

Chapter-3 Ruling the Countryside

- Important Dates:-

- i. *On 12 August 1765, the Mughal emperor appointed the East India Company as the Diwan of Bengal.*
- ii. *Before 1865, the Company had purchased goods in India by importing gold and silver from Britain.*
- iii. *In 1770 a terrible famine killed ten million people in Bengal.*
- iv. *The company introduced the Permanent settlement in 1793.*
- v. *An Englishman called Holt Mackenzie devised the new system which came into effect in 1822.*
- vi. *Between 1783 and 1789 the production of indigo in the world fell by half.*
- vii. *In 1778 only about 80% of the indigo imported into Britain was from India.*
- viii. *By 1810, the proportion had gone up to 95%.*
- ix. *In March 1859 thousands of ryots in Bengal refused to grow indigo.*
- x. *In 1859, the indigo ryots felt that they had the support of the local Zamindar and village headman in their rebellion against the planters.*
- xi. *The Lieutenant Governor toured the region in the winter of 1859.*
- xii. *Mahatma Gandhi visit in 1917 marked the beginning of the Champaran movement against the indigo planters.*

- **Question & Answer**

1. *Describe the main features of the permanent settlements?*

The main feature of the Permanent Settlements was that the Rajas and taluqdars were recognised as zamindars and they have to collect the fixed revenue and give it to the Company. The main feature of the policy was that the revenue was fixed and never to be increased in the

future.

2. *How was the mahalwari system different from the Permanent Settlement?*

Mahalwari system was different from the Permanent Settlement as in this system the revenue was to be increased whenever British needed.

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

The problems that arose with the Munro system of fixed revenue was:

- i. revenue was fixed too high and the peasants were unable to pay it.*
 - ii. ryats fled the countryside and many regions became deserted.*
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4. *Why were ryats reluctant to grow indigo?*

Ryats were reluctant to grow indigo because of the following reasons:

- i. the price they got for Indigo was very low and the cycle of the loans never ended and the peasants were tempted.*
 - ii. the planters insisted that the indigo should be grown on the best soil, on which cultivators wanted to grow rice. And after indigo harvest the land could not be used for rice cultivation.*
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5. *What were the circumstances which lead to the eventual collapse of indigo production in Bengal?*

The circumstances under which the production of indigo collapsed were the forced contract by the British, disputes at the revenue, non-ending of loan cycle and the low price which was paid by the planters to the ryats or peasants, as well as the handling of the peasants in a rude and cruel way.