

1. Explain why nomadic tribes needed to move from one place to another.

- Ans.**
- (i) Nomadic tribes moved from one place to another in search of pastures for their cattle.
 - (ii) They sought to make the most effective use of the available pastures in different places.
 - (iii) When the pasture was exhausted or unusable in one place, they moved their herds and flocks to new places. This continuous movement allowed the pastures to recover and prevented their overuse.

2. Discuss why the colonial government in India brought in the following laws. In each case, explain how the law changed the lives of pastoralists :

- (a) Waste Land Rules
- (b) Forest Acts
- (c) Criminal Tribes Act
- (d) Grazing Act

Ans. (a) Waste Land Rules

- (i) The British wanted to transform all grazing lands into cultivated farms and thus increase its land revenue. Also at the same time more agriculture produce like jute, cotton and what would be available which was urgently needed in England. Colonial official believed that all uncultivated land was 'waste land' that needed to be brought under cultivation .Therefore, Waste Rules were in the mid-nineteenth century.
- (ii) Under these Rules, uncultivated land was taken over and given to selective individuals. These individuals were given various concession and encouraged to select these lands. Some of them were made village headmen. In most area the land taken over was actually the land used by the pastoralists which meant a decline in pastures.

(b) Forests Act

- (i) Due to the Forest Acts, forests which produced commercially valuable timber like deodar or sal were declared 'Reserved'. No pastoralists was allowed access to these forests.
- (ii) Other forests were classified as 'Protected'. In these forests, some customary grazing rights of pastoralists were granted but their movements were severely restricted.
- (iii) The Forests Act, changed the life of the pastoralists. They were prevented from entering many forests that had earlier provided valuable forage for their cattle. In the areas they were allowed to enter their movements were regulated. For entry a permit was

needed. The timing for their entry and departure was specified and the number of days they could spend in the forest was fixed. The permit specified the period in which they could be legally in the forests. Overstaying would lead to imposition of fines.

(c) Criminal tribe act

- (i) The British Officials were suspicious of nomadic people. They wanted the rural people to live in the villages, in fixed places with fixed rights on particular fields. They felt that such a population would be easy to identify and control. Nomadic people were considered to be criminal. Therefore in 1871, the Criminal Tribes Act was passed.
- (ii) By this act, many communities of traders, craftsmen and pastoralists were started to be criminal by nature by birth. These communities were expected to live only in notified village settlements. They were not allowed to move without permit. The village police kept a close watch on them.

(d) Grazing Act

- (i) In order to increase its revenue, the British introduced the Grazing Act. Pastoralists had to pay a tax on every animal they grazed in pastures.
- (ii) In course of time, the collection system was made very efficient. The right to collect taxes was auctioned out to contractor who tried to extract a tax as high as possible in order to earn profit. By the 1880's the government began to collect taxes directly from the Pastoralists. Each of them was given a pass. To enter a grazing area, the pass had to be shown and the tax paid.

3. Give reasons to explain why the Maasai community lost grazing lands.

- Ans.**
- (i) In the late 19th century, European imperialists divided Africa among themselves. In 1885, Maasailand was divided between British Kenya and German Tanganyika.
 - (ii) As a result, the best grazing lands were taken over by the European colonists. The Maasai were pushed into a small area which was arid and had poor pastures.
 - (iii) In the late 19th century, the British encouraged local peasants communities to expand cultivation which reduced the amount of pasture land available.

- (iv) In pre-colonial times, the Maasai had dominated their neighbours economically and politically. But by the end of colonial rule the situation was reversed
 - (v) Large areas of grazing land were also turned into game reserves like the Maasai Mara and Samburu National Park in Kenya and Serengeti Park in Tanzania.
 - (vi) Pastoralists were allowed to enter these reserves. Very often these reserves were in areas that had traditionally been the regular grazing ground for Maasai herds.
4. There are many similarities in the way in which the modern world forced changes in the lives of pastoral communities in India and East Africa. Write about any two examples of changes which were similar for Indian pastoralists and the Maasai herders.

Ans: It is correct to say that there are similarities in the way in which the modern world forced changes in the lives of pastoral communities in India and East Africa.

We can give the following examples :

- (i) One of the problems the Maasai and the Indian pastoralists faced is the continuous loss of their grazing lands. In both areas it was the result of the laws, steps and policies adopted by the European colonial governments.
- (ii) In East Africa as well as in India in late nineteenth century, the British colonial government encouraged local peasant communities to expand cultivation. As cultivation expanded pasturelands were turned into cultivated fields. In India as well as in East Africa pastoralists were not allowed to enter in reserved areas or forests. They lost their traditionally grazing areas, which had been regular grazing grounds for the pastoralists of India as well as of the East Africa.