

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ruling the Countryside

Q1. What were the problems faced by the planters in the NIJ system?

Ans. _____

Q2. Why did the indigo cultivators decide to rebel? How did they show their anger?

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Q1. What were the problems faced by the planters in the NIJ system?

Ans. The problems faced by the planters in the nij system were:

- i. The planters found it difficult to expand the area under nij cultivation. Indigo could be cultivated only on fertile lands, and these were all already densely populated. Only small plots scattered over the landscape could be acquired. Planters needed large areas in compact blocks to cultivate indigo in plantations.
- ii. Nor was labour easy to mobilise. A large plantation required a vast number of hands to operate. And labour was needed precisely at a time when peasants were usually busy with their rice cultivation.
- iii. Nij cultivation on a large scale also required many ploughs and bullocks. Investing on purchase and maintenance of ploughs was a big problem.

Q2. Why did the indigo cultivators decide to rebel? How did they show their anger?

Ans. The condition under which the indigo cultivators had to work was intensely oppressive. Finally they decided not to grow indigo. They became united and rebelled. They showed their anger in the following ways:

- i. Ryots refused to pay rents to the planters, and attacked indigo factories armed with swords and spears, bows and arrows.
- ii. Women turned up to fight with pots, pans and kitchen implements.
- iii. Those who worked for the planters were socially boycotted, and the gomasthas – agents of planters – who came to collect rent were beaten up.
- iv. Ryots swore they would no longer take advances to sow indigo nor be bullied by the planters' lathiyals.