

Modern Indian History Class 13

30th October, 2023 at 9:00 AM

PERMANENT SETTLEMENT(PS) SYSTEM (CONTINUES) (09:12 AM)

- **Refer to the uploaded handout for details.**
- **The land became a commodity after PS.**
- **Zamindars lost police powers as now Zamindars were capitalist land owners.**
- **Wellesley's Regulation VII of 1799 restored the police powers e.g. imprisonment, property seizure etc.**
- **Therefore many peasant revolts occurred after 1793.**
- **Therefore, the Rent Act of 1859 was enacted in Bengal.**
- **This act gave occupancy rights to Ryots who cultivated land for more than 12 years.**
- **The act was not implemented properly. Zamindar removed ryots before 12 years.**
- **Therefore, the Indigo revolt and the Pabna Agrarian League 1873 revolt occurred.**
- **Therefore, finally Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885 was enacted where Ryot was given occupancy rights even if they cultivated different lands in the same village for more than 12 years (properly implemented).**

RYOTWARI SETTLEMENT (09:49 AM)

- Refer to the uploaded handout for details.
- By Thomas Munroe.
- Reasons
- Big Zamindars were unavailable in Madras.
- Deccan had problems with poor finances due to low productivity and high war expenditure in past. Therefore, more income could be secured for the state if there was no middleman between the state and the people.
- Loyalty of masses
- Power of non-state actors. E.g. Power of Poligars and Deshmukhs will decrease.
- LR was not assessed permanently to secure the financial interest of the state and for the same reasons, LR could be in percentage terms instead of absolute amounts.
- Impact
- Improper field survey led to high LR. Therefore ryots lost lands in govt auctions or took loans by mortgaging and lost lands to moneylenders when defaulted on loan repayments.
- Mirasidars were landowner cultivators who also joined lower bureaucracy as revenue officials who also had judicial and police powers.
- They were corrupt and bought the best lands in auctions. They emerged as big landowners. Thus, the goal of govt to remove the intermediary failed.
- Madras Torture Commission report of 1855 revealed their oppression and now finally relief came and proper field surveys were conducted.

MAHALWARI SYSTEM (10:43 AM)

- Refer to the uploaded handout for details.
- Reason- Respect village economy
- Impact-
- Many Taluqdars lost their Milkiyat to ryots.
- Improper field surveys led to the loss of land in govt auctions or to money lenders and this contributed to the 1857 revolt.

RELATION BETWEEN PARLIAMENT AND EIC (11:14 AM)

- The rivalry between the British state and EIC developed and eventually, EIC rule ended.
- Reasons-
- EIC is a non-state entity that entered into domains of state i.e. became a ruler.
- EIC became very powerful- Economic power through taxes, military strong as EIC had its own military.
- Concern for British taxpayers' money.
- EIC was a trading company that did not serve any purpose after the Industrial Revolution.
- The monopoly of EIC was no more in line with British national interest.
- Select Committee of Parliament, 1772
- In 1772, EIC requested a one million pound loan as it was going bankrupt.
- After the Great Bengal Famine of 1770, the LR income declined and therefore trade income declined. Therefore EIC became bankrupt. This acted as an opportunity to bring EIC under regulation.
- Therefore, a Select Committee was set up to look into the status of EIC affairs in India and what can be the relationship between the British State and EIC regarding EIC territory in India and how EIC headquarters in London i.e. Court/ Board of Directors be made accountable to EIC administration in India.
- There was an issue of high war expenditure that had contributed to EIC going bankrupt.
- Result-
- COD of EIC was made accountable for EIC administration in India. It also led to the Regulating Act of 1773.
- Regulating Act of 1773/ Lord North Act
- The Governor of Bengal was elevated to Governor General (GG) of Bengal.
- Governors of Bombay and Madras were subordinated to GG Bengal in matters of war and peace except in emergency circumstances.
- Supreme Council of Bengal or GG's council was created with GG and 4 councillors. This was done to ensure democratic decision-making as all decision was taken on the basis of a majority vote of 4 councillors and the decision was binding on GG who only had a casting vote (tie-breaker vote).
- Legislative function was given to GG's council i.e. common executive and Legislature (Journey towards Parliament, CoM has begun)
- GBO and GMA could be suspended by GG Bengal if they disobeyed in matters of war and peace.

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS- ACTS TO REGULATE EIC AFFAIRS (TO CONTINUE)