

## STUDY COURSE MATERIAL

### Social science

#### SESSION-2020-21

#### CLASS-VIII

## TOPIC:3. Rural Life and Society

### DAY-1

#### ★ TEACHING MATERIAL

The east india company made their first entry to India as traders. The purpose was to do business for their self benefits and earn profit to maximum limit. In order to earn something beyond limit it was necessary to administer the nation with strict measures no matter how oppressed and troubled Indians were. The Britishers at first pursued a gentle approach while initiating trade with the natives. But with passage of time took an aggressive approach coercing the farmers and merchants to produce only as per their interest and demands particularly at commercial level. While the by products traded the purpose was to resort them to England and sell at much higher price reaping sufficient profits. Trading of only those items took place which was either of high commercial value in the market or was at scarcity in supply in England.

While the whole country annexed by the Britishers in order to rule it with supremacy ,monetary support was immensely required. The same support could be gathered only if taxes were levied upon the locals and the more higher the better. Thus they adopted an approach of levying maximum tax over the Indians by oppressing and exploiting their status quo. The objective to collect as much money from Indians as per the pre-stipulated targeted amount annually ,through the help of local intermediaries called zamindars or local money lenders added only. to their extreme miseries. Once this heavily bi - polarized societal structure frame of oppressed and oppressor established – the diwani rights of tax collection were ultimately now affixed in the hands of the brittishers.

the power equation of exploited and exploiter initiated at agricultural level only to grim their situation.

### DAY-2

#### ❖ TEACING MATERIAL

#### The Permanent settlement

The Britishers now were the law makers of the country as the major power rest in their hand. The foremost objective of the Britishers was to maximize their income or revenue by formulating and implementing a taxation system system where in much of the capital was extracted into their

hands from the locals.

The permanent settlement was followed in the states such as Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh. While the same implemented it defined accordingly by some rules and regulations set by the Britishers. The Zamindars were appointed in each region to foresee that everyone gets to pay maximum revenue as affixed by the Britishers. Larger the revenue collection by the Zamindar more his chances of promotion and rise in status. Hence the zamindar too ensured that revenue collected was to its peak level. While 10/11th of the revenue collected was handed over to the Britishers, any surplus beyond it was retained by the zamindar.

Hence his quest of extracting as high revenue prevailed only to fulfill his desire of excessive collection.

The Britishers in spite of continuous famine and drought and hence a state of low productivity was in no respite of low tax payment. No external exigencies of extreme nature causing distress was a reason to sympathize with them. Hence their conditions worsened as yet the tax payment was to be fulfilled anyhow by hook or crook.

If any farmer was unable to pay the requisite amount in the form of revenue or tax he and his family was evicted off his land for ever only to work as bonded labours -and likely to be trapped in the vicious cycle of exploitation and misery.

**Reasons why the system was said to be Permanent???**

- 1- the zamindars appointed for the revenue collection were affixed generation after generation lineage wise.
2. The tax percentage to be extracted from the peasants was rigid, with no variations.

## DAY-3

### The Mahalwari system

The word mahal denotes a small village. While cluster of villages referred to as Mahal was the source of revenue collection the ownership of the same was restricted into the hands of local head or a senior authorized person. The land revenue was fixed for a period of short time likely to change in the future very soon.

### The Ryotwari system

☒ Ryot in south Indian language means a farmer. In sync to the word hence the system established was referred to as mahalwari system. In this kind of system practiced largely in the southern part of the country the farmers themselves had their solitary land ownership on whom the responsibility of paying the tax remained. Their was no role of any form of intermediaries as far as tax collection was concerned. While the whole responsibility of paying the tax was on the farmer himself the system was not a very exploited and coerced kind. Not to forget the presence of intermediaries complexed the entire system. The system which left its first step from Madras expanded to the whole of south of India. The tax payment was revised there after every 30 to 40 years.

### SUMMARIZING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 3 SYSTEMS.

<u>Permanent Settlement</u>	<u>Mahalwari System</u>	<u>Ryotwari system</u>
Was started by Lord Cornawallis	Initiated by Halt McKenzie	Initiated by Lord Mayo
Applied in the Bengal and Bihar province.	Applied in North west part of India	Applied in the Madras and Bombay presidencies.
The revenue percentage was fixed.	Varying from time to time.	Changed after a gap of 20 – 30 years
The most richest part of India in terms of revenue	Moderate level collection.	Moderate level.

collection.		
Zamindar as an intermediary helped Britishers collect tax.	No Zamindar available to collect tax. The tax collected by the headman of the village cumulatively. ...	The tax collected and levied to Britishers by individual farmers only. No such presence of Zamindar duly therein.
Irrigation and improved agricultural practices were resorted to improve productivity.	None such improvisation method.	No such improvisation method.

## DAY-4

### Questions for revision

#### **What were the effects of these systems upon the farmers?**

They had multiple adverse effects, as noted below:-

It worsened the condition of farmers.

The farmers were pauperized i.e. poor to poorer state in a short span of time due to its coercive and complex nature.

No steps were taken to improve agricultural production on part of Britishers and hence left on the mercy of the seasonal variations and the monsoon which was so unpredictable.

While the focus was just on tax amount extraction as targeted annually, any state of natural calamity or famine was not considered for any kind of laxity over tax amount.

Landlords were mere puppets in the hands of Britishers, they solely spent much of the time being tax collectors only to reap a small portion of profit.

There was totally a different kind of competition now there in as far as agriculture was concerned.

Competition stood for maximizing crop production as per market demand and not meeting the needs of family or village population.. The more commercial the crop the more stress given on its growth even if had to sacrifice their self subsistence requirements.

It led to Agrarian riots.

#### **Why were the britishers bent on growing commercial crops only?**

The Britishers were bent upon growing only commercial crops. The reasons as mentioned below:-

Commercial crops reaped in high profit for Britishers as they had a high demand in the European nations where scarcely available. Even at high costs they had the potentiality of being sold easily due to the value they possessed. This led to increase in revenue of the merchants & the trading agency called as the east india company. The company tried its best to grow indigo and opium.

Indigo had a great demand in Europe nations used for dying of the clothes. The farmers were forced to grow indigo and the same purchased at a very cheap rate likely to be sold at a high price in England. Bihar and west Bengal due to its hot and humid climate was very suitable for growing indigo and hence the farmers of these two states coerced.

(As a fact to remember the Champaran movement was a peasant's revolt involved in the production of indigo)

Many Britishers as well played an important role of - the planters. They would avail loans from the company and utilize the same in plantation of indigo with the help of local farmers. Latter when the indigo plants ripened peasants would reap them and process further for manufacturing of dye.

#### **Q) How was the mahalwari system different from the other two systems?**

The word mahal denotes a small village. While a single village or cluster of villages referred to as Mahal was the source of tax collection; the ownership of tax collection remained in the hands of a person not really zamindar but a formal village head well recognized by its people. The land revenue was fixed for a period of short time likely to change in the future.

In contrast the Permanent settlement had intermediaries called as Zamindars. While Ryotwari was paying tax on self service. The mahalwari system revised its tax levy in very short tenure short and hence flexible; while the other two was revised at a long gap and hence rigid structurally.

## DAY-5

### Q) What led to the growth of commercial crops?

Commercial crops reaped high profit for Britishers as they had a high demand in the European nations where scarcely available. Even at high costs they had the potentiality of being sold easily due to the superior value they possessed. This led to increase in revenue of the merchants & the trading agency called as the east india company. The company tried its best to make farmers grow indigo and opium.

### Q) Why did Britishers invest in plantations?

Plantations had a great demand in European nations. They reaped high profits. Britishers found a commercial value in them. They helped Britishers increase their revenue.

### Q) What were the benefits of permanent settlement?

- ☒ Permanent settlement had varied benefits to Britishers.
- ☒ It stabilized their income annually.
- ☒ The zamindaris were a source to interact the locals. They were the implementers of the Britishers policy deep into the agrarian society.
- ☒ The revenue multiplied drastically and hence low dependency now on the British royals

### Q. Describe the effects of the land revenue settlements.

They had multiple adverse effects, as noted below:-

- ☒ It worsened the condition of farmers.
- ☒ No steps were taken to improve agricultural production.
- ☒ While the focus as just on tax amount extraction , any state of natural calamity or famine was not considered for any kind of laxity on tax amount.
- ☒ Landlords were now puppets in the hands of Britishers, they solely spent much of the time as tax collectors.
- ☒ There was a different kind of competition now there in. Competition stood for maximizing their production as per market demands and not meeting the needs of family or village population.

### Questions.

**Write a short note on permanent settlement.**

**Write a short note on Mahalwari system.**