



Q1. Explain the following :

(a) Woman workers in Britain attacked the Spinning Jenny. [CBSE Sept. 2011]

(b) In the seventeenth century, merchants from towns in Europe began employing peasants and artisans within the villages.

(c) The port of Surat declined by the end of the eighteenth century.

(d) The East India Company appointed Gomasthas to supervise the weavers in India. [CBSE Sept. 2011]

Answer: (a) The Spinning Jenny was invented by James Hargreaves in 1764. This machine speeded up the spinning process and reduced the labour demands. By the use of this machine, a single worker could make a number of spindles, and spin several threads at a time. It simply meant that as a result of this machine, many weavers would be left without any job and became unemployed. It was this fear of unemployment which — some women workers, who survived on hand spinning, began attacking the new machines.

(b) The earlier phase of industrialisation in which large scale production was carried out for international market not at factories but in decentralised units.

(i) Huge demand: The world trade expanded at a very fast rate during the 17th and the 18th centuries. The acquisition of colonies was also responsible for the increase in demand. The town producers failed to produce the required quantity.

(ii) Powerful town producers:

- The town producers were very powerful,
- The producers could not expand the production as will. This was because in the towns, urban crafts and trade guilds were powerful. These were associations of producers that trained craftspeople, maintained control over production, regulated competition and prices, and restricted the entry of new people within the trade.

(iii) Monopoly rights: The rulers granted different guilds the monopoly right to produce and trade in specific products. It was therefore difficult for new merchants to set up business in towns. So they turned to the countryside.

(iv) New economic situation in the countryside: Open fields were disappearing in the countryside and the commons were being enclosed. Cottagers and poor peasants who were earlier depended on common lands became jobless. So when merchants came around and offered advances to produce, peasants' households eagerly agreed.

(c) (i) Most of the European companies had huge resources, so it was very difficult for the Indian merchants and traders to face the competition.

(ii) The European companies were gaining power by securing a variety of concessions from the local courts.

(iii) Some of the companies got the monopoly rights to trade.

All this resulted in the decline of the old ports of Surat and Hooghly through which local merchants had operated. Exports from these ports fell dramatically, the credit that had financed the earlier trade began drying up, and the local bankers slowly went bankrupt.

(iv) In the last years of the seventeenth century, the gross value of -  
races that passed through Surate had been ₹ 16 million. By the 1740s, it  
had slumped to ₹ 3 million rupees.

(v) With the passage of time, Surat and Hooghly decayed. Bombay  
(Mumbai), and Calcutta (Kolkata) grew.

(d) (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 servant 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.

Q2. Write True or False against each statement:

(a) At the end of the 19th century, 80 per cent of the total workforce  
in Europe was employed in the technologically advanced industrial  
sector.

(b) The international market for textiles was dominated by India till  
the eighteenth century.

(c) The American Civil War resulted in the reduction of cotton  
exports from India.

(d) The introduction of the fly shuttle enabled the handloom  
workers to improve their productivity.

Answer: (a) False (b) True (c) False (d) True

Q3. Explain what is meant by proto industrialisation.

Answer: The early phase of industrialisation in which large-scale  
production was carried out for international market not at factories  
but in decentralised units.

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