

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. Why was the Birsa Movement significant?

Ans. The Birsa movement was significant in two ways:

- (i) First: It forced the colonial government to introduce laws so that the land of tribals could not be easily taken over by dikus.
- (ii) Second: It showed once again that the tribal people had the capacity to protest against injustice and express their anger against colonial rule. They did this in their own specific way, inventing their own rituals and symbols of struggle

Q. 2. Briefly explain the land settlements introduced by the British.

Ans. (i) The British wanted a regular revenue source for the state and they introduced land settlements.

(ii) They measured the land, defined the rights of each individual to that land and fixed the revenue demand for the state.

(iii) Some peasants were declared landowners, others tenants.

(iv) The tenants were to pay rent to the landowner who in turn paid revenue to the state.

Q. 3. After his release in 1897, how did Birsa Munda resume the Birsa movement?

Ans. (i) When Birsa was released in 1897, he began touring the villages to gather support.

(ii) He urged people to destroy 'Ravana' (dikus and the Europeans) and establish a kingdom under his leadership.

(iii) Birsa's followers began targeting the symbols of diku and European power.

(iv) They attacked police stations and churches and raided the property of moneylenders and zamindars.

(v) They raised the white flag as a symbol of Birsa Raj.

Q. 4. What was the impact of forest laws on tribals?

Ans. (i) The British extended their control over all forests and declared that forests were state property.

(ii) Some forests were classified as 'Reserved forests' for they produced timber which the British wanted.

(iii) In these forests people were not allowed to move freely, practise Jhum cultivation, collect fruits or hunt animals.

(iv) Jhum cultivation could not survive in such a situation, so they were forced to move to other areas in search of work and livelihood.