

1. Discuss how the changes in forest management in the colonial period affected the following groups of people :

- (i) Shifting cultivators,
- (ii) Nomadic and pastoralist communities,
- (iii) Firms trading in timber/forest produce,
- (iv) Kings/British officials engaged in shikar.

- Ans.**
- (i) **Shifting cultivators.** Due to the government's ban on shifting cultivation, many communities were forcibly displaced from their homes in the forests. Some had to change occupations while others rebelled against the government.
  - (ii) **Nomadic and pastoralist communities.** Many pastoralist and nomadic communities like the Korava, Karacha and Yerukula of the Madras Presidency lost their means of livelihood. Some of them began to be called 'criminal tribes' and were forced to work in factories, mines and plantation under government supervision.
  - (iii) **Firms trading in timber/forest produce.** Many communities left their traditional occupation and started trading in the forest products. For example the Mundurucu peoples of the Brazilian Amazon began to collect latex and supplied it to traders. In India, the British government gave European trading firms the sole right to trade in the forest products of certain areas. Gazing and hunting by local people were restricted which affected at cheap rates.
  - (iv) **Kings/British officials engaged in shikar.** Hunting of big game became a sport. In India, hunting of tigers and other animals has long been a part of the culture of courtiers and nobles. But under colonial rule, the hunting increased to such an extent that various species become extinct. Rewards for killing tigers, wolves and other large animals were given. Over 80,000 tigers, 150,000 leopards and 200,000 wolves were killed during this period (1875 – 1925). Later environmentalists and conservators realized many species of animals needed to be protected and not killed.

2. What are the similarities between Colonial management of the forests in Bastar and in Java?

**Ans.** The similarities between colonial management of the forest in Bastar and in Java are :

- (i) In both cases, the forests came to be owned by the state and the villager's access to forests was restricted.



- (iv) **Commercial farming.** Large areas of natural forests were cleared to establish tea, coffee and rubber plantations to meet Europe's need For these Commodities.
- (v) **Tea/Coffee plantations.** Large areas of natural forests were cleared to establish tea, coffee and rubber plantations to meet Europe's need for these commodities.
- (vi) **Adivasis and other peasant users.** Adivasis traded in elephants and other goods like hides, silk cocoons, ivory, bamboo, guns and resins through communities like the Banjaras. Peasants used the forests to satisfy different needs.

4. Why are forests affected by wars?

- Ans.**
- (i) The two world wars had a disastrous impact on forests. In India, all plants were cut freely to meet the British war needs.
  - (ii) In Java, the Dutch followed the 'scorched earth policy' destroying sawmills and burning teak logs to prevent them from falling into Japanese hands.
  - (iii) After Japan occupied Indonesia, it recklessly exploited the forests to meet the needs of their own war industries. Many villagers took this opportunity to expand to expand cultivation in the forest.
  - (iv) After the war, it was difficult for the Indonesian forest service to get this land back. Like in India, the peoples' need for agricultural land brought them into conflict with the forest departments' desire to control the land and exclude people from it.