

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What were the major differences in the approach towards development at the time of independence? Has the debate been resolved?

Ans. The term development was about becoming more like the industrialised countries of the West to be involved with the break-down of traditional social structure as well as rise of capitalism and liberalism, at the time of independence. Modernisation referred to growth, material progress and scientific rationality. India had two models of modern development at the time of independence into considerations to be adopted, i.e., the liberal capitalist model like Europe and the US and the socialist model like the USSR. There had been a debate regarding the adoption of the model of development as communists, socialists and Pt. J.L. Nehru supported the socialist model to reflect a broad consensus to be developing during national movement. The discussed idea showed that the government made the priority to poverty alleviation along with social and economic redistribution. Whereas at the same time, these leaders differed and debated about whether industrialisation should be the preferred path or agricultural development should take place or rural poverty should be alleviated.

Q.2. Which two models of modern development were there before India on the eve of independence? Which model did India decide to choose and why?

[CBSE Delhi 2015]

Ans. At the time of independence, there were two models of modern development before India:

- (i) Liberal-Capitalist model which was prevalent in Europe and the US.
- (ii) Socialist model which was prevalent in the USSR.

The socialist Model of development was chosen because many in India were deeply impressed by this model. These included not only the leaders of communist parties but also of socialist leaders and the Congress Party. This model was considered to be most useful for the welfare and upliftment of all the categories of people in India.

Q.3. Which state was prone to food crisis in the early years of independence?

Ans. Bihar was prone to food crisis in the early years of independence. It was due to a near famine situation. The food shortage was very much acute in all districts of Bihar. Food shortage led to acute and widespread malnutrition. The zoning policies of government prohibited trade across states, which reduced availability of food in Bihar.

Q.4. Explain any two merits and two demerits each of the Green Revolution.

[CBSE Delhi 2015]

Ans. Merits:

- a. It increased the availability of food in the country, due to rise in wheat and rice production.
- b. Regions like Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh became agriculturally prosperous.
- c. The farmers of medium size holdings were benefitted and they emerged as politically influential.

(Any two)

Demerits:

- a. It led to polarization between classes and regions.
- b. Only the states like Punjab, Haryana and Western U.P. became prosperous, while others remained backward.
- c. The poor farmers remained neglected.

(Any two)

Q.5. What were the objectives of the Third Five Year Plan?

Ans. The main objectives set out in the Third Five Year Plan were –

1. Setting up of co-operative marketing societies to eliminate middlemen and ensure fair prices to the farmers for their produce.
2. Expansion of the agricultural production through intensive methods of cultivation, use of high yielding varieties of seeds, improved irrigation facilities, etc.
3. To improve and upgrade the local livestock of distributing good breeds of cattle, pigs, birds, etc. and to extend veterinary facilities all over the country.
4. Provisions of medical and health services with a view to extending them to more people, especially those living in the interior regions.

Q.6. Discuss the main features of India's land reform policy.

Ans. Low productivity of Indian agriculture forced Indian government to bring about land reforms. These took forms of:

1. Change in ownership holdings: Just a year after independence, steps were taken to abolish intermediaries and to make tillers owners of the land. Legislation was undertaken to immediately abolish Zamindari and to pass the land to the tenants.

2. Land ceiling: This was another policy to promote equity in the agricultural sector. This means fixing the maximum size of land, which could be owned by an individual. The purpose of land ceiling was to reduce the concentration of land ownership which was in just a few hands. Land being scarce, concentration of land meant concentration of wealth.

Q.7. Describe the strategy adopted by the Government of India to promote the Green Revolution.

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. The strategy adopted by the Government of India to promote the Green Revolution:

1. The Government of India offered High Yielding Variety seeds, fertilizers, pesticides at highly subsidised prices.
2. The government provided better irrigation facilities.
3. The government also gave a guarantee to buy the produce of the farmers at a given price.
4. The government decided to put more resources into those areas which already had irrigation and those farmers who were already well off.

(Any four points)

Q.8. Among the objectives identified in independent India, reforms did not take place effectively. Explain.

Ans. Among the objectives identified in India, land reforms were the third in priority. Land reforms did not take place effectively in most parts of the country. Political power remained in the hands of the land owning classes. Big industrialists continued to benefit and thrive, while poverty was not eliminated completely. The early initiatives for planned development were at best for realising the goals of economic development of the country and well-being of all its citizens. Agrarian reforms were genuine but required effective action. This could take place only if rural and landless poor were mobilised. Since the landowning classes wielded considerable political influence, the proposals for land reforms were not converted into meaningful laws. Thus, many proposals for land reforms remained only on paper. They were never implemented. Vested social groups effectively controlled policy making and its implementation.

Q.9. What were the major land reforms initiated by the government of India? Why some of these land reforms became unsuccessful in India?

[CBSE Sample Paper 2016]

Ans. The major land reforms carried in India were:

- Abolition of Zamindari system
- Consolidation of small land holdings and
- Putting an upper limit or ceiling on the maximum amount of land one can possess.

Some of these land reforms could not be properly implemented in India because the landowners were very powerful and yielded lot of political influence. As a result, these

land reforms were either not translated into laws or when made into laws, they remained only on papers.