

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Ans. “In this land of the English how hard it is to live”

In the 1930s Verrier Elwin visited the land of the Baigas – a tribal group in central India. He wanted to know about them – their customs and practices, their art and folklore. He recorded many songs that lamented the hard time the Baigas were having under British rule.

In this land of the English how hard it is to live

How hard it is to live In the village sits the landlord In the gate sits the Kotwar

In the garden sits the Patwari

In the field sits the government

In this land of the English how hard it is to live

To pay cattle tax we have to sell cow

To pay forest tax we have to sell buffalo

To pay land tax we have to sell bullock

How are we to get our food?

In this land of the English

Quoted in Verrier Elwin and Shamrao Hivale, Songs of the Maikal, p. 316.

Q. 2. Observe the given picture and answer the questions that follow:



- (i) What do you see in the given picture?**
(ii) How are their working conditions?
(iii) How did different tribal groups live? Describe

Ans. (i) They are coalminers.

(ii) Coal miners have to work deep down in the dark and suffocating mines. Working in such conditions is back-breaking and dangerous. In 1948, it was often killing.

(iii) Tribal people in various parts of India were involved in different activities.

(a) Some tribal people practised jhum cultivation also known as shifting cultivation. This was done mostly in forests on small patches of land. The cultivators cut the treetops to allow sunlight to reach the ground, and burnt the vegetation on the land to clear it for cultivation. They spread the ash from the firing, which contained potash, to fertilise the soil. They used the axe to cut trees and the hoe to scratch the soil in order to prepare it for cultivation. They broadcast the seeds, that is, scattered the seeds on the field instead of ploughing the land and sowing the seeds. Once the crop was ready and harvested, they moved to another field. Shifting cultivators were found in the hilly and forested tracts of north-east and central India.

(b) Few tribal groups were hunter gatherers. They were engaged in hunting animals and gathering forest produce. Khonds, tribal community of Odisha found forests as essential for survival. They regularly hunted for meat and then divided meat amongst themselves; ate fruits and roots. They had a good knowledge of forest produce. Sometimes, local weavers and leather workers turned to the khonds for their supplies of kusum and palash flowers. Sometime, they did the odd jobs of carrying loads or building roads.

(c) Some tribal groups were pastoralists, who lived by herding and rearing animals. They moved with their herds according to the seasons. Example: The Van Gujjars of the Punjab hills and the Labadis of Andhra Pradesh were cattle herders, Bakarwals of Kashmir reared goats, Gaddis of kulu were shepherds.

(d) Some tribal community took to settled cultivation. They began to use the plough, and gradually got rights over the land they lived on.