



Q4. Why did some industrialists in the nineteenth century Europe prefer hand labour over machines ? [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2011]

Answer: (i) Expensive new technology: New technologies and machines were expensive, so the producers and the industrialists were cautious about using them.

(ii) Costlier repair: The machines often broke down and the repair was costly.

(iii) Less effective: They were not as effective as their inventors and manufacturers claimed.

(iv) Availability of cheap workers: Poor peasants and migrants moved to cities in large numbers in search of jobs. So the supply of workers was more than the demand. Therefore, workers were available at low wages.

(v) Uniform machine-made goods: A range of products could be produced only with hand labour. Machines were oriented to producing uniforms, standardised goods for a mass market. But the demand in the market was often for goods with intricate designs and specific shapes. In the mid-nineteenth century, Britain, for instance, 500 varieties of hammers were produced, and 15 kinds of axes. These required human skill, not mechanical technology.

Q5. How did the East India Company procure regular supplies of cotton and silk textiles from the Indian weavers ?

Answer: (i) Monopoly right: Once the East India Company established political power, it asserted a monopoly right to trade

(ii) New system: After establishing monopoly over trade, it proceeded to develop a system of management and control that would eliminate competition, control costs, and ensure regular supplies of cotton and silk goods. This it did through a series of steps.

(iii) Appointing Gomasthas: The Company tried to eliminate the existing traders and brokers connected with the cloth trade, and establish a more direct control over the weavers. It appointed a paid agent called the Gomastha to supervise weavers, collect supplies, and examine the quality of cloth.

(iv) System of advances: To have a direct control over the weavers, the company- started the system of advances. Once an order was placed, the weavers were given loans to purchase the raw material for their production. Those, who took loans had to hand over the cloth they produced to the Gomastha. They could not take it to any other trader.

(v) Use of power: The places where the weaver refused to cooperate the Company used its police. At many places weaver were often beaten and flogged for delays in supply.

Q6. Imagine that you have been asked to write an article for an encyclopedia on Britain and the history of cotton. Write your piece using information from the entire chapter.

Answer: Self- explanatory.

Q7. Why did the industrial production in India increase during the First World War ? [CBSE Sept. 2011]

Answer: (i) Decline of Manchester: With British mills busy with war production to meet the needs of the army, Manchester imports into India declined.

(ii) Increase in demand: With the decline of imports suddenly, Indian

mills had a vast home market to supply.

(iii) Demand from army: As the War prolonged. Indian factories were called upon to supply war need; i.e., jute bags, cloth for the army uniforms, tents and leather boots, horse and mule saddles, and a host of other items.

(iv) New factories: New factories were set up, and old ones ran multiple shifts. Many new workers were employed, and everyone was made to work for longer hours. Over the war years, industrial production boomed.

(v) Downfall of British industry and boon for home industry: After the war Manchester could never recapture its old position in the Indian market. Unable to modernise and compete with the US. Germany and Japan, the economy of Britain crumbled after the war. Cotton production collapsed and exports of cotton cloth from Britain fell dramatically. Within the colonies, local industrialists gradually consolidated their position, substituting foreign manufactures and capturing the home market.

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