



# HISTORY

**Class 9<sup>th</sup>**

Chapter 5: Pastoralists in the Modern World



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## Exercise

**Que 1. Explain why nomadic tribes need to move from one place to another. What are the advantages to the environment of this continuous movement?**

Ans: Nomadic communities have to move frequently from one place to another because of the following reasons.

1. They keep roaming from here to there in the jugaad of livelihood.
2. They used to change their place according to summer and winter.
3. These people used to roam from place to place even for the food of their cattle.
4. The nomadic communities of the south used to change their places according to the rainy and dry seasons.

The environment was greatly benefited by their control movement, the soil used to become fertile where they used to graze their cattle.

**Que 2. Discuss why the colonial government in India brought in the following laws. In each case, explain how the law changed the lives of pastoralists:**

- (1). Waste Land rules
- (2). Forest Acts
- (3). Criminal Tribes Act
- (4). Grazing Tax

Ans:

**(1).Waste Land Rules:** - The British considered fallow land as 'useless'. It was necessary to make it fit for cultivation. That is why he made rules for waste land development. Through this regulation, the government started taking possession of non-agricultural land and handing it over to certain people. Many concessions were given to these people and they were strongly promoted to make this land fit for cultivation and cultivate it. Some such people were made the head of the village. Most of the land thus taken over was pasture land, regularly used by herders. In this way, the spread of agriculture started shrinking the pastures and problems started arising for the pastoralists.

**(2) Forest Act:-** Under the guise of the Forest Act, the government declared many such forests as 'reserved forests' where valuable wood like deodar or sal was produced. Shepherds were banned from entering these forests. In the opinion of the government, herds of herdsmen crush the small plants and eat the shoots. Due to which the growth of new trees stops. The Forest Acts changed the life of the pastoralists. Now they were stopped from going to those forests.

**(3) Criminal Tribes Act:** - In 1871, the British passed the Criminal Tribes Act. Under this law, many communities of artisans, traders and shepherds were placed in the list of criminal communities. He was declared a natural and born criminal. As soon as this law came into force, all such communities were ordered to settle in certain notified villages. Their movement without permit was banned. The village police kept an eye on them all the time.

**(4) Grazing Tax:** - The British had implemented grazing tax from the middle of the nineteenth century. The rate of tax per cattle went on increasing rapidly and the system of tax collection became stronger day by day. Between the decades of 1850 and 1880, the work of tax collection was entrusted to the contractors by bidding. By the 1880s, the government, through its agents, started collecting taxes directly from the herdsmen.

**Que 3. Give reasons to explain why the Maasai community lost their grazing lands.**

Ans: The grazing land was taken away from the Maasai community for the following reasons:

1. Many pastures were snatched away by the imperialist powers of Europe to establish their colonies.
2. In later years the best pastures were taken over for white settlement.
3. The government took away pastures to increase the area under cultivation.
4. Masai pastures were snatched away to make hunting grounds.

**Que 4. There are many similarities in the way in which the modern world forced changes in the lives of pastoral communities in India and East Africa. Write about any two examples of changes which were similar for Indian pastoralists and the Maasai herders.**

Ans: The modern world brought about many changes in the lives of pastoral communities in India and East Africa. The two main ones are as follows:-

1. The grazing lands of Indian and East African pastoral communities were taken away.
2. Restrictions were imposed on them on coming and going in the forests, which greatly affected their lives.