



# Ruling the Countryside

History | CHAPTER – 3

SST ❤️

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**ONESHOT** 🔥



# Topics to be covered

**1 Introduction**

**2 What is a Resource?**

**3 What makes something a Resource?**

**4 Utility and Economic Value**

**5 Time and Technology**

**5 Types of Resources**

**6 Natural Resource**

**7 Human Made Resource**

**8 Human Resource**

**9 Conservation of Resource**







# The Turning Point: 1765, The Diwani Rights

1764

- The year was 1765.
- After winning the Battle of Buxar, the British East India Company received the Diwani rights from the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II.
- Company now had the legal right to collect land revenue and administer civil justice in the provinces of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.
- Their main goal was profit.







# The Hunger for Revenue

- The Company needed a lot of money. Why?
  - To buy Indian goods like cotton, silk, indigo.
  - To pay for its army and wars.
  - To finance administration and trade.
- So, the Company began to focus on how to extract more money from Indian farmers.
- Experiments in land revenue systems.





# 3 Revenue Systems of British India



Physic Wallah





# The Permanent Settlement (1793) – The Zamindari Story

- In 1793, the then Governor-General Lord Cornwallis introduced a new system in Bengal called the Permanent Settlement.
- Under this:
  - The Company appointed Zamindars (landowners) to collect taxes from peasants.
  - The revenue rate was fixed permanently — it would not be increased, ever.
  - If a zamindar failed to pay the Company, his land would be auctioned.

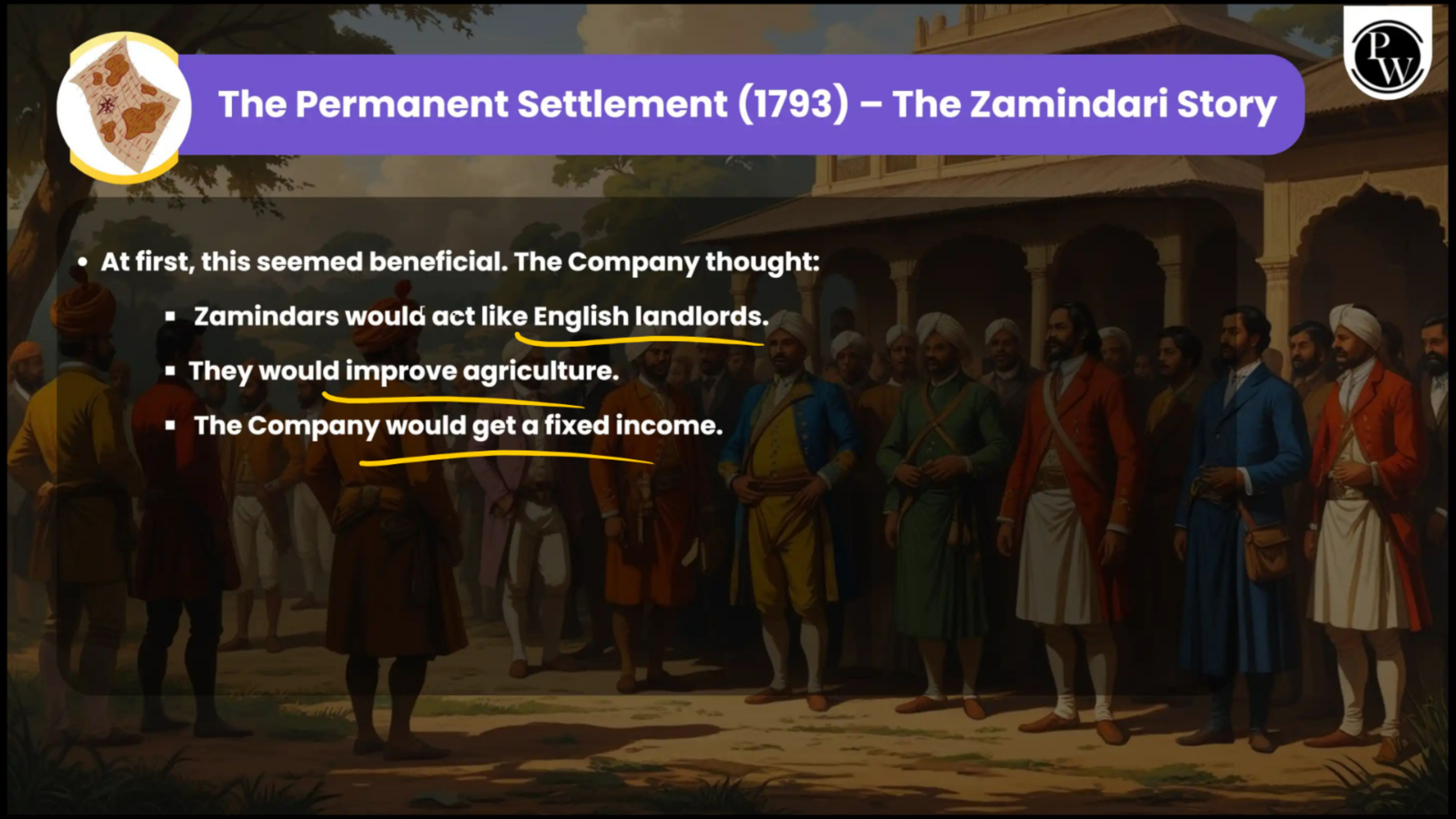
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## The Permanent Settlement (1793) – The Zamindari Story

- At first, this seemed beneficial. The Company thought:
  - Zamindars would act like English landlords.
  - They would improve agriculture.
  - The Company would get a fixed income.







## IMPACT



- **But in reality:**
- The tax rate was too high. Many zamindars couldn't pay and lost their land.
- Most zamindars didn't invest in the land or help farmers.
- Peasants were exploited. They had to pay even if crops failed.
- The Company's income became stagnant as it couldn't raise taxes.
- The Permanent Settlement failed to benefit both the Company and the cultivators.





# THE RYOTWARI SYSTEM IN MADRAS AND BOMBAY



## The Ryotwari System – Madras and Bombay

- In South India (especially Madras and Bombay), the British noticed that there were no zamindars. Here, the land was mostly cultivated by individual farmers or ryots.
- Shko, a new system was introduced by Thomas Munro, the Ryotwari System.





# The Ryotwari System – Madras and Bombay

- The Company dealt directly with the farmers (ryots).
- Tax was fixed based on soil quality and crops grown.
- Farmers paid annually. ① ②
- **But again, things didn't go well.**
- The revenue rates were still too high.
- Farmers had to borrow money to pay taxes.
- If the monsoon failed, the farmer went hungry — but the tax had to be paid.
- **So, instead of helping farmers, the system led many into a cycle of poverty and debt.**





## The Mahalwari System



- In the North-Western Provinces (now parts of Uttar Pradesh), a new plan was introduced in 1822 by Holt Mackenzie.
- This was the Mahalwari System:
- Revenue was collected village-wise (mahal).
- The village headman collected it and paid the Company.
- Revenue was revised periodically, not fixed permanently.

Mahal → Village





## IMPACT



- **But in reality:**
- **It was supposed to be more flexible, but:**
- **The burden still fell on peasants.**
- **Officials often over-estimated land productivity.**
- **Villages suffered from heavy tax burdens.**



## 3 Revenue System

① Permanent Settlements  
(1793)  
Lord Cornwallis

② Ryotwari System  
Thomas Munro  
(Bombay/Madras)

③ Mahalwari System  
↓  
(1822)  
Lord Mackenzie  
(U.P.)





# Crops for Europe

- The British persuaded or forced cultivators in various parts of India to produce other commercial crops:

- jute in Bengal
- tea in Assam
- sugarcane in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh)
- wheat in Punjab
- cotton in Maharashtra and Punjab
- rice in Madras.

- The British used a variety of methods for increasing cultivation of crops that they needed.
- One such crop was **Indigo**, which had a great worldwide demand.



# Why the demand for Indian indigo?

- By the thirteenth century, Indian indigo was being used by cloth manufacturers in Italy, France and Britain to dye cloth.

→ But the price of indigo was very high.



- European cloth manufacturers, therefore, had to depend on another plant called woad to make violet and blue dyes which were pale and dull.



# Why the demand for Indian indigo?



→ Therefore, cloth dyers, however, preferred indigo as a dye.

- The French began cultivating indigo in St Domingue in the Caribbean islands, the Portuguese in Brazil, the English in Jamaica, and the Spanish in Venezuela.

- Between 1783 and 1789 the production of indigo in the world fell by half.

- Cloth dyers in Britain started looking for new sources of indigo supply.





# Britain turns to India



- **The Company in India looked for ways to expand the area under indigo cultivation.**
- **By 1810, 95 percent of the indigo imported into Britain was from India.**
- **Many Company officials left their jobs and numerous Scotsmen and Englishmen came to India and became planters attracted by the prospect of high profits.**





## How was indigo cultivated?

- There were two main systems of indigo cultivation
  - nij and ryoti.



## 2. Ryoti System – Forcing the Peasants



Individual farmer

1880's

This was more widespread:

- Planters gave loans to Indian farmers (ryots).
- In return, the ryots had to grow indigo on part of their land.
- The planters paid them very little, far below market rate.
- Farmers were trapped in debt and the soil became barren after indigo.

Peasants wanted out — but contracts and British officers backed the planters. Resistance grew.





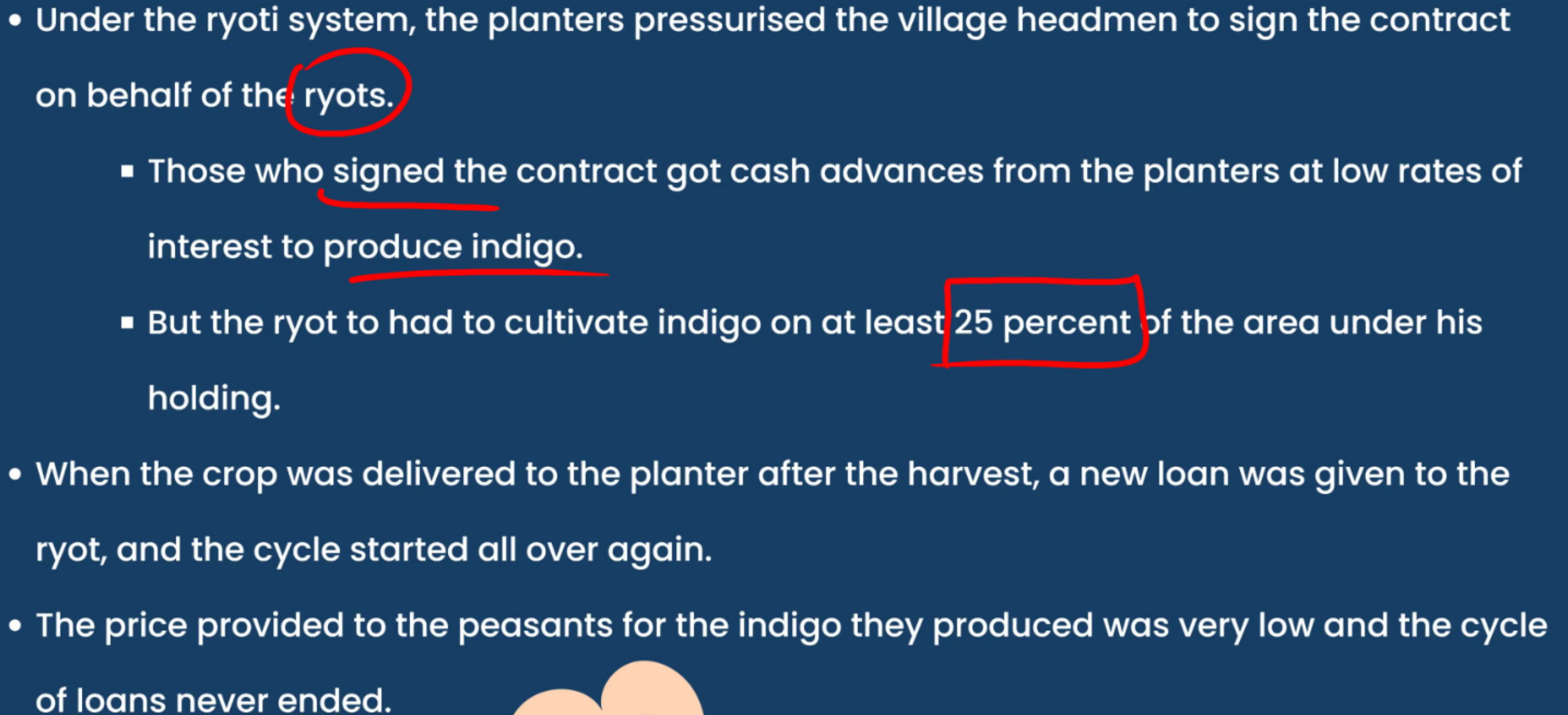
# Nij cultivation and problems



anyone who owns land → Indigo

- The planter produced indigo in lands that he directly controlled.
- The planters found it difficult to expand the area under nij cultivation.
- Indigo could be cultivated only on fertile lands which were all already densely populated.
- A large plantation required large number of labour at a time when peasants were usually busy with their rice cultivation.
- It also required many ploughs and bullocks.
- Till the late nineteenth century, planters were therefore reluctant to expand the area under nij cultivation.

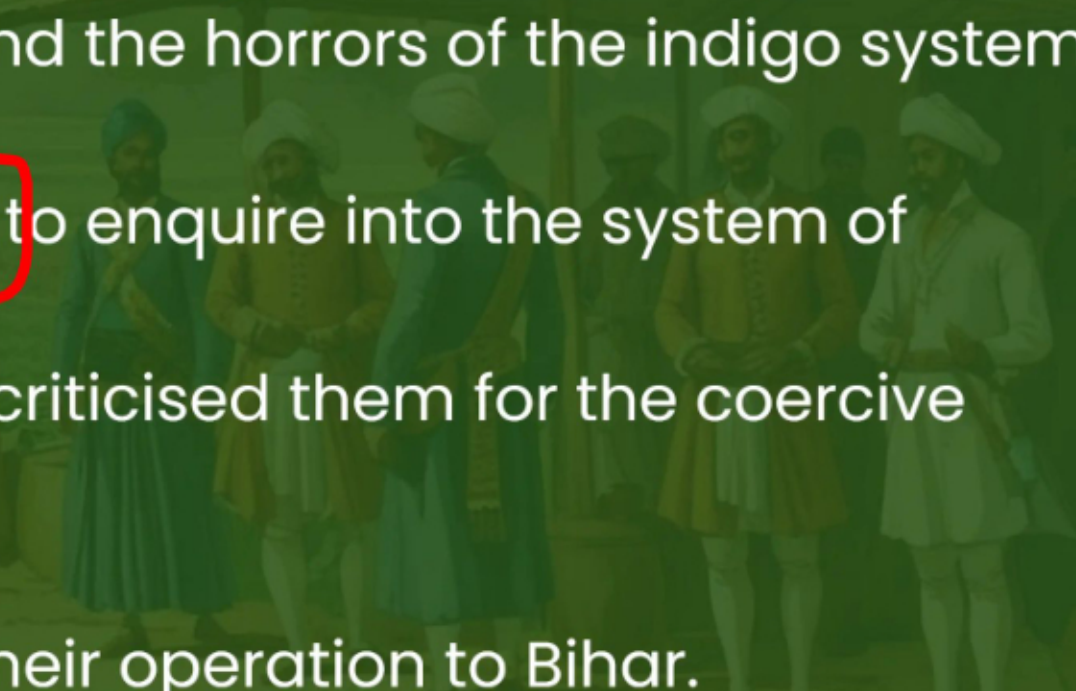








## The “Blue Rebellion” and After

- In 1859, the indigo ryots felt that they had the support of the local zamindars and village headmen in their rebellion against the planters.
  - As the rebellion spread, intellectuals rushed to the indigo districts and wrote of the misery of the ryots, the tyranny of the planters, and the horrors of the indigo system.
  - The government set up the Indigo Commission to enquire into the system of indigo production.
    - The Commission held the planters guilty, and criticised them for the coercive methods they used with indigo cultivators.
  - After the revolt, indigo production now shifted their operation to Bihar.
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→ Mh Gandhi  
1918 - Champaran



# Thank You!

Phir Milenge ❤️

