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CLASS: VIII	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: History	CH-3
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**British and Our Villages**

**Multiple Choice Type Questions**

1. What is Neil Darpan? **It was a play written by Dinabandhu Mitra.**
2. Which cash crop was grown in Assam towards the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century? **Tea**
3. European colonies were located in which of these? **All of these**
4. Which of the following is not a cash crop? **Rice**
5. When was the Mahalwari system devised by Holt Mackenzie? **1822**

**Fill in the Blanks**

1. The Ryotwari system was also known as **Munro System**.
2. It was the duty of **rajas** and **taluqdars** to collect the rent from the peasants in the permanent settlement.
3. The owners of plantations were called **planters**.
4. Cash crops were grown to provide raw materials to the **manufacturing industries** of Britain.

**Write “T” for true or “F” for false statements**

1. The indigo farmers in Bengal rebelled in 1860. **F**
2. The British needed indigo to colour the clothes they had started to produce in their textile mills. **T**
3. High revenue demands, failures of crops due to drought or other natural calamities made life difficult for peasants. **T**
4. Mahatma Gandhi launched a movement against the indigo cultivators in Champaran. **T**

**Short Answer Questions**

1. **What were the effects of the Ryotwari system?**  
The effects of the Ryotwari system were high revenue demands, failure of crops due to drought or other natural calamities made life difficult for the peasants , they remained in

constant debt, due to which they left their lands and migrated to other regions where they could work and earn their livelihood.

**2. What was the role of zamindars?**

- The zamindars were the owners of the land under them.
- Their duty was to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the company regularly.
- As the revenue was fixed the zamindars could decrease the surplus amount for himself.

**3. Why did the British East India company start exporting indigo to England?**

By the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the British East India company started exporting indigo to England's textile industries because the industrial revolution gave an impetus to the textile mills in England. So, they need more indigo dye to color the clothes they had started to produce in their textile mills.

**4. What were the effects of the Blue Rebellion?**

- There were widespread rebellions by peasants or ryots in Bengal in 1859. peasants all over the region refused to sow indigo and attacked indigo factories.
- In many villages, the headman and local zamindars who had been forced to sign indigo contracts, that is the protest. They went around the villages, urging the peasants to resist planters.
- The British brought in the military to protect the planters from assault and set up the indigo Commission and issued a notice to stop cultivation of indigo in Bengal.
- After the revolt, indigo production collapsed in Bengal, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when Mahatma Gandhi visited Champaran and a movement was launched against indigo planters.

**5. What were the disadvantages of the permanent settlement of Bengal?**

- The life of peasants became terrible.
- The zamindars were not interested in improving either the condition of land or the cultivation methods.
- The revenue was fixed, does that mean it still increased what peasants or workers had to pay them.
- The collection of land revenue forced peasants to take loans from money lenders. They failed to repay their loans or revenue, they were evicted from their lands.

## **Long Answer Questions**

**1. Explain in brief the two methods of indigo cultivation.**

Indigo cultivation was done using one of the two methods -Nij and Ryoti.

- **The Nij system:** In this system, the planters produced indigo on the lands that they controlled directly . they either brought the land or rented it from other zamindars and produced indigo by directly employing hired labourers . Under this system , the planters face difficulty in expanding areas for indigo cultivation. Indigo could only be grown on fertile lands but these areas were already densely populated. At times , the planters tried to lease these lands and evict the peasants from there but it led to conflicts. Moreover, a large plantation required a large amount of Labour , ploughs & bullocks.
- **The Ryoti system :** Under this system of indigo production , the planter forced the ryots To sign the contract on behalf of the ryots . The planters gave cash advancements to those who signed the contract at low rate of interest to produce indigo. Seeds and drill were provided by the planters while the cultivators were the ones who prepared the soil, sowed the seeds and looked after the crop. the planters also gave loans to peasants to cultivate lands and transport the harvest to factories. The peasants had to pay these nose by continually supplying indigo ,failing to do so result in brutal beating ,Seizing of cattle, destruction of houses etc.

## 2. Compare the Ryotwari and Mahalwari system.

- **Ryotwari system:**
  - i. This system was introduced by Thomas Munro . Hence , it is also known as Munro system.
  - ii. Under this system the company made a settlement with peasant . The farmer owned the land, till that time he paid the revenue fixed for the land.
  - iii. It was introduced in Bombay and Madras presidencies and gradually extended all over South India.
- **Mahalwari system:**
  - i. This system was introduced by Holt Mackenzie , This system came to be known as Mahalwari system.
  - ii. Under this system, connectors inspected lands and measured the fields in villages called mahals. The revenue was not fixed under this system and was revised from time to time. The head of the village was in charge of collecting revenue.
  - iii. This system was introduced in present – day western Uttar Pradesh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.

## 3. What were the main features of permanent settlement?

Lord Cornwallis introduced A scheme for Bengal which is popularly known as the permanent settlement of Bengal, this system is also known as the zamindari system ,It's features were :

- The zamindars were the owner of land under them.

- The revenue was fixed for an area and would not be changed under any circumstance.
- The rajas and taluqdars were made zamindars, their duty was to collect rent from peasants and pay revenue to the company regularly.
- As the revenue was fixed the zamindars could keep the surplus amount for himself. but at the same time, if he could not pay the amount zamindari rights were given to someone else.

4. **Write a short note on the diwani rights of Bengal.**

After the Battle of Buxar , The Mughal emperor Shah Alam II Had to give the right to collect revenue of Bengal, Bihar & Orissa, to the British East India Company .The company became the chief financial controller and was termed as Diwan , Their main aim was to increase their profits as much as possible, they got the right to collect revenue from the rich province of Bengal, Robert Clive was the one who accepted the diwani from the Mughal ruler. With the company's control revenue was fixed and had to be paid in cash instead of part of produce. Farmers were forced to cultivate crops like poppy, cotton and indigo which generated more income than food crops like wheat or rice. Now, the British could buy goods in India and export without importing gold and silver coins from Britain.