

LAND REVENUE SYSTEM UNDER THE BRITISH

- ❖ The British conquest of India resulted into a socio economic revolution
- ❖ The Indian economy transformed into a Colonial Economy

The British introduced new forms of land tenures or revenue settlements, which “brought in their wake a revolution in the economic and social relations in the country side”

Three major Land Revenue System introduced by the British in India:

➤ **PERMANENT SETTLEMENT**

➤ **RYOTWARI SETTLEMENT**

➤ **MAHALWARI SETTLEMENT**

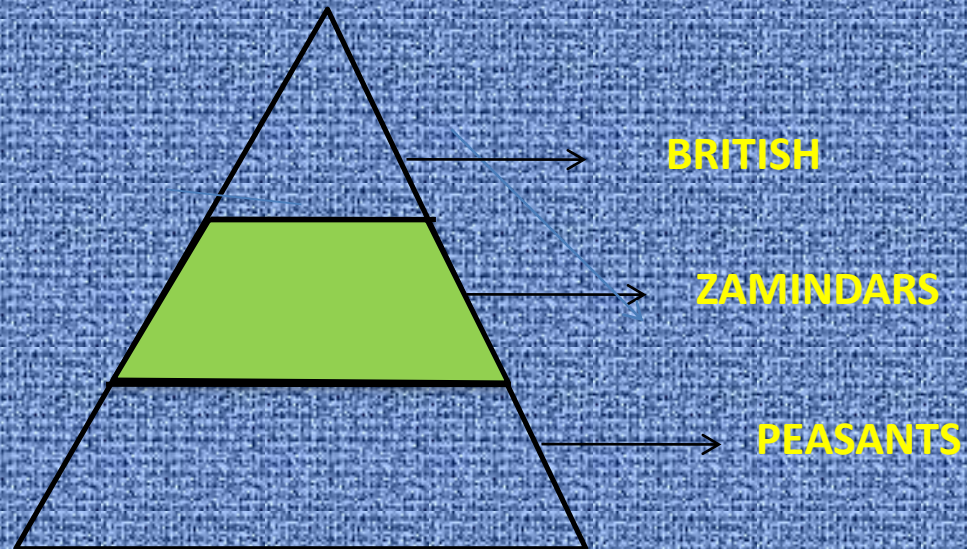
PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

(ZAMINDARI SYSTEM)

- Introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793 through Permanent settlement Act
- Introduced in the provinces of :
Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Varanasi
- Zamindars were recognized as owner of lands and they enjoyed rights to collect the rent from the peasants
- The realized amount would be divided into 11 parts :
1/11 of the share belonged to Zamindar and 10/11 of the share belonged to the British

Sunset Law

- Zamindar was required to pay a fixed amount of money to the Government on a stipulated date before the sunset.
- Failure to pay the money would deprive the Zamindar of his rights on land which would be put to fresh auction



RYOTWARI SETTLEMENT

- Introduced by **Thomas Munro** in 1820
- Introduced in the provinces of :
Madras, Bombay, Assam and Coorg provinces
- Peasants were recognized as owner of lands
- British Government collected taxes directly from the peasants
- The revenue rates were fixed at
- 50% for dry lands and 60% for wet lands

MAHALWARI SETTLEMENT

- Introduced **1833** during **Lord William Bentinck**
- Introduced in the provinces of :
 - Agra, Punjab, Gangetic Valley, North Western Frontier, Central Provinces**
- Lands were divided into **Mahals**
- Each **Mahal** comprised one or more villages
- Ownership rights vested with the peasants
- Village committee was held responsible for collection of taxes

Effects of the New Revenue Settlements & Its Impact on the Agrarian Society

- It was complete departure from the traditional land revenue system of India
- Due to high assessment many Zamindars failed to pay stipulated amount of revenue in due time
- Due to which the Zamindars lost their hereditary rights over their land/ estates
- These estates put to fresh auction

- Auction give birth to new land owning class who had no permanent attachment to the land
- New landowners demanded huge amount of revenue from the peasants
- The condition of the peasants deteriorated
- Under Ryotwari and Mahalwari system though the ryots theoretically became the owners of the land
- But their ownership : doubtful and uncertain
- Revenue was assessed at a very high rate which brought about the ruin of peasantry

- The major disadvantage of the revenue system was the rise of money lenders or **Lambadars**
- Though the new land tenure and the revenue policy of the British increased the revenue/income of the Government
- But it adversely affected the condition of the Zamindars, peasants, ryots
&
- The greatest economic evil of these revenue system was the decline of agriculture

Thank You

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