

**History Chapter- 4.**  
**Colonialism and Tribal Societies.**

**F. Read the case based paragraph and answer the questions that follow.**

1. (b) Wood
2. (c) The tribals were badly affected by the forest policy of the British.
3. (c) Tribals could not hunt or make use of forest products.
4. (d) The tribals were paid good wages by the British.

**G. Briefly answer the questions given below.**

Ans-1. The British challenged the traditional land rights of the tribal people. They took over the land which the tribes considered as theirs. The British also wanted regular revenue from the tribal communities. They were given lands on rent. They had to pay the rent to the landowner who in turn paid revenue to the government.

Ans- 2. Birsa Munda began this revolt and waged a massive war against the British.

3. The British were against shifting agriculture. They wanted these tribes to settle down and be civilized. Settled communities were easier to administer. The British also wanted regular revenue from the tribal communities.

Ans- 4. The economy of most tribes was subsistence oriented. They survived mainly on hunting, gathering and fishing. Even those tribes which depended on agriculture had to supplement their income with hunting and collecting forest products. Different tribes had different means of livelihood. Some were hunter-gatherers while some were engaged in rearing and herding. Some tribes were shifting cultivators while others were settled agriculturists.

Ans- 5. The tribal revolts faced tragic consequences because the British had modern weapons.

**H. Give detailed answers of the questions given below:**

Ans- 3. For the tribals a new situation arose with the advent of colonial rule. Their life was disturbed by the interference of the British. The British interfered for exploiting the natural resources of the forests. The British challenged the traditional land rights of the tribal people. They took over the land which the tribes considered as theirs. They created zamindars who were outsiders. The tribes were reduced to mere tenants and had to pay the high rent to the zamindars.

In order to pay the high rent, the tribal people had to borrow money from the local moneylenders who charged very high rates of interest. The poor and illiterate tribal people thus had to sell everything they possessed to pay the interest. Therefore, the moneylenders were seen as evil outsiders and the cause of their misery. Sometimes, when they were unable to pay the high rent, they were evicted from their land and made to work as bonded labourers to earn a livelihood. Also, traders began to come into their villages to purchase forest products at very low prices. These were sold at very

high prices in the towns and cities. The tribals were exploited by the traders. Some had no option but to search for work in coal mines, tea plantations etc. They were exploited here also and treated like bonded labour. The tribals thus witnessed the destruction of their livelihood and identity. So these tribal communities participated in many revolts against the British occupation from time to time.