

History chapter- 3.

I. Answer the following questions in detail.

Ans-2. Mahalwari System :

1. The head man collects revenue and gives it to the British.
2. Introduced in North India.
3. Introduced by Holt Mackenzie.
4. All the members of the village were jointly responsible for revenue payment

Ryotwari system:

1. The farmer himself gives the revenue to the British.
2. Introduced in Madras and later Bombay Presidency.
3. Introduced by Thomas Munroe
4. Only the farmer was responsible for his own revenue payment

Ans- 3. The revenue policies of the British turned the rural economy upside down. The condition of the peasants became miserable and there were no welfare measures to give them relief. An important development was the emergence of the money lender as a powerful figure. The peasants who were unable to pay the revenue took money on interest from the moneylender. They had to mortgage their land and pay very high rates of interest. Ultimately they were unable to pay back the moneylender who was no less oppressive than the British. The peasants mostly lost their land and worked as bonded labourers on the farms.

Ans- 4. In ryoti cultivation, Indian peasant farmers called ryots were often forced to grow the crop. British planters would persuade or compel a farmer to sign a contract to grow indigo on a certain portion of his land. The peasant farmers did not own their land. Instead, they rented it from the planters or from Indian landholders called zamindars. They had to grow indigo on 25% of the land. They were given loans by the planter. The seed and the drill were provided by the planter while the farmer had to till the soil, sow the seeds and then look after the crop.

Where as, in nij cultivation, the British planter either bought land or took it on rent. Then, he hired labour to work on the land and grow indigo. So, nij cultivation was practiced only on 25 per cent of the total land under indigo cultivation.

