

Ch 5 Pastoralists in the Modern World Class 9

Important Questions

Question 1.

Who are nomadic pastoralists ?

Answer:

- Nomads are people who do not live at one place but move from one area to another to earn their living.
- In many parts of India, we can see nomadic pastoralists on the move with their herds of goats and sheep, or camels and cattle.
- They move place to place in search of new pastures for their herds of goats and sheep.

Question 2.

What happened to the animal's stock when pasture lands were turned into cultivated lands ?

Answer:

As pasturelands disappeared under the plough, the existing animal stock had to feed on whatever grazing land remained. This led to continuous intensive grazing of these pastures. Usually nomadic pastoralists grazed their animals in one area and moved to another area. These pastoral movements allowed time for the natural restoration of vegetation growth. When restrictions were imposed on pastoral movements, grazing lands came to be continuously used and the quality of pastures declined. This in turn created a further shortage of forage for animals and the deterioration of animal stock. Underfed cattle died in large numbers during scarcities and famines.

Question 3.

What do you know about the lifestyle of Gujjars of Garhwal and Kumaun ?

Answer:

- In Garhwal and Kumaun, the Gujjar cattle herders came to the dry forests of the bhabar in the winter, and went to the high meadows, the Bugyals, in summer.
- Many of them were originally from Jammu and came to the UP hills in the 19th century' in search of good pastures.
- This pattern of cyclical movement between summer and winter pastures was typical of many pastoral communities of the Himalayas.

Question 4.

Describe the life of pastoralists inhabiting the mountains of India.

Answer:

(a) The Gujjar Bakarwals of Jammu and Kashmir, the Gaddi shepherds of Himachal Pradesh, the Gujjar cattle herders of Garhwal and Kumaun, the Bhotiyas, the Sherpas and Kinnauris move annually between their summer and winter grazing grounds governed by the cycle of seasonal movements.

(b) They adjust their movements to seasonal changes and make effective use of available pastures in different places. When pastures are exhausted or unstable in one place they move their herds to new areas.

Question 5.

Discuss the main features of the pastoral nomads of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Answer:

- In Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, we found the dry central plateau covered with stone and grass inhabited by cattle, goat and sheep herders.
- The Gollas herded cattle and the Kurumas and Kurubas reared sheep and goats and sold woven blankets. They lived near the woods, cultivated small patches of land, engaged in a variety of petty trades and took care of their herds.
- The pastoral nomads of these two southern states lived near the forests, cultivated small patches of land, engaged themselves in different petty trades and took care of the herds.

Question 6.

Name the pastoral communities of Africa. Where are they found ? What are their occupations ?

Answer:

- The Bedouins, Berbers, Maasai, Somali, Boran and Turkana are some of the pastoral communities of Africa.
- Most of them are found in semi-arid grasslands or arid deserts where rainfed agriculture is difficult.
- They raise cattle, camels, goats, etc. and sell their products like milk and meat. Others earn their living through trade and transport. Some of them combine pastoral activity with agriculture while still others do a variety of odd jobs to supplement their meagre and uncertain earnings.

Question 7.

Under colonial rule, what were the changes in the life of pastoralists ?

Answer:

Following were the changes that took place in the life of pastoralists under the colonial rule :

- Under colonial rule, the life of pastoralists changed dramatically. Their grazing grounds shrank.
- The revenue they had to pay was increased.
- Their movements were regulated.

- Their agricultural stock declined and their trades and crafts were adversely affected.
(Any three points)

Question 8.

What factors had to be kept in mind by the pastoralists in order to survive ?

Answer:

Following factors had to be kept in mind by pastoralists in order to survive :

- They had to judge how long the herds could stay in one area and know where they could find water and pasture.
- They needed to calculate the timing of their movements, and ensure that they could move through different territories.
- They also had to set up a relationship with farmers on the way, so that the herds could graze in harvested fields and manure the soil.
- They also had to combine a range of different activities-cultivation, trade and herding-to make their living. (Any three points)

Question 9.

How did the Forest Acts change the life of pastoralists ?

Answer:

The Forest Acts change the life of pastoralists in the following ways :

- (a) Forest Acts were enacted to protect and preserve forests for timber which was of commercial importance.
- (b) They were now prevented from entering many forests that had earlier provided valuable forage for their cattle. Even in the areas they were allowed entry, their movement were regulated.
- (c) They were issued permits which monitored their entry into and exit from forests. They could not stay in the forests as much as they liked because the permit specified the periods in which they could be legally within a forest. If they overstayed they were liable to fines.

Question 10.

What was the impact of frequent drought on the pasture lands of Maasai community ?

Answer:

Drought affects the life of pastoralists everywhere. When rains fail, and pastures are dry, cattle are likely to starve unless they can be moved to areas where forage is available. But from the colonial period, the Maasai were bound down to a fixed area, confined within a reserve, and prohibited from moving in search of pastures. They were cut off from the best grazing lands and forced to live within a semi-arid tract prone to frequent droughts.

Since they could not shift their cattle to places where pastures were available, large numbers of Maasai cattle died of starvation and disease in these years of drought. An enquiry in 1930 showed that the Maasai in Kenya possessed 720,000 cattle, 820,000 sheep and 171,000 donkeys. In just two years of severe drought, 1933 and 1934, over half the cattle in the Maasai Reserve died.