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Ch3-Rural Life Under British India(History)

New Land Revenue Settlements

After the battle of Buxar, British got the Diwani rights over Bengal, Bihar & Orissa, the Right to collect land revenue. Now the east India Company had to organise the land Revenue system in such a way that it yielded enough income to meet the growing Administrative expenses of company.

The British introduced three land revenue settlement in India- Zamindari System or Permanent Settlement in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Ryotwari settlement in large part of southern & western India and Mahalwari Settlement in Punjab, North West provinces and Awadh.

Permanent Settlement :- It was introduced by the Governor General Lord Cornwallis. It was named Zamindari system because

- 1.The Zamindars of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa were made hereditary owners of entire land in their Zamindari. In return, they had to pay a fixed amount of revenue to the company.
2. The amount to be paid was fixed as it was not to be increased in future.
3. As long as the Zamindars paid the land revenue, he had hereditary rights over his zamindari.

Impact :- 1. This helped the British to do financial planning.

- 2.It was expected that zamindari would show interest in improving cultivation of land
- 3.Since the revenue demand of the state would not be increased, the zamindaris would Get benefit of the increased production from land.

4. The British had fixed at a very high rate and many zamindaris could not pay that amount.

In that situation the British auction their land.

5.In 19th century, the British did not get any advantage after the prices of grain raised.

6. Many Zamindars shifted to the cities, renting out the lands to the tenants. They were only Interested in their income with this rent.

7.The farmers were exploited very badly. They had to pay a high rent to the zamindaris and Be thrown out of their land anytime. Often to pay the rent, they had to take loan from moneylenders.

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