

1. In what ways was the working population in Russia different from other countries in Europe, before 1917?

Ans. Working population in Russia were different from other countries in Europe in many ways:

- (i) Working population in Russia was living under autocratic rule of the Tsar. Where as the working population in Europe lived under parliamentary form of the government.
 - (ii) Workers in Russia were not allowed to form trade unions. So they did not have the power of collective bargaining where as the workers in Europe had these rights.
 - (iii) Working hours were very long and labour laws were not followed. In Europe steps were already taken to protect the interest of workers.
 - (iv) Russian workers were a divided social group. Some had strong links with village, others had settled in cities.
 - (v) Working population did not enjoy civil liberties which were enjoyed in other European countries.
2. Make two lists: one with the main events and the effects of the February Revolution and the other with the main events and the effects of the October Revolution. Write a paragraph on who was involved in each, who were the leaders and what was the impact of each on Soviet history.

Ans. Events of February Revolution:

- (i) Lock out on 22 February the government suspended parliament. Demonstrators returned in force and ransacked police headquarters.
- (ii) Evening 27th soldiers' and striking workers gathered and formed a soviet or council. This was Petrograd soviet.
- (iii) 2nd March 1917 the Tsar abdicated the throne on the advice of military commanders.

Effects of February Revolution:

- (i) Rule of Tsar came to an end.
- (ii) Soviet leader and Duma leader formed a provisional government to run the country.
- (iii) Restrictions on public meeting and associations were removed.
- (iv) But no common system of election was followed.

Leader of February Revolution:

Petrograd soviet had led the February revolution that brought the down fall of the monarchy.

Events of October Revolution:

- (i) In April 1917 Lenin proposed April thesis calling for radical demands.
- (ii) In July 1917 government sternly repressed popular demonstration staged by the Bolsheviks.
- (iii) Peasants seized land between July and September 1917.
- (iv) 16th October 1917 military revolutionary committee was appointed by the soviet under Leon Trotskii to seize power from the provisional government
- (v) Uprising started on 24th October and by December 1917 the Bolsheviks controlled the Moscow-Petrograd area and provisional government was dismissed.

Effect of October Revolution:

- (i) Industries and Banks were nationalized.
 - (ii) Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.
 - (iii) Russia withdrew from the war.
 - (iv) Autonomy was granted to Non-Russians.
3. What was the main change brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution?

Ans. Main changes brought by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October revolutions were:

- (i) Industry and banks were nationalized (brought under the control of the government)
 - (ii) Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.
 - (iii) The Bolsheviks enforced the partitions of large houses according to the family requirements.
 - (iv) The Bolsheviks signed peace treaty with Germany and withdrew from the First World War.
 - (v) The Bolsheviks party was renamed as Russian Communist Party. Russian congress of soviet became the parliament of Russia and Russia became a one party state.
4. Write a few lines to show that you know about:
- ❖ kulaks
 - ❖ the Duma
 - ❖ women workers between 1900 and 1930

- ❖ the Liberals
- ❖ Stalin's collectivization programme.

Ans. Kulaks:

- (i) They were the well-to-do peasants of Russia. During the period of collectivization kulaks were blamed for holding stocks in the hope of higher prices.
- (ii) Their houses were raided and their land was taken away during Stalin's collectivization.

The Duma:

It was an elected consultative parliament which was created by the Tsar Nicholas II during the Revolution of 1905.

Women workers between 1900 and 1930:

- (i) Women made up 31 per cent of the factory labour force by 1914, but they were paid less than men.
- (ii) Women were also involved in strikes. For example, a lockout on 22 February was largely organized by women-workers. They also worked in state-controlled collective farms.

The Liberals:

- (i) They were one of the groups of social thinkers who wanted changes in the society.
 - (ii) They opposed the uncontrolled power of the monarch. They advocated parliamentary form of government, subject to laws interpreted by a well-trained Judiciary.
 - (iii) They did not believe in universal adult franchise. They felt that men of property mainly should have the right to vote.
5. Describe the social and economic conditions of peasants and industrial workers before the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Ans.

- (i) The end of serfdom in Russia did not improve the condition of the Peasants. The land, they received, was not enough to fulfill their needs and the money they had to pay was exorbitant. Their position was worsened by a series of famines and bad harvests which occurred in the years before 1917. Land hunger and poverty made them ready to support any movement which would give them relief.
- (ii) The industrial workers worked under appalling conditions, toiling for long hours and were paid very low wages. Living in unhygienic conditions where crime was rampant, the workers were denied any Political rights and did not even have right to form trade unions which could improve their conditions.