

Chapter 3 Ruling the countryside

Fill in the blanks.

(a) Growers of woad in Europe saw _____ as a crop which would provide competition to their earnings.

(b) The demand for indigo increased in late eighteenth-century Britain because of _____.

(c) The international demand for indigo was affected by the discovery of _____.

(d) The Champaran movement was against _____.

Answer.

(a) Growers of woad in Europe saw **indigo** as a crop which would provide competition to their earnings.

(b) The demand for indigo increased in late eighteenth-century Britain because of the **expansion of cotton production**.

(c) The international demand for indigo was affected by the discovery of **synthetic dyes**.

(d) The Champaran movement was against **indigo planters**.

Describe the main features of the Permanent Settlement.

Answer.

The Permanent Settlement System was a land revenue system introduced in 1793 by the East India Company. Rajas and taluqdars were recognised as zamindars to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the Company. The main features of the Permanent Settlement system are:

- a. The amount paid by the zamindars to the company was fixed permanently.
- b. The Rajas were made the zamindars.
- c. Zamindars lost their right over the lands whenever they failed to make payments to the company.
- d. Exorbitant prices of land which zamindars had to pay to the company (which they failed).

Give two problems which arose with the new Munro system of fixing revenue.

Answer.

The new Munro system of fixing revenue posed two problems:

- a. The revenue demand was fixed way too high for peasants to pay.
- b. Peasants were unable to pay the rent, which culminated in villages getting deserted.

Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo?

Answer.

The ryots were reluctant to grow indigo for the below-given reasons:

- a. They were paid very low prices for it.
- b. The ryots never saw any profit accruing from the indigo plantation.
- c. Ryots were asked to grow indigo on the fertile parts of their land by the planters, which they were apprehensive about.

7. What were the circumstances which led to the eventual collapse of indigo production in Bengal?

Answer.

The collapse of indigo production in Bengal was caused by the following circumstances:

- a. Ryots' denied producing the indigo anymore.
- b. Protests started taking place by the peasants/ryots supported by the zamindars.
- c. Following the protests, the Indigo Commission was constituted by the government, which accepted the faults of the planters and asked the planters to stop the cultivation.
- d. Planters eventually moved out of the city.