

1. Explain what is meant by proto-industrialization? How was it different than the present factory-production?

- Ans.**
- (i) Proto-industrialization refers to the system of production that existed in Britain before the arrival of modern machine-run factories.
  - (ii) Production during this pre-modern industrial phase was run basically with the help of human labour. Human skill and dexterity was employed to produce world-class goods that were sold in international markets.
  - (iii) Production was done in the rural areas in stages. Merchants provided advances to peasants. At the end of the process produce was assembled in finishing centers and then sold in the international market.

2. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, merchants from towns in Europe began employing peasants and artisans within the village. Explain this statement.

- Ans.** In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, merchants from towns in Europe began employing peasants and artisans within the villages. Merchants supplied money to peasants and artisans. They collected the produce and sold it in the international markets for huge profits.

Two reasons account for this development:

- (i) With expansion of world trade and acquisition of colonies in different parts of the world, the demand for goods was growing worldwide. Merchants wanted to make use of this opportunity and earn profits. This required that the volume of production be increased.
  - (ii) Production in towns could not be increased. Production in urban crafts was controlled by trade guilds. Trade guilds were associations of producers that trained crafts people, maintained control over production, regulated competition and prices and restricted the enter of new people into the trade.
  - (iii) Rules had granted different guilds the monopoly right to produce and trade in specific products. Obviously, merchants could not depend upon urban crafts for supplies of manufactured goods. They had no alternative but to fall back upon rural artisans and peasants.
3. “The port of Surat declined by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.” Explain.

- Ans.** By the 1750s, the network of export trade controlled by Indian merchants was breaking down.

This was primarily due to the fact that

- (i) The European companies were gaining power. They had secured monopoly rights to trade.

- (ii) The credit that had financed the earlier trade began drying up. As the old network of export trade broke down, the importance of Surat port correspondingly declined.
  - (iii) The European companies began to take more interest in development of ports at Bombay and Calcutta. This was done to reduce competition from other European companies at the Surat Port.
  - (iv) As the control of east India Company increased over Indian trade decline of Surat Port was in evitable.
4. Imagine that you have been asked to write an article for an encyclopaedia on Britain and the history of cotton. Write your piece using information from the entire chapter.

- Ans.**
- (i) Cotton textile industry has been the mainstay of the people since times immemorial, as it provides for the basic need of clothing. During the period of proto-industrialisation, before the advent of machine, cotton cloth was produced by hand labour.
  - (ii) Crafts were organized into trade guilds. The guilds provided training to workers, maintained control over production, regulated competition and prices, and restricted the entry of new people into trade.
  - (iii) Machine was introduced during the 1730s. By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the number of cotton factories multiplied. A series of inventions helped in this process. The various activities in production were getting increasingly simplified.
  - (v) Britain emerged as a leading producer of cotton textile. For its expanding industry Britain required raw cotton, and market for the manufactured produced. A large part of India had, by then, come under the British control. The Britishers encouraged the export of raw cotton from India, and the import of manufactured goods from England. This spelt a doom for Indian textile industry. The Indian industry could not face the competition from the British mills.
  - (iv) The First World War created a dramatically new situation. The British mills got busy with production to meet the needs of the army. A vast domestic Market was now available to Indian industry. New factories were set up and old ones ran multiple shifts.
5. Why did some industrialists in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe prefer hand labour over machines?

- Ans.** In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe, many industrialists preferred hand labour over machines due to the following reasons:

- (i) Many industries were seasonal in nature. During season, there were under pressure goods to produce more to meet market demand. At other times, they did not have much to do. Such industries preferred hand labour and employed workers for the season.
- (ii) A number of products could be produced only with hand labour. This was especially true of those products that involved intricate designs and specific shapes. Machines were designed to produce only uniform, standardized products for the mass market.
- (iii) Upper classes preferred goods produced by hand. They were better finished, individually produced, and carefully designed. They symbolized refinement and class.
- (v) In short, in labour-abundant Britain, machine could not easily displace human labour. In labour-scarce America, it did.

6. “Women workers in Britain attacked the Spinning Jenny.” Explain.

**Ans.** Spinning Jenny was devised by James Hargreaves in 1764. This machine speeded up the spinning process and reduced labour demand. By turning one single wheel, a worker could set in motion a number of spindles and spin several threads at the same time.

When the Spinning Jenny was introduced in the woollen industry in England, women workers began attacking the new machines. This was due to two reasons.

- (i) Hand spinning was the only mode of subsistence and survival for these workers.
  - (ii) Workers were afraid that they would be thrown out of jobs.
7. “East India Company appointed Gomasthas to supervise weavers in India”. Explain the above statement.

**Ans.** East India company wanted a regular supply of cotton and silk to Britain and wanted to eliminate competition for this :

- (i) Company tried to eliminate existing traders and establish a direct control over weavers. For this it appointed gomastha, a paid servant, to supervise weaver, collect supplies and to maintain quality.
- (ii) Gomasthas provided advances to the weavers to purchase raw material for production. In return weavers had to hand over the clothes to the gomasthas at a fixed price.
- (iii) This way British industries got a regular supply of woven clothes at a price. Garment made from these clothes were then exported back to India.