

CLASS:-10TH, HISTORY NOTES.

CHAPTER:-5

THE AGE OF INDUSTRIALISATION

Industrialisation in the colonies:

- Textile industry was the center of industrialization in India.

Age of Indian textiles

- Finer varieties of cotton from India were exported.
- A vibrant sea trade operated through pre-colonial ports.

What happened to weavers?

- East India Company appointed “gomasthas” to collect supply from weavers.
- Weavers lost bargaining power and lost lands for settling loans.

Gomasthas:

The Gomasthas were paid servants whose job was to supervise weavers, collect supplies and examine the quality of cloth.

- **The aim of the East India Company behind appointing gomasthas was to work out a system of management and control that would eliminate competition, control costs and ensure regular supplies of cotton and silk.**
- **Soon there were clashes between the weavers and the gomasthas who began ill-treating the weavers.**
- **They did not allow the company weavers to sell their produce to other buyers. Once an order was placed, the weavers were given loans to purchase the raw material. Weavers who had accepted loans from the company had to hand over the cloth they produced to the gomasthas only.**
- **The weavers were forced to sell their goods to company's officials.**
When the American Civil War broke out and cotton supplies from the US were cut off, Britain's demand for raw cotton from India increased.

Manchester comes to India:

- **By 1950s, India began to import Manchester cotton from Britain.**
- **With the rise in Manchester imports, Indian export and local market declined.**
- **Supply of raw cotton in India decreased.**
- **Weavers were forced to buy cotton at high prices.**