

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tribals, Dikus and the Vision of a Golden Age

Q1. What was the problem faced by the silk growers (Santhals) of Jharkhand during the nineteenth century?

Ans. _____

Q2. How did the powers of tribal chiefs change under colonial rule?

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Q1. What was the problem faced by the silk growers (Santhals) of Jharkhand during the nineteenth century?

Ans. Hazaribagh, in present-day Jharkhand, was an area where the Santhals reared cocoons. The traders dealing in silk sent in their agents who gave loans to the tribal people and collected the cocoons. The growers were paid Rs 3 to Rs 4 for a thousand cocoons. These were then exported to Burdwan or Gaya where they were sold at five times the price. The middlemen – so called because they arranged deals between the exporters and silk growers – made huge profits. The silk growers earned very little.

Q2. How did the powers of tribal chiefs change under colonial rule?

Ans. Under British rule, the functions and powers of the tribal chiefs changed considerably.

i. They were allowed to keep their land titles over a cluster of villages and rent out lands, but they lost much of their administrative power and were forced to follow laws made by British officials in India.

ii. They also had to pay tribute to the British, and discipline the tribal groups on behalf of the British.

iii. They lost the authority they had earlier enjoyed amongst their people, and were unable to fulfil their traditional functions.