

History: British and Our Villages.

I Short answer type questions:

1. How do we know that agriculture was the main occupation of India? (P.No. 35)

Ans. Land revenue had always been the main source of income to the rulers of India. This shows that agriculture was the main occupation of the people of India.

2. Name the three revenue collection systems that was introduced by the East India Company. (P.No. 36)

Ans: East India Company introduced three revenue collection systems such as,

- * The Permanent Settlement
- * The Ryotwari system
- * The Mahalwari system.

3. Explain the concept of 'Mahal' within the Mahalwari system. (P.No. 37)

Under the new system, collectors inspected lands and measured the fields in villages called mahals. The revenue of each plot was estimated and then added to calculate the revenue of the entire village or mahal.

4. Name some cash crops that farmers were forced to cultivate by British. (P.No - 38)

Ans: The Company started forcing farmers to grow cash crops such as:

- * Indigo for dyeing clothes,
- * mulberry for rearing silkworms
- * Poppy for opium, tea, coffee, sugarcane, oilseeds, jute and rubber.

II Long answer type questions:

1. Discuss the impact of the revenue settlement systems on rural life and the economic condition of peasants.

Ans: * With the land revenue settlements, the land became a saleable commodity which could be bought, sold or mortgaged.

* The two new systems or Ryotwari and Mahalwari had similar long-term effects as the Permanent Settlement.

* Officials shouldering the responsibility increased the revenue and the poor peasants faced the same problems again.

- High revenue demands,
- Failure of crops due to drought 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.