steep decline in the supply of cotton. Reason (R) Britain started exporting cotton from India.

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct

- (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

32 Assertion (A) Deccan Riot commission was formed by government of Bengal.

Reason (R) It submitted its report in 1878.

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

Ans. (d) A is false, but R is true

33 Assertion (A) Ryotwari Settlement was a new revenue system introduced in Bombay Deccan.

Reason (R) The revenue was fixed for every ryot.

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

Ans. (c) A is true, but R is false

Correct and Rewrite

34 In Francis Buchanan's survey of the Dinajpur district in North Bengal have a vivid description of the class of rich peasants known as ryots.

Ans. In Francis Buchanan's survey of the Dinajpur district in North Bengal have a vivid description of the class of rich peasants known as Jotedars.

35 Jotedars often lived in urban areas and were not able to exercise direct control over a considerable section of poor villagers.

Ans. Jotedars often lived in rural areas and were able to exercise direct control over a considerable section of poor villagers.

36 Warren Hastings was the Commander of the British forces during the American War of Independence and the Governor General of Bengal, when the Permanent Settlement was implemented in 1793.

Ans. Charles Cornwallis was the Commander of the

37 The Pahariya tribe live in the Shayadri hills, subsisting on forest produce and practising shifting cultivation.

Ans. The Pahariya tribe live in the Rajmahal hills, subsisting on forest produce and practising shifting cultivation.

38 The life of Santhals as hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers, silkworm rearers was intimately connected to the forest.

Ans. The life of Paharias as hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers, silkworm rearers was intimately connected to the forest.

Match the Following

List I	List II
A. Deccan Riot Report	1. 1813
B. Policy of Pacification	2. 1878
C. Fifth Report	3. 1793
D. Permanent Settlement	4. 1780

Codes

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | A | B | C | D |
| (a) 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | (b) 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| (c) 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | (d) 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

Ans. (b)

List I	List II
A. Lord Cornwallis	1. Observer
B. Augustus Cleveland	2. Economist
C. Francis Buchanan	3. Governor General of Bengal
D. David Ricardo	4. Policy of Pacification

Codes

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | A | B | C | D |
| (a) 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | (b) 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| (c) 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | (d) 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |

Ans. (c)

List I	List II
A. Francis Buchanan	1. Introduced Permanent Settlement
B. Charles Cornwallis	2. Surveyed North Bengal
C. David Ricardo	3. Land records management
D. Sidhu Manjhi	4. Santhal revolt

Codes

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | A | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

42

List I	List II
A. Fifth Report	1. 1793
B. Permanent Settlement	2. 1813
C. American Civil War	3. 1856
D. Santhal Rebellion	4. 1861

Codes

A B C D	A B C D
(a) 1 2 3 4	(b) 2 1 4 3
(c) 3 4 1 2	(d) 4 1 2 3

Ans (b)

Picture Based Question

43 Identify the picture given below.



Ans. Santhal fighting the sepoy of British Raj.

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1 What was the idea behind the introduction of new Permanent Settlement?

Ans The idea behind was to create a class of yeomen farmers and rich landowners who would have the capital and enterprise to improve agriculture. They would also be loyal to the Company.

2 What was the Sunset Law?

Ans The Sunset Law was introduced by the Britishers. According to the law, if payment did not come in by sunset of the specified date, the zamindari was liable to be auctioned.

3 Who made benami purchases during 1793-1801?

Ans Four big zamindaris of Bengal including Burdwan made benami purchases of about ₹ 30 lakh during 1793-1801.

4 Why the report was referred to as the Fifth Report?

Ans The report was the 5th of a series of reports on

5 Who was *amlah*?

Ans *Amlah* was an officer of the zamindar who come to the village at the time of rent collection to keep an eye on the process.

6 What were Buchanan's views about Rajmahal Hills?

Ans According to Buchanan, the hills appeared dense and a zone where few travellers ventured. It was an area that signified danger.

7 Who were the Paharias? How did the Paharias live?

Ans The people living around the hills were known as Paharias. They lived on forest produce and practised shifting cultivation.

8 What were the occupation of the Paharias?

Ans The Paharias were hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers and silkworm rearers.

9 What was the duty of the chief of Paharias?

Ans The duty of the chief of Paharias were to maintained the unity of the groups, settled disputes and led the tribe in battles with other tribes and plains people.

10 Why did the Company survey landscapes?

Ans The Company survey landscapes as it was looking for natural resources to control and exploit.

11 What was the reasons for conflict among hill folk and settled cultivators?

Ans With the expansion of agriculture, there was a contraction between the area under forests and pastures. This led to conflict among hill folk and settled cultivators.

12 What actions were taken by British to control revolt in Deccan?

Ans The British established police posts in village to frighten rebellious peasants. Troops were called in and around 951 people were arrested, while many were convicted.

13 Mention one strategy adopted by the zamindars to save their zamindari.

Ans Fictitious sale was one strategy wherein a series of mortgages were involved. Some part of the

14 What was the significance of the fifth report?

Ans The significance of the fifth report was that it shaped conception of the events took place in rural Bengal in the late 18th century.

15 Why India suited for cotton production?

Ans India was suited for cotton production, as it had a suitable soil and favourable climate for cotton cultivation and availability of cheap labour.

16 What was Romanticism?

Ans Romanticism was a tradition of thought that celebrated nature and admired its magnificence and power.

17 What did William Hodges find in Rajmahal hills?

Ans He found flat landscapes monotonous and discovered beauty in roughness, irregularity and variety.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1 How did the auction in Burdwan took place?

Ans The auction in the Burdwan can be explained from the following events :

- The auction was held in Burdwan (present day Bardhaman) in 1797. A number of *mahals* (estates) held by the Raja of Burdwan were being sold because the raja had accumulated huge arrears.
- A number of purchasers came to the auction and the estates were sold to the highest bidder. But it was later realised that over 95 per cent of the sale at the auction was fictitious.
- Many purchasers turned out to be servants and agents of the raja in the auction. Hence, publicly the estates were sold but raja remained in control of his zamindari.

2 How was the Permanent Settlement different from Ryotwari Settlement?

Ans Difference between Permanent and Ryotwari Settlements are as follows:

Permanent Settlement	Ryotwari Settlement
1. The Permanent settlement was introduced in 1793 in Bengal under the	The Ryotwari settlement was introduced in the

2. In Permanent settlement the Taluqdars were the owners of the land. They paid a fixed rent to the company.	Under the Ryotwari system, the government received tax from the peasants directly.
3. In permanent settlement land was distributed among the peasants. They earned the desired interests.	In Ryotwari system, the government estimated the average income from different types of soil.
4. The state was unable to claim its share in the enhanced income of the farmers as per permanent settlement.	In Ryotwari system, a proportional amount of the share was fixed as the share of the state.

3 Explain two reasons for the failure of the Permanent Settlement of the land revenue introduced by the British in Bengal. Delhi 2009

Ans The reasons for the failure of the Permanent Settlement of the land revenue introduced by the British in Bengal are as follows:

- (i) The early revenue demands fixed by the Company were very high. Under Permanent Settlement, the state revenue demand was fixed in perpetuity. It meant that Company was not claiming an additional share of increased income from land with rising prices and expanding cultivation. Therefore, the Company wanted huge revenue for high demand in order to minimise this anticipated loss.
- (ii) High demand of land revenue was fixed in 1790s. The price of agricultural produce were depressed during this period. Consequently, it became difficult for the *ryots* to pay their dues to the zamindars. Thus, the zamindars could not collect the rent and were unable to pay their fixed amount to the Company.

4. Critically analyse the Fifth Report which was submitted to the British Parliament in 1813. CBSE SQP Term II 2021

Ans The Fifth Report of 1813 was the fifth series of report on the administration and activities of the East India Company in India. It ran into 1002 pages of which over 800 pages were appendices that reproduced petitions of zamindars and riots, reports of collectors and districts. It contained information on Company's misrule and maladministration. Many British traders wanted a share in

opposed the monopoly enjoyed by East India Company over trade with India and China. As a result, British Parliament passed several acts to regulate Company rule in India.

- 5** The battle between the hoe and the plough was a long one. Substantiate the statement with reference to the Santhals and Paharias of Raj Mahal hills during 18th century.

Delhi 2016

Ans The Paharias represented the hoe whereas the plough was represented by Santhals. The battle between these was a long one. The British wanted to bring more land under cultivation for increasing agricultural produce and revenue. They failed to convince the Paharias to practice settled agriculture.

The Paharias were depended on forest produce and shifting cultivation for their living and grew a variety of pulses for consumption. The British gave land to Santhals (Damin-i-Koh) to settle and cultivate. The Santhals cleared land and converted it into cultivable land. Santhals displaced the Paharias. They practiced plough agriculture and ploughed land to grow rice and cotton.

- 6** The East India Company had recognised the zamindars importance but wanted to control and regulate them. Explain the steps taken by them to subdue their authority in the 18th century.

Delhi 2016

or Explain how the East India Company subdued the authority of zamindars in Bengal during 18th century?

Delhi 2015

Ans The East India Company recognised the importance and significance of zamindars but it also wanted to control, regulate and subdue their authority. The Company took the following steps:

- To limit the authority of zamindars the Company disbanded the troop organised by zamindars.
- Custom duties were abolished and 'cutcheries' or local court organised by zamindars were brought under supervision of the Company.
- The Company appointed collector and gave power to supervise these courts, over the period of time collectorate emerged as centre of authority.
- The power to organise local justice and the

- 7** "Jotedars inevitably weakened zamindars in Bengal by the end of the 18th century." Give arguments to support the statement.

Delhi 2015

or Describe the position of the *jotedars* at the end of the 18th century.

All India 2008

Ans *jotedars* inevitably weakened the power of zamindars in Bengal by the end of the 18th century because :

- *Jotedars* lived in villages and thus, had good influence on village population.
- *Jotedars* had acquired vast areas of land. They controlled local trade, moneylending, exercising immense power over the poorer cultivators and their land was cultivated through *adhiyars* or *bargadars* (share croppers).
- They fiercely resisted the effects of zamindars to increase the *jama* of the village, prevented zamindari officials from executing their duties. They deliberately delayed payments of revenue to the zamindars.
- When the estates of the zamindars were auctioned for failure to make revenue payment, *jotedars* bought their estate. This made the *jotedars* most powerful in the North Bengal.

- 8** Evaluate the main aspects of the Fifth Report on the administration and activities of East India Company, submitted to the British Parliament.

All India 2020

Ans. The Fifth Report was a significant report. It continued shaping our conception for over a century and a half about the nature and consequences of East India Company's Rule in Bengal in the late 18th century. It served as basis for intense parliamentary debates on the nature of company's rule in India. It described what happened in rural Bengal in the late 18th century.

The evidence contained in the 'Fifth Report' is considered to be of great importance. But as it is an official report, it should be read and analysed very carefully.

The major short comings of this report included:

- The Fifth report exaggerated the collapse of traditional zamindari power and the rate at which zamindars were losing their lands.

- The report was biased because it wanted to highlight the maladministration of the East India Company in India.

9 Analyse the economic and social conditions of the Paharias (hill folk) of Rajmahal hills during the late eighteenth century. **Delhi 2020**

Ans The economic and social conditions of the Paharias of Rajmahal hills during the late eighteenth century were :

- They cleared patches of forests and grew a variety of pulses and millets for consumption. They cultivated land for a few years, then left it fallow, so that it could recover its fertility and moved to a new area.
- They collected mahua for food, silk cocoons and resins for sale and wood for charcoal production from the forest.
- They lived as hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers and silkworm rearers. They consider the entire region as their land and resisted the intrusion of the outsiders.

10 Which policy was adopted by British officials towards Paharias in the decade of 1770? What was its result?

Ans The British in the 1770s followed a brutal policy of extermination, hunting and killing the Paharias.

By the 1780s, Augustus Cleveland, the collector of Bhagalpur, proposed a policy of pacification. As per the policy, the Paharia chiefs were given annual allowance and were made responsible for the proper conduct of their men. They were expected to maintain order in their localities and discipline their own people.

The result of the policies was that many chiefs refused the allowance, while those who accepted, lost their authority within the community. They came to be perceived as subordinate employees or stipendiary chiefs.

11 What was Damin-i-Koh? How it came into being?

Ans A large area of land was provided to the Santhals by 1832 in Rajmahal hills which came to known as Damin-i-Koh.

The Santhals were asked to live within it, practise plough agriculture and become settled

was separated from the world of the settled agriculturists and the Paharias. The demarcation resulted into expansion of Santhal settlements. From 40 Santhal villages in the area in 1838, around 1437 villages had come up by 1851. The Santhal population also increased from 3,000 to 82,000.

12 Analyse the circumstances under which the British officials invited Santhals to settle in the peripheries of Rajmahal hills during the nineteenth century. **Delhi 2020**

Ans Britishers were failed to subdue the Paharias so they turned to the Santhals. The Paharias refused to cut forest, cultivate land and continued to be aggressive. On the contrast, the Santhals appeared to be ideal settlers by clearing forests and ploughing the lands. Thus, the British officials invited the Santhals and persuaded them to settle in the foothills of Rajmahal. By 1832, a large area of land was demarcated as Damin-i-Koh, land of the Santhals by the British.

13 What were the accounts of Buchanan?

Ans Buchanan was an employee of the British East India Company. The Company was looking for natural resources to control and exploit. It surveyed landscapes and revenue sources, organised voyages of discovery and sent its geologists and geographers, botanists and medical men to collect information. Buchanan was one such individual sent by company for survey.

He observed the stones and rocks and the different strata and layers of soil. He searched for minerals and stones which were commercially valuable. All signs of iron ore and mica, granite and saltpetre were recorded by him. He also observed local practices of salt-making and iron ore-mining.

14 Explain how the Ricardo's idea of land ownership was introduced in the 'Bombay Deccan'? **All India 2013**

Ans

- The colonial officials were under much influence of the ideas of David Ricardo, the renowned economist of England, during the early decades of the 19th century.
- He suggested that a landowner should have a claim only to the 'average rent' prevailing at

- If tax was not levied, cultivators were likely to turn into rentiers and their surplus income was unlikely to be productively invested in the improvement of the land.
- The British officials viewed that the same condition had arisen in Bengal because of the introduction of Permanent Settlement.
- The zamindars in Bengal had become rentiers in a way as they had leased out their lands. Therefore, the British officials wanted to follow a different system of land revenue.

15 What was the Limitation Law? Why was this considered as a symbol of oppression against the *ryots* of 19th century? Give two reasons. All India 2016

Ans In 1859, British passed Limitation Law which stated that the loan bond signed between moneylenders and *ryots* would have validity for only three years.

This law was considered as a symbol of oppression due to the following reasons:

- When new bond was signed, the unpaid balance, i.e. original loan and interest was entered as principal and this principal interest was charged.
- Moneylenders refused to give receipt when loans were repaid, entered fictitious figures in bond, acquired the peasant's harvest at low price and ultimately took over the property of peasants.

16 Explain the impact of refusal by moneylenders to extend loans to *ryots*, around 1865, under the colonial rule in India. All India 2011

Ans The condition of the cotton market changed in 1865 when American Civil War came to an end and *ryots* started producing cotton. The merchants profit were lowered so they were not able to pay the peasants whatever dues were left.

Under these circumstances, moneylenders and merchants were no longer keen on providing to the *ryots*. The impact of this on *ryots* was :

- They entrapped into the deeper and deeper debt.
- The *ryots* were completely dependent upon the moneylenders for their survival. The moneylenders charged the *ryots* with heavy

17 Explain how the deeds and bonds appeared as symbols of the new oppressive systems.

Ans Deeds and Bonds became the symbols of the new oppressive system. The British did not believe in transactions based on informal understanding. For them, transactions had to be clear, unambiguous and categorically stated in contracts. Deeds and bonds are regulated by law. For the *ryots*, deeds and bonds were misery to their lives. They were made to sign and put thumb impressions on documents without having any knowledge of what they were signing.

Ryots were unaware of the clauses inserted by moneylenders in the bonds. They had no choice but to sign because moneylenders refused to give loans without legal bonds.

18 Critically examine the Deccan Riots Commission Report.

Ans The Deccan Riots Commission Report can be examined through the following points:

- Proper enquiries were held in the riot affected districts and the statement of the *ryots*, *sahukars* and eyewitnesses were recorded. Statistical data on revenue rates, prices and interest rates were compiled in various regions.
- In the Deccan Riots Commission Report, there the official sources and reflect concerns and interpretations of events. For example the commission was specifically asked to judge whether the level of the government revenue demand was the cause of the revolt. After presenting all the evidences, the commission reported that the government demand was not the cause of peasants anger. It was the moneylenders who were to blame.

19 Study this image depicting scene from Santhal rebellion, carefully and answer any three of the following questions by choosing the correct option.



- (i) The Santhal rebellion occurred
- during 1855-56 in Rajmahal hills of Bengal province.
 - during 1831-32 in Maikal hills of Central province.
 - during 1865-70 in Western Ghats of Bombay province.
 - None of the above
- (ii) What can be conferred about the nature of resistance employed by Santhals?
- They used their tradition weapons which consisted of bow and arrows.
 - To many of them were wounded and killed in the revolt against British forces.
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - None of the above
- (iii) The main reason(s) behind the Santhal revolt was/were
- high rate of interest charged by moneylenders.
 - heavy taxation on land revenue charged by British authorities.
 - intrusion of Dikus in their region.
 - All of the above
- (iv) Who was/were the leader(s) of Santhal revolt?
- Sidhu Manjhi
 - Kanha Manjhi
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Jatra Bhagat

- Ans** (i) (a) during 1855-56 in Rajmahal hills of Bengal province
 (ii) (c) Both (a) and (b)
 (iii) (d) All of the above
 (iv) (c) Both (a) and (b)

- 20** Study this image depicting transportation of cotton bales from Bombay, carefully and answer any three of the following questions by choosing the option.



- (i) The stock of cotton bales in Bombay as depicted in figure were transported to
- textile factories in Lancashire and Manchester.

- (ii) The transportation mode employed for cotton bales was/were
- Railways
 - Bullock carts
 - Ships and boat
 - All of these
- (iii) Why this cotton bales were exported out of the India?
- Absence of textile manufacturing industries in India.
 - Surplus production of cotton.
 - Skewed nature of tariffs employed by the East India Company.
 - All of the above
- (iv) Which of the following methods were employed by British authorities to increase the production of cotton?
- Frantic messages were sent to India and elsewhere to increase cotton exports to Britain.
 - Established Cotton Supply Association in 1857 and Manchester Cotton Company in 1859.
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - None of the above
- Ans** (i) (a) textile factories in Lancashire and Manchester.
 (ii) (d) All of these
 (iii) (d) All of the above
 (iv) (c) Both (a) and (b)

- 21** Study this passage of the Fifth Report and answer any three of the following questions. Referring to the condition of zamindars and the auction of lands, the Fifth Report stated: The revenue was not realised with punctuality and lands to a considerable extent were periodically exposed to sale by auction. In the native year 1203 corresponding with 1796-97, the land advertised for sale comprehended a jumma or assessment of sicca rupees 28,70,061, the extent of land actually sold bore a jumma or assessment of 14.18.756, and the amount of purchase money sicca rupees 17.90,416. In 1204. corresponding with 1797-98, the land advertised was for sicca rupees 26,66,191, the quantity sold was for sicca rupees 22.74.076, and the purchase money sicca rupees 21.47.580. Among the defaulters were some of the oldest families of the country. Such were the rajahs of Nuddea, Rajeshaye, Bishenpore (all districts of Bengal) and others, the dismemberment of whose estates at the end of each succeeding year, threatened them with poverty and ruin

- (i) Choose the correct option :
- Assertion (A)** The Fifth Report exaggerated the collapse of traditional Zamindari power and overestimated the scale on which Zamindars were losing lands.
- Reason (R)** It became the basis of intense parliamentary debates on the nature of East India Company's rule in India.
- Codes**
- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true
- (ii) The Fifth Report pointed about the inefficiency of which of the following land revenue system?
- (a) Permanent Settlement
- (b) Ryotwari System
- (c) Contract Farming System
- (d) Mahalwari System
- (iii) What do you think, according to this passage, is the meaning of Jumma?
- (a) The amount collected as land revenue.
- (b) The amount collected from the auction of land.
- (c) The official assessment of land revenue.
- (d) All of the above
- (iv) The main problems faced by Zamindars in accordance with Fifth Report includes
- (a) inability to collect land revenue.
- (b) high rate of land revenue imposed by the British authorities.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

- Ans** (i) (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (ii) (a) Permanent Settlement
- (iii) (c) The official assessment of land revenue
- (iv) (c) Both (a) and (b)

22 Read the following passage describing relations between Paharias and Colonial authorities and answer any three questions.

In the 1770s the British embarked on a brutal policy of extermination, hunting the Paharias down and killing them. Then, by the 1780s, Augustus Cleveland, the Collector of Bhagalpur, proposed a policy of pacification. Paharia chiefs were given an annual allowance and made responsible for

Many Paharia chiefs refused the allowances. Those who accepted, most often lost authority within the community. Being in the pay of the colonial government, they came to be perceived as subordinate employees or stipendiary chiefs.

- (i) Why did British colonial authorities were against the Paharias?
- (a) Paharias frequent raid of plain areas inhabited by the settled agriculturists.
- (b) They associated forests with wildness and saw forest people as savage, unruly, primitive and difficult to govern.
- (c) They wanted to ensure the safety of traders, middleman and zamindars.
- (d) All of the above
- (ii) Why did Augustus Cleveland proposed a policy of pacification?
- (a) To stop the raids of Paharias.
- (b) It was difficult to contain Paharias through traditional police machinery as they lived inside the forest.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) British forces were less in number and strength.
- (iii) Choose the correct option.
- Assertion (A)** According to the policy of pacification proposed by the Augustus Cleveland, Paharia chiefs were given an annual allowance and made responsible for proper conduct of their men.
- Reason (R)** It was refused by many Paharia chiefs as they don't want to be perceived as subordinate employees of East India Company.
- Codes**
- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true
- (iv) Consider the following statements :

- I. Britishers wanted to subdue Paharias, as for them extension of settled agriculture was necessary to enlarge the sources of land revenue.
- II. Paharias lived in the forested areas of Rajmahal hills.

Choose the correct options.

- (a) Both I and II are correct
- (b) Only I is correct
- (c) Only II is correct
- (d) None of these
- Ans** (i) (d) All of the above

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- 1 'After introducing the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, the zamindars regularly failed to pay the land revenue demand.' Examine the causes and consequences of it. All India 2017

Ans Even after the surety of revenue, zamindars regularly failed to pay the revenue demand and unpaid balances accumulated.

The causes behind such default includes:

- Firstly, Company kept the revenue price high with an idea that if the initial price would be low, then they would never be able to claim a share of increased income from land when prices rose and cultivation expanded. Hence, the Company argued that the burden on zamindars would decline with expanded agricultural production and price rise.
- Secondly, during the 1790s, the prices of agricultural produce were depressed which made the *ryots* difficult to pay their dues to the zamindar.
- Thirdly, as the revenue was fixed, it had to be paid punctually on time regardless of the harvest. A law was introduced which came to be known as the Sunset Law. According to the law, if payment did not come in by sunset of the specified date, the zamindari was liable to be auctioned.
- Fourthly, the power of the zamindar was initially limited to collect rent from the *ryot* and manage his zamindari.

The duty of collecting revenue was under zamindars, but they were brought under some consequences.

These were:

- The zamindars troops were disbanded, custom duties abolished and their *cutcheries* (courts) were brought under the supervision of a collector appointed by the Company.
- They lost the power to organise local justice and the local police. The collectorate emerged as an alternative centre of authority.
- An officer of the zamindar, the *amlah*, came to the village at the time of rent collection to keep an eye on the process.
- Bad harvests and low prices made the *ryots* difficult to pay dues to the zamindars.

- Rich *ryots* and village headmen, *jotedars* and *Mandals* were against the zamindars.
- The judicial process was long drawn to prosecute defaulters. In Burdwan, there were over 30,000 pending suits for arrears of rent payment in 1798.

- 2 Examine the main aspects of the Fifth Report which was submitted to the British Parliament in 1813. All India 2017

Ans Many of the changes occurred at the time of the East India Company were documented in detail in a report that was submitted to the British Parliament in 1813. It was the Fifth Report on the administration and activities of the East India Company in India. The main aspects of the Fifth Report are discussed below:

- The Fifth Report had been covered into 1002 pages of which over 800 pages were appendices that reproduced petitions of zamindars and *ryots* reports of collectors from different districts, statistical tables on revenue returns, and notes on the revenue and judicial administration of Bengal and Madras (present-day Tamil Nadu) written by officials.
- The British Parliament passed a series of acts in the late 18th century to regulate and control Company rule in India. It forced the Company to produce regular reports on committees to enquire into the affairs of the Company. The Fifth Report was one such report produced by a Select Committee. It became the basis of intense Parliamentary debates on the nature of the East India Company's rule in India.
- The evidence contained in the Fifth Report is invaluable. But the recent researches show that the arguments and evidences offered by the Fifth Report cannot be accepted uncritically.
- After careful examination of the archives of various Bengal zamindars and the local records of the districts, researchers found that the report exaggerated the collapse of traditional zamindari power and also overestimated the scale on which zamindars were losing their land. When zamindars were auctioned, zamindars were not always displaced. They used ingenious methods to retain their zamindaris.

- 3 Examine the land revenue system that was introduced in Bombay Deccan. How did the peasants fall into the debt-trap of the moneylenders? Explain.

Ans Ryotwari Settlement was introduced in the Bombay Deccan by the British. It has the following features:

Direct Settlement with the Ryots The revenue was settled directly with the ryots.

Calculation of Revenue Unlike the Permanent Settlement, the revenue was estimated taking into consideration all types of soil and the average income of the harvest was estimated. It assessed how much revenue a ryot could pay.

Share of State The share of the state was fixed in proportion to the income of the ryot.

Re-survey of Land After every 30 years, the lands were re-surveyed and the rates of revenue were increased accordingly.

Temporary Demand The demand for revenue was not permanent but temporary.

As the moneylenders were much insensitive to the plight of the peasants, they got deeper and deeper into debt trap and were dependent on the moneylenders for their survival. This can be understood by the following points:

- In ryotwari system, one general norm was that the interest charged could not be more than the principle. But when the Deccan Riots Commission investigated, they found the law broken by the moneylenders as they had charged over ₹ 2000 as interest on a loan of ₹ 100. After complain of this manipulation by ryots, the British passed a Limitation Law in 1859, which meant to check the accumulation of interest over time and give 3 years validity of loan bonds signed between moneylenders and ryots.
- Moneylenders manipulated the Limitation Law and forced ryots to sign a new bond every 3 years. When a new bond was signed, the unpaid balance, the original loan and accumulated interest was entered as principle on which a new set of interest charges was calculated.
- Moneylenders refused to give receipts when loans were repaid, entered fictitious figures in bonds, acquired peasants harvest at low prices, made peasants to sign and put thumb impression on documents and did not allow

© SOURCE BASED QUESTION

1 From the Fifth Report

Referring to the condition of zamindars and the auction of lands, the Fifth Report stated: The revenue was not realised with punctuality, and lands to a considerable extent were periodically exposed to sale by auction. In the native year 1203, corresponding with 1796-97, the land advertised for sale comprehended a jumma or assessment of sicca rupees 28,70,061, the extent of land actually sold bore a jumma or assessment of 14,18,756, and the amount of purchase money sicca rupees 17,90,416. In 1204, corresponding with 1797-98, the land advertised was for sicca rupees 26,66,191, the quantity sold was for sicca rupees 22,74,076, and the purchase money sicca rupees 21,47,580.

Among the defaulters were some of the oldest families of the country. Such were the rajahs of Nuddea, Rajeshaye, Bishenpore (all districts of Bengal), ... and others, the dismemberment of whose estates at the end of each succeeding year, threatened them with poverty and ruin, and in some instances presented difficulties to the revenue officers, in their efforts to preserve undiminished the amount of public assessment.

- What was the Fifth Report about? What was its significance?
- What was the condition of the zamindar according to the report?
- Write any two points of criticism regarding this report.

Ans (i) Fifth Report was a series of report submitted about the working and administration of the East India Company in India.

Its significance was that it gave a clear picture of what happened in rural Bengal in the late 18th century.

- The condition of the zamindars according to the report is as follows:
 - The condition of the zamindars was deteriorating and their lands were auctioned.
 - They were facing poverty due to collapse of zamindari system.
- Two points of criticism regarding this report are as follows:

SELF ASSESSMENT

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

- What did Fifth Report contain?
(a) Petitions of zamindar (b) *Ryot* report of collector
(c) Statistical table (d) All of these
- Who were the *Dikus*?
(a) Zamindars (b) Moneylender
(c) Peasants (d) *Jotedars*
- Subject of zamindars were also known as
- Correct the following statement.
The Deccan Riot Commission was constituted by the Government of India on the insistence of Government of Bombay.
- Match the Following.

List I	List II
A. Deccan Ryots	1. 1765
B. British East India acquired the Diwani of Bengal.	2. 1832
C. First Revenue Settlement in Bombay Deccan.	3. 1875
D. Declaration of <i>Damin-i-koh</i> .	4. 1818

Codes

A B C D	A B C D	A B C D	A B C D
(a) 1 2 3 4	(b) 3 1 2 4	(c) 3 1 4 2	(d) 4 1 3 2

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Who were *jotedars*?
- What are the two features of *Paharias*' lives?
- How did zamindars manage to retain control over their zamindaris?
- State two merits of the Permanent Settlement.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- What were the demerits of the *Ryotwari* Settlement?
- When and why was the Limitation Law was passed?
- Why was the Permanent Settlement not extended beyond Bengal?

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Describe the Fifth Report. What were its shortcomings?