2. **Permanent Settlement, Mahalwari System, Nij, and Ryotwari Systems** were unsuccessful attempts to ‘revive’ the Company’s revenues from agriculture. But the destruction was deep and widespread. Agriculture could not be revived up to the Mutiny in 1857. The Nij system that was specific to cultivation of indigo, collapsed in Bengal province after the revolt in 1859.
3. The Ryotwari System in Madras Province:

- There were NO zamindars in Peninsular India. The tradition of large ownerships of erstwhile Temple lands had continued. As such, farmers had cultivated their own land for generations. They were called ryot or ryotwar.

- Settlement for payment of revenue was made directly between the Ryots and the Company. Therefore, it was called the Ryotwari System.

- Basic problem continued to be the greed of Company officials. Due to this they fixed very high rates of revenue. The Ryots were unable to pay and deserted their villages.
4. **Plantations were created for crops needed in Europe.** Plantations were very vast cultivated areas owned and controlled by Englishmen. The owners were erstwhile employees of the Company who had resigned to create their own trading and agricultural businesses.

5. **After the revolt, indigo plantations collapsed in Bengal.** But these were shifted to Bihar, till the Champaran Movement under Mahatma Gandhi became the beginning of their end.

4. **In 1859 there was a revolt by the Nij ryots, who killed the English plantation owners and burnt the crops.** The Lt. Governor set up an Indigo Commission, which declared that indigo cropping was not profitable to farmers.

2. **Indigo cultivation was forced on cultivators of Bengal because indigo needed the most fertile land and intensive ploughing.** The destroyed the fertility of the land after each crop. It was labour intensive and price paid by the Company for it was too low. This impoverished the indigo farmers.

3. **Nij method was used to force indigo cultivation.** Its cultivation was costly because 1000 units of land needed 2000 ploughs. The land had to be left barren after harvesting. It was labour intensive. The Company got it cultivated by force for a fraction of the cost.

Exercises at the end of the Chapter:

1. **Match the following:**
   
   **Answer.**
   
   a) *ryot*  
   b) *mahal*  
   c) *nij*  
   d) *ryoti*

   peasant  
   village  
   cultivation on planter’s own land  
   cultivation on *ryot*’s lands
2. Fill in the blanks:
   a) Growers of woad in Europe saw **indigo** as a crop which would provide competition to their earnings.
   b) The demand for indigo increased in late eighteenth century Britain because of **industrialization**.
   c) The international demand for indigo was affected by the discovery of **synthetic dyes**.
   d) The Champaran movement was against **forced indigo cultivation**.

3. Describe the main features of the Permanent Settlement.
   **Answer.** The Permanent Settlement in 1793, was made between the landlords and the Company, to enable revival of revenue payment from agriculture. Its main features were that:
   a) The rajas and taluqdars were recognised as Zamindars.
   b) The amount of revenue they were to pay was fixed.
   c) Zamindars were given a free hand to adopt any means or rates for collection from cultivators.
   d) The shortcoming in the settlement was that the amount fixed was too high. Many zamindaris had to be sold by auction due to inability to pay.

4. How was the **mahalwari** system different from the Permanent Settlement?
   **Answer.** Mahalwari system was introduced in 1822. Under it, a revenue amount was settled directly with a group of villages called the ‘mahal’. The ‘mahal’ was jointly responsible for payment of the revenue. The amount of revenue was determined every year.

   The Permanent Settlement System was introduced in 1793. Under it the existing rajas and taluqdars, were given a new title of Zamindar. The amount of revenue that they were to pay the Company every year, was fixed permanently. The zamindar was free to collect the amount from the cultivators, at any rate he wanted.

   The weakness in both these systems was that the amount of revenue fixed by the Company was too high. Due to inability or failure to pay, many zamindaris were taken away and sold in auctions.
5. Give two problems which arose with the new Munro system of fixing revenue.
   Answer. The two problems that arose were the very high amount of revenue that was fixed by the Company. Yet, the Company assumed that the cultivators would have sufficient surplus, to reinvest in agriculture and improve their output. This was expected to make them rich and regular revenue remitters. But what actually happened was that the revenue amounts were too high to make agriculture profitable to the Ryots. Increasingly, they deserted their villages and migrated.

6. Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo?
   Answer. Ryots were reluctant to grow indigo because it was a very costly and labour intensive crop. Moreover, the Company forced the ryots to sell indigo only to them, at extremely low prices. Therefore, cultivating indigo was not profitable to the ryots. They were given loans by the Company to grow indigo. But as they were not free to sell their produce in the market, it was not profitable for them.

7. What were the circumstances which led to the eventual collapse of indigo production in Bengal?
   Answer. Indigo was cultivated in Bengal under Nij and Ryotwari systems. The cultivation needed the most fertile land and exhausted all its nutrients. After each indigo crop the land had to be left fallow to recover its fertility. Intensive ploughing and labour for harvesting was also needed for every indigo crop. All these made its production highly expensive. The Company extended loans to farmers to grow the crop, but paid less than one rupee for purchasing it. Therefore, indebtedness of farmers resulted on a massive scale. Refusal to grow or sell indigo to the Company, meant being beaten harshly in submission.

   These circumstances led to the indigo growers revolting in 1859. They killed many English Plantation owners and burnt the crop. This led to eventual collapse of indigo cultivation in Bengal.