



Question 4. Name some modern industries which were in operation in our country at the time of independence.

Answer. The Tata Iron and Steel company (TISCO) was incorporated in August 1907 in India. It established its first plant in Jamshedpur (Bihar). Some other industries which had their modest beginning after Second World War were: sugar, cement, chemical and paper industries.

Question 5. What was the two-fold motive behind the systematic de-industrialisation effected by the British in pre-independent India?

Answer. De-industrialisation-Delay of India Handicraft Industry. Britishers followed the policy of systematically de-industrialising India. The primary motive behind the de-industrialisation by the British government was two-fold:

1. to get raw materials from India at cheap rates in order to reduce India to a mere exporter of raw materials to the British industries.
2. to sell British manufactured goods in Indian market at higher prices. In this way, they exploited India through the device of double exploitation.

Question 6. The traditional handicraft industries were mined under the British rule. Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.

Answer. The main cause of exploitation of traditional handicraft industries was de-industrialisation introduced by British rulers in India. They got raw materials from India at cheap rates and reduced India to a mere exporter of raw materials to the British industries. They sold British manufactured goods in Indian market at higher prices.

It resulted in decline of world famous traditional handicrafts. Britishers followed discriminatory tariff policy. It allowed free export of raw materials from India and free import of British final goods to India, but placed heavy duty on the export of Indian handicrafts. In this way, Indian markets were full of manufactured goods from Britain which were low priced. Indian handicrafts started losing both domestic market and export market. Ultimately, the handicraft industry declined.

Question 7. What objectives did the British intend to achieve through their policies of infrastructure development in India?

Answer. During the British rule, some basic infrastructure was developed in the form of railways, water transport, ports, post and telegraph, etc. However, the real intention behind these developments was to serve their own colonial interest. The main motives of British rulers behind the development of infrastructure in India were:

1. To have effective control and administration over the vast Indian territory. For this, Britishers linked important administrative and military centres through railway lines.
2. To earn profits through foreign trade. For this they linked railways with major ports and the marketing centres (or Mandies).
3. To create an opportunity for profitable investment of British

funds in India.

4. To mobilise army within India and carrying out raw materials through roads to the nearest railway station or to the port to send it to Britain.

Question 8. Critically appraise some of the shortfalls of the industrial policy pursued by the British colonial administration.

Answer. The state of Indian industrial sector on the eve of independence was as follows:

1. De-industrialisation—Decline of Indian Handicraft Industry.
Britishers followed the policy of systematically de-industrialising India. The primary motive behind the de-industrialisation by the British government was two-fold.
(a) to get raw materials from India at cheap rates in order to reduce India to a mere exporter of raw materials to the British industries.
(b) to sell British manufactured goods in Indian market at higher prices.
In this way, they exploited India through the device of double exploitation. It resulted in decline of world famous traditional handicrafts. Britishers followed discriminatory tariff policy. It allowed free export of raw materials from India and free import of British final goods to India, but placed heavy duty on the export of Indian handicrafts. In this way, Indian markets were full of manufactured goods from Britain which were low priced. Indian handicrafts started losing both domestic market and export market. Ultimately, the handicraft industry declined.
2. Lopsided Modern Industrial Structure. Unbalanced and lopsided structure of Indian industries is again a legacy of the British rule in India. British rulers neither permitted modernisation of industries nor did they encourage the growth of heavy industries in India. The period 1850-55 saw the establishment of the first cotton mill, first jute mill and the first coal mine. By the end of 19th century, there were 194 cotton mills and 36 jute mills. The cotton textile mills were located in the western parts of the country, in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
Jute mills in Bengal were established mainly by British capitalists. First iron and steel industry during British rule was Tata Iron and Steel company (TISCO) incorporated in August 1907 in Jamshedpur (Bihar). Some other industries which had their modest beginning after Second World War were: sugar, cement, chemical and paper industries.
3. Capital Goods Industries were Lacking. The policy of Britishers was simply to develop those industries which would never be competitive to the British industry. They always wanted Indians to be dependent on Britain for the supply of capital goods and heavy equipments. Thus, the development of a few consumer goods industries was witnessed during the British rule. The heavy industries were, by and large, conspicuous by their absence. This resulted in an unbalanced and lopsided growth of industries in India.
4. Limited Operation of the Public Sector. Public sector was confined to railways, power generation, communication, ports and some other departmental undertakings.

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