



মণিপুরৰ শাসন (আম)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS IX

HISTORY

UNIT II

CHAPTER 2 – FARMERS AND PEASANTS

## SOLUTIONS

### TEXTUAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

#### A. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

**Q1. Write an essay on the history of the development of agriculture.**

**Ans:-** The primitive man used the Neolithic tools for farming the lands. After becoming a settled farmer, he used the hewn stone tools to dig up the soil and planted the seeds of crops into the soil. He constructed a small house to live with his family. In course of time, man began to use iron hoe for cultivation. The plough was invented and Yoke was also used. Man was confined to the cultivation to meet requirements of his family. The king and his nobles established their ownership rights over large tracts of lands. The king rented out lands to nobles and the nobles in their turn leased them out to the farmers. The farmers gave rent in cash or in kind to the nobles and the king. The food of the people who lived in the urban areas was supplied by the farmers. Thus, trade in surplus grains grew up. The farmer had transformed his activity to more production for exchange. With the introduction of new technology, there came large scale farming. The plough machines, the tractors and power tillers were used in cultivation and plantation activities. This was known as the agricultural revolution.

**Q2. Discuss the Enclosure Movement in England.**

**Ans:-** With the increasing interest in **improving the breed of sheep**, the rich farmers began dividing the common lands and enclosed their **farms with fencing**. They grazed their sheep in their enclosed farms and the villagers were driven out of the common lands. The enclosure movement swept across the English countryside in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The parliament passed laws legalizing enclosure. From the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the English population increased from 7 million to 30 million. More food grains were required due to this increasing population. As a result, the market for food grain was expanded and the prices rose. The land owners were encouraged to enclose their lands for food production. Due to this movement, open fields disappeared in rural England, rights of peasants over the common lands were curtailed, poor farmers were turned out of their villages and production increased.



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**Q3. Who was Captain Swing? What did he do for the poor peasants in England?**

**Ans:- Captain Swing**, anonymous name, was the leader of a **Guerilla Group** who threatened the rich farmers not to use the threshing machine. The use of machinery in the new agriculture deprived a large number of farmers and labours of employment. There grew up resistance against the rich farmers who used machinery. He was the symbolic leader of these poor peasants who were alienated from their small fields and turned into landless agricultural labours. The threshing machines deprived the poor farmers of their jobs. It created a mobile army of landless agricultural labour. They were not tied to any piece of land. They were free to grow anywhere for employment. The landed proprietors were determined to meet the demand for food grains by farming large area. The land was made a negotiable commodity. Lands were placed in the hands of those who had capital to improve it.

**Q4. Explain the westward expansion of settlement in America.**

**Ans:-** After the creation of the United States of America, the process of agricultural expansion was connected with the westward movement of **American white settlers**. The movement was started when 700000 white settlers had moved to the Appalachian mountain for expansion of agricultural area. Under the movement, the forests were transformed into the agricultural fields, the trees were cut for exports, wild animals were hunted for their skin and the mountains were exploited for gold and minerals. This agricultural expansion by the white settlers displaced the American Indians from their homeland. The American Indians resisted but they were forced to retreat. The white settlers occupied the Appalachian mountain and then moved into the Mississippi valley. In 1860's they swept into the great plains across the Mississippi.

**Q5. Why was the cotton called the 'king' in the Southern States of the United States?**

**Ans:-** The most important feature of the American economic development was the expansion of commercial agriculture with the cotton plantation. The invention of the machinery – **Spinning Janny** in 1767, **Spinning Mule** in 1799 and the **Cotton Gin** encouraged the **cotton plantation** in the southern states of the United States. **The plantation mushroomed** in Georgia and South Carolina from the beginning to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After 1815, a **Cotton Belt** was extended from North Carolina to Louisiana which became **the world's largest cotton producing** area. For several decades from 1815, the ever rising cotton export was the most important factor in American economy's growth. By 1860, the cotton constituted two thirds of the total exports of the United States. The cotton growing area was expanded rapidly. It extended from South Carolina and Georgia to Alabama, Mississippi, Memphis and Louisiana. The cotton plantation enriched the American agriculture. It also led to the growth of rich farmers who influenced the American economy and politics.



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**Q6. Explain the disasters caused by the massive expansion of wheat farming in the United States during 1930's.**

**Ans:-** The expansion of the large scale wheat farming by the use of machines and mechanization of wheat cultivation caused environmental and ecological disasters in America. In 1930, there broke out terrible dust storms across the southern plains. Black blizzards rolled in, very often 7000 to 8000 feet high, rising like monstrous waves of muddy water. For many years, the people were blinded and choked. Cattles were suffocated to deaths by these **dust storms**. The sands buried the farmers, covered the fields and coated the surface of the river till the death of fish. Dead bodies of birds and animals were scattered all over the landscape. Tractors and machines were chugged with dust and damaged.

**Q7. Give an account on the large scale wheat plantation in America.**

**Ans:-** In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, **the wheat production was greatly expanded** in the United States. The profit in wheat production encouraged the wheat farmers to invest more and more capital. The introduction of railways made the transportation easy. The demand for wheat increased in the First World War. The big farmers controlled the wheat cultivation, production and export. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, 74 million acres were brought under wheat cultivation. The pioneers of the American agriculture used the new technology to clear the forests, uproot the grasslands and plough the land. Later on, they used tractors and disk plough for wheat cultivation. Hundreds of workers were employed in reaping, threshing and harvesting. However, the expansion of the large scale wheat farming by the use of machines and mechanization of wheat cultivation caused environmental and ecological disasters in America in 1930's.

**Q8. Why and how the plantation of opium introduced by the British in colonial India?**

**Ans:-** During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the East India Company brought **tea from China** and sold it to England. The company paid the price of tea in silver bullion and it led to outflow of treasure from England. It was feared that the loss of treasure would impoverish England. The company finally found opium as the commodity that they could sell to China and compensate their loss. So, they **introduced plantation of opium** in colonial India. They began the first plantation of opium in **Bengal**, peasants were lured to start opium plantation by offering loans. The government distributed money to the village headman who in turn offered advances to the peasants. The peasants were tempted to accept the loans to meet their requirements of money and repay the loan in future. The opium plantation became widespread and in this way, opium plantation was introduced by the British in colonial India.



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### **B. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**

**Q1. Briefly state the changes effected in the rural economy with the coming of modern agriculture.**

**Ans:-(i) Modern agriculture** produced influences on the farmers and peasants. It integrated the rural agricultural economy to the world market.

**(ii)** Case studies on agricultural changes in England, the United States and the colonial India clearly reflected the **Agricultural Revolution** England, the large scale farming of cotton and wheat in the U.S. and production of cash crops in the colonial India.

**(iii)** It also reflected the emergence of different forms of farming and resultant peasant societies in rural areas.

**Q2. Write a note on the mode of agriculture practiced in England before the Enclosure Movement.**

**Ans:-**Before the Agricultural Revolution, England's countryside was wide open and not yet partitioned into enclosed lands. Under the open field system, the peasants cultivated the strips of lands around their villages. The strip of land was allocated to the farmers in a public meeting at the beginning of the year. The villagers and farmers grazed their cattle and sheep in the common lands.

**Q3. State the effects of the Enclosure Movement in England.**

**(i)** The customary rights of peasants over common land were curtailed.

**(ii)** Open fields disappeared in rural England.

**(iii)** The poor peasants were displaced from their villages and they became landless labours.

**Q4. How was the large scale cotton plantation affected the American Economy?**

**Ans: (i)** The **large scale cotton plantation** enriched the American commercial agriculture.

**(ii)** It led to the growth of rich farmers who became great capitalists owning vast lands.

**(iii)** They influenced the American economy and politics. Rural American was a powerful section of the society.



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**Q5. Why did the Indian peasants dislike to plant opium during the colonial period?**

**Ans:-**(i) The cultivation of poppy and production of opium was a difficult task to the peasants.

(ii) The government refused to increase the price of opium. They purchased opium at cheap rate and sold at high price in China.

(iii) **Opium Plantation** was not profitable to the Indian peasants. The opium trade profited the Colonial Government only.

### **C. VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**

**Q1. Who was Thomas Jefferson?**

**Ans:-** Thomas Jefferson was the then President of the United States of America.

**Q2. What was the popular slogan of the American President, Woodrow Wilson during the First World War?**

**Ans:-** “Plant more wheat and win the war”

**Q3. Who invented the “Mechanical Reaper”?**

**Ans:-** Cyrus McCormick

**Q4. What were the “Black Blizzards”?**

**Ans:-** ‘Black Blizzards’ were 7000 to 8000 feet high speeded winds.

**Q5. Who lured the peasants of colonial India to take up opium plantation?**

**Ans:-** The peasants of colonial India were lured by the colonial government to take up opium plantation.

### **EXTRA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Q1. How was the trade in surplus grains and crops grew up?**

**Ans:-** With the growth of big towns and cities, urban lives have developed. Their requirement of food was supplied by the farmers and peasants since they did not involve in the cultivation. Thus, trade in **surplus grains and crops** grew up.





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**Q2. How was the common land beneficial to the village people in England?**

**Ans:-** Village people grazed their cattle and sheep, collected firewood, fruits and berries and hunted rabbit for food. They fished in the rivers and ponds existed in the common lands. It provided means of survival to the poor people. It supplemented their meagre income and sustained their cattle.

**Q3. How was the US farmer get encouraged to produce more and more wheat?**

**Ans:-** Due to the growing population in towns and cities, the demand for wheat increased greatly. The rising demand resulted into high price of wheat. This encouraged the farmers to produce more and more wheat. The introduction of railways made the transportation of wheat from the Mid-West to the Eastern Sea Coast easy.

**Q4. What were the causes of dust storms in America in 1930s?**

**Ans:-** There was a period of **continuous droughts** in 1930s. Rain failed for many years, heat increased and the wind blew in high speed. The entire landscape had been ploughed over and stripped of all grass. The tractors turned the soil into dusts.

**Q5. Write the impacts of opium trade to China.**

**Ans:-** **The Chinese had become addicted to opium.** The shopkeepers of drug, peddlers, officials and army men, aristocrats and the common people had become the victims. It was estimated that there were four million smokers of opium in China when the first opium war broke out in 1839.

**Q6. What was the first step in agrarian change in rural England?**

**Ans:-** The movement for **enclosure of the private lands** by the big landlords was the first step in Agrarian change in rural England.

**Q7. What was the westward movement?**

**Ans:-** The westward movement was the expansion of settlement and agricultural areas in Appalachian Mountains of America by the American white settlers.

**Q8. Why was cotton nicknamed king cotton in America?**

**Ans:-** Cotton was nicknamed king cotton in America because it was most important agricultural product of America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Q9. What was the major source of income for the government in the colonial India?**

**Ans:-** The land revenue was the major source of income for the government in the colonial India.



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**Q10. Which trade financed the import of tea to England?**

**Ans:-** The opium trade in China financed the import of tea to England.

**Q11. What is cotton gin?**

**Ans:-** Cotton gin is a machine that separates cotton seeds from cotton fibre.

**Q12. What was the causes of the Great Agrarian Depression of 1930?**

**Ans:-** The massive expansion of the large scale of wheat farming by the use of machine and the mechanization of wheat cultivation.

**Q13. Breifly explain dust bowl?**

**Ans:-** The degenerated soil of the tracts of land in America in 1930 which were over cultivated by the farmers.

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