

# HISTORY

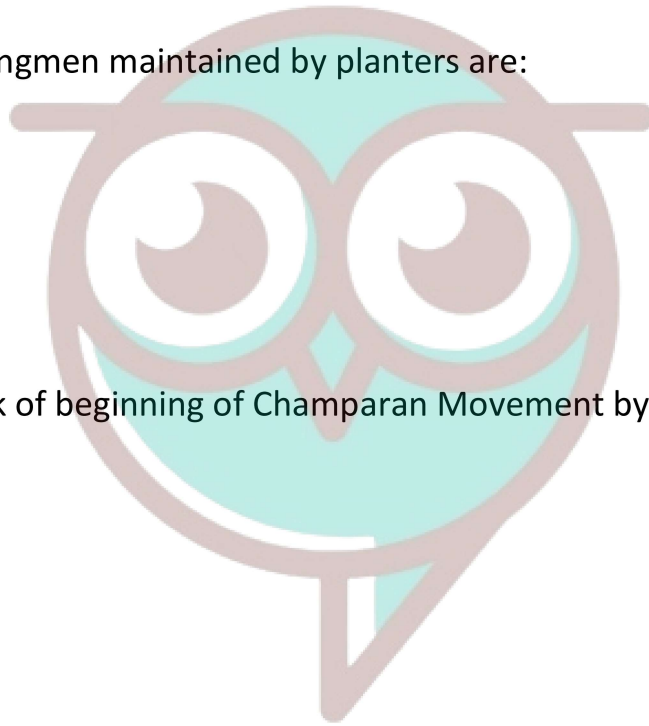
## Chapter 9: Ruling the Countryside



## Important Questions

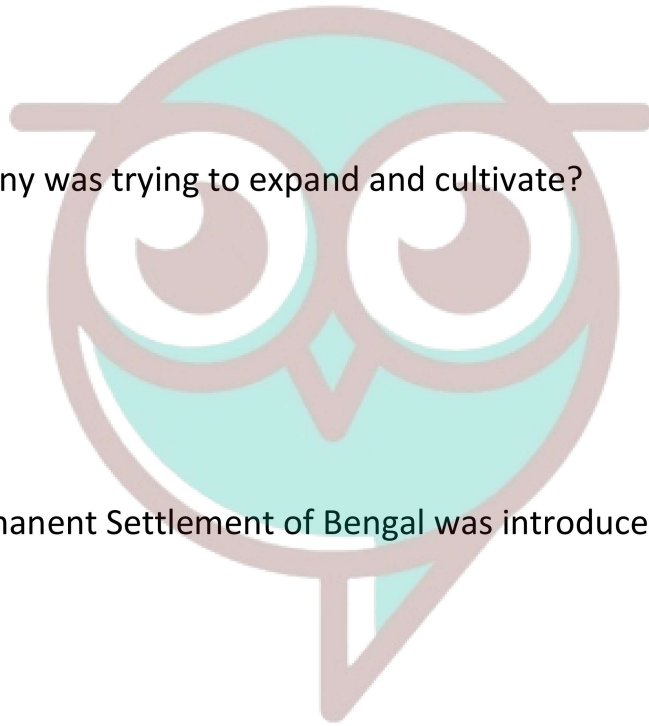
### Multiple Choice Questions

1. A large farm operated by a planter employing various forms of forced labour is called:
  - a. Plantation
  - b. Nij
  - c. Bigha
  - d. Ryoti
2. The lathi wielding strongmen maintained by planters are:
  - a. Ryots
  - b. Peasant
  - c. Lathiyals
  - d. Vat-Beater
3. Which year is the mark of beginning of Champaran Movement by Mahatama Gandhi?
  - a. 1756
  - b. 1930
  - c. 1911
  - d. 1917
4. 1770, famine killed:
  - a. 10 million people
  - b. 20 million
  - c. 1/4th of population
  - d. 1 Lac
5. In the process of improving agriculture and earning the revenue income the Britishers needed to invest in:
  - a. Ryots
  - b. Money lenders
  - c. Land
  - d. Officials
6. Mahalwari systems was devised by:  
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- a. Thomas Munro
  - b. Holt Mackenzie
  - c. Charles Cornwallis
  - d. Robert Clive
7. In Which area Mahalwari system of land revenue collection was not introduced?
- a. Punjab
  - b. North West Provinces
  - c. Awadh
  - d. Delhi region
8. Which product Company was trying to expand and cultivate?
- a. Opium
  - b. Indigo
  - c. Both a and b
  - d. None of these
9. In which year the Permanent Settlement of Bengal was introduced?
- a. 1763
  - b. 1773
  - c. 1783
  - d. 1793
10. Where did the Ryotwari Settlement was introduced?
- a. Bombay Presidency
  - b. South and West India
  - c. Deccan
  - d. Punjab
11. When the price of indigo was very high the Europeans depended on which plant?
- a. Woad
  - b. Sal
  - c. Palash
  - d. Juniper



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12. When was the Diwani of Bengal appointed to East India Company?

- a. 1765
- b. 1950
- c. 1845
- d. 1763

13. What do you mean by the term 'Slave'?

- a. Paid worker
- b. Person owned by someone else
- c. Royal Person
- d. None of these

14. What are commercial crops?

- a. Crops cultivated for tax paying
- b. Crops cultivated for own use
- c. Crops cultivated for sale
- d. None of these

15. What is a Mahal?

- a. A revenue estate
- b. Kings Empire
- c. Kings mansion
- d. Freedom movements



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**Very Short:**

1. When did the Mughal emperor appoint the East India Company as the Diwan of Bengal?
2. Which settlement was introduced during 1793?
3. Who were appointed to collect rent and pay revenue to the Company during Permanent Settlement?
4. Who devised the system of Mahalwari?
5. What was the conclusion of Permanent Settlement at end?
6. Who initiated and developed the Ryotwari system?
7. Name the two systems adopted for growing indigo by the cultivators.

8. What is meant by Mahal?
9. What was the aim of the Company after getting Diwani?
10. What was the difficult task for the Company to be done?
11. What led to minimise the bringing of gold and silver by the Company for trade purpose in India?

### Short Questions :

1. When was the 'Diwani' of Bengal granted to the East India Company?
2. During the Mughal rule what was the status of the 'Diwan'?
3. What were the benefits reaped by the East India company as the Diwan of Bengal?
4. What were the ambitious plans of the East India Company?
5. What were the disadvantages of the ryotwari system?
6. What were to the two major systems of indigo cultivation in India?
7. What were the main features of the 'Nij' system of cultivation?

### Long Questions:

1. What were the main features of the 'Ryoti' system of cultivation?
2. What gave the indigo peasants the power to rebel?
3. What were the problems with ryoti system?
4. Why was there demand of Indigo in Europe?
5. Give a brief description of the 'ryotwari system'.

### Answer Key

#### MCQ:

1. (a) Plantation
2. (c) Lathiyals
3. (d) 1917
4. (a) 10 million people
5. (c) Land
6. (b) Holt Mackenzie
7. (d) Delhi region
8. (c) Both a and b
9. (d) 1793

10. (b) South and West India
11. (a) Wood
12. (a) 1765
13. (b) Person owned by someone else
14. (c) Crops cultivated for sale
15. (a) A revenue estate

### Very Short Answer:

1. On 12th August 1765, the Mughal emperor appointed the East India Company as the Diwan of Bengal.
2. Permanent Settlement was introduced during 1793.
3. Zamindars were appointed to collect rent and pay revenue to the Company during Permanent Settlement.
4. Holt Mackenzie devised the Mahalwari system.
5. Permanent Settlement got failed.
6. Captain Alexander Read initiated and Thomas Munro developed the Ryotwari system.
7. Nij and Ryoti were two systems adopted by the cultivators.
8. Mahal means village or groups of villages.
9. After Diwani the Company aimed at administering the land and organising its revenue resources and this was done in way that could help the Company attaining enough revenue.
10. The Company needed to pacify those who ruled the countryside in past. So it was difficult task to eliminate entirely the past rulers of the countryside of the Company.
11. Revenue which was collected from Bengal was sufficient for the Company to purchase goods for exports so the Company started reducing getting gold and silvers for trade purpose.

### Short Answer:

**Ans: 1.** The 'Diwani' of Bengal was granted to the British East India Company, in 1765.

**Ans: 2.** During the rule of the Mughal Empire, the Diwan served as the chief revenue officer of a province

**Ans: 3.** With the appointment as the Diwan, the Company became the chief financial



Administrator of Bengal. The company could now administer the land and revenue resources of Bengal and could utilize the revenue to meet the expanses of the Company.

The Company now had the liberty to trade in all the goods it wanted to

**Ans: 4.** The East India Company wanted to colonise the country side and organise revenue resources. Its priority was to redefine the rights of the people. The Company was also keen to produce the crops it wanted, in India.

**Ans: 5.** The revenue fixed by the British officials in the ryotwari system was too high for the farmers. The farmers who were unable to pay the revenue left the farms. As the farmers left their farms the villages in the region wore a deserted look.

**Ans: 6.** The two major systems of indigo cultivation in India were the 'Nij' system of cultivation and the 'Ryoti' system of cultivation.

**Ans: 7.** In the 'nij' system of indigo cultivation the planter produced indigo in lands that he directly owned. He either bought the land or rented it from other zamindars and produced indigo by directly employing hired labourers.

### Long Answer:

**Ans: 1.** Under the Ryoti system, the planters forced the ryots or peasants to sign a contract. The village headman was also forced to sign an agreement on behalf of the ryots. The peasants received a loan from the planters to cultivate their land. Due to this the peasants were forced to cultivate indigo in 25% of their land.

The peasants received seeds and ploughs for cultivation from the Planters. They had to cultivate the crop and harvest it. The harvested indigo crop had to be given to the planters.

**Ans: 2.**

- In 1859, the indigo ryots felt that they had the support of the local Zamindar and Village headmen in their rebellion against the planters.
- In many villages, headmen who had been forced to sign indigo contracts, mobilized the indigo peasants and fought pitched battles with the lathiyals.
- In other places even the zamindars went around villages urging the ryots to resist the planters.
- These zamindars were unhappy with the increasing power of the planters and angry at being forced by the planters give them land on long bases.
- The indigo peasant also imagined that the British govt. would support them in their struggle against the planters.

**Ans: 3.**

- Under the ryoti system, the planters forced the ryots to sign a contract, an agreement

(satta). At times they pressurised the village headman to sign the contract on behalf of the ryots.

- Those who signed the contract got each advance from the planters at low rates of interest to produce indigo. But the loan committed the ryot to cultivating indigo on at least 25 per cent of the area under his holding.
- The planter provided the seed and the drill, while the cultivators prepared the soil sowed the seed and looked after the crop.
- The planters wanted that the indigo should be grows in the best soil.

**Ans: 4.**

- British cloth dyers, however, preferred indigo as a dye Indigo produced a rich blue colour, whereas the dye from woad was pale and dull.
- By the seventeenth century, European cloth producers persuaded their government to relax the bam on indigo import.
- The French began cultivating indigo in St. Domingue in the Caribbean islands, the Portuguese in Brazil, the English in Jamaica, and the Spanish in Venezuela. Indigo plantations also came up in many parts of North America.
- By the end of the eighteenth century, the demand for Indian indigo increased its existing supplies from the West Indies and America collapsed for a variety of reasons. Between 1783 and 1789 the production of indigo in the world fell by half. Cloth dyers in Britain now desperately cooked for new source of indigo supply.

**Ans: 5.** The 'ryotwari system' was introduced by Captain Alexander Read. This system was further developed by Thomas Munroe. According to the new system the revenue was to be collected directly from the farmers or riots. This was necessary as the zamindari system was not prevalent in the southern regions. The lands of each farmer were separately assessed, and the revenue was fixed accordingly. This system was also known as the Munro System.