

## Class 7 Civics

### A Shirt in the Market

Question 1.

Who was Swapna?

Answer:

Swapna was a small farmer in Kumool, Andhra Pradesh who grows cotton on her small piece of land. She supplied cotton to the trader.

Question 2.

Why did Swapna take loan from the local trader?

Answer:

Swapna took loan from the local trader for seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

Question 3.

How much time is consumed in growing cotton?

Answer:

It takes four months to grow the cotton.

Question 4.

What inputs are required in cultivation of cotton?

Answer:

Cultivation of cotton requires high levels of inputs as fertilizers and pesticides and the farmers have to incur heavy expenses on account of these.

Question 5.

Why do traders pay cotton growers a low price?

Answer:

Cotton growers take loans from traders for growing the cotton. They have to sell the finished material to such traders. Therefore, traders pay cotton growers a low price.

Question 6.

Describe about Erode's bi-weekly cloth market.

Answer:

Erode's bi-weekly cloth market in Tamil Nadu is one of the largest cloth markets in the world. A large variety of cloth is sold in this market. Clothes are made by weavers in the villages around and also brought here for sale.

Question 7.

In what respects is the cotton trader a powerful man in the village?

Answer:

Traders supply loan to peasants and take all the cotton for further sale.

Question 8.

What does a merchant do with the prepared cloth?

Answer:

At the cloth market, the merchants sell the cloth to the garment factories. In this way, the market works more in favour of the merchants.

Question 9.

What are the items produced in the looms?

Answer:

A variety of sarees, towels, shirts, ladies dress material and bed-sheets are produced in these looms.

Question 10.

What is a ginning mill?

Answer:

It is a factory where seeds are removed from cotton bolls. The cotton is pressed into bales to be sent for spinning into thread.

Question 11.

Who is an exporter?

Answer:

A person who sells goods abroad is an exporter.

## Short Answers Type

Question 1.

How do the merchants prepare clothes?

Answer:

Weavers bring cloth that has been made on order from the merchant. These merchants supply cloth on order to garment manufacturers and exporters around country. They purchase the yam and give instructions to the weavers about the kind of cloth that is to be made. Weavers get the yam from the merchants and supply them the cloth.

Question 2.

What are the advantages to the weavers when they work with merchants?

Answer:

This arrangement has two advantages. The weavers do not have to spend their money on purchase of yam. Secondly, the weavers know from the outset what cloth they should make and how much of it is to be woven.

Question 3.

How are the weavers in the grip of the local trader?

Answer:

Weavers are required to invest a lot of money to buy looms. The weavers invest their savings or borrow money at high-interest rates. One loom cost is around 20,000/- and they require atleast two looms. These looms cannot be operated alone and hence their family members work together. They earn about 3,500/-per month. Thus the weavers are always in the grip of the local trader.

Question 4.

What do you understand about putting-out system?

Answer:

In the putting-out system the merchant supplies the raw material and receives the finished product. It is prevalent in the weaving industry in most regions of India. Weavers are paid very little by the merchant under the putting-out system.

Question 5.

Describe in brief the status of workers working in factory?

Answer:

In the garment factory many workers work. Most of these workers are employed on a temporary basis. Whenever, the employer feels that a worker is not needed, the worker can be asked to leave. Workers' wages are fixed according to their skills. In most of the cases women are employed as helpers for thread cutting, buttoning, ironing and packaging. These jobs have the lowest wages.

## Long Answers Type

Question 1.

Describe the role of weaver's cooperatives to reduce the dependence on the merchant.

Answer:

Weaver's cooperatives are one way to reduce the dependence on the merchant and to earn a higher income for the weavers. In a cooperative, people with common interests come together and work for their mutual benefit.

In a weaver's cooperative, the weavers form a group and take up certain activities collectively. They produce yarn from the yam dealer and distribute it among the weavers. The cooperative also does the marketing. So, the role of the merchant is reduced, and weavers get a fair price on the cloth.

## SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

**1. How are small farmers in the grip of the local trader? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** Small farmers can not do without the help of the local traders. They depend on them for various reasons:

- (a) During cropping season they take loan from the local traders.
- (b) Whenever, there is an illness in the family they go to the local trader for help.
- (c) Farmers also face seasonal unemployment. There are times in the year when they have no work and hence no income. During this time their survival depends on borrowing money from him.

Due to these reasons small farmers easily come in the grip of the powerful local traders.

**2. How do weaver's cooperatives reduce the dependence of weavers on the cloth merchants? [V. Imp.]**

**Answer:** In a cooperative people with common interests come together and work for their mutual benefit.

In a weaver's cooperative, the weavers form a group and take up certain activities collectively. They get yam from the yam dealer and distribute it among the weavers. The cooperative also does the marketing.

In this way, the role of the merchants is reduced and weavers get a fair price on the cloth that they produce by dint of their hard labour.

### 3. Write a short note on the Impex garment factory.

**Answer:** The Impex garment factory employs mostly women. The workers work on a temporary basis. They can be asked to leave any time. Their wages are fixed according to their skills. The highest paid among the workers are the tailors who get about Rs. 3,000 per month. Women are employed as helpers. They are engaged in thread cutting, buttoning, ironing and packaging. They get the lowest wages.

## LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

### 1. Who are involved in putting-out system? How is this system advantageous and disadvantageous for the weavers? [V. Imp.]

**Answer:** The persons involved in putting-out system are weavers and merchants.

#### **This system is advantageous for the weavers in two ways:**

- (a) They do not have to spend their money on the purchase of yarn.
- (b) They are also free from the tension of selling the finished cloth.

#### **This system is disadvantageous for the weavers in these ways:**

- (a) They have to depend on the merchants for raw materials as well as markets.
- (b) Under this system the merchants become very powerful. They give orders for what is to be made and they pay a very low price for making the cloth.
- (c) The weavers have no way of knowing who they are making the cloth for or at what price it will be sold.

### 2. How does market work move in favour of the rich and powerful? What are the ways to overcome them? (V. Imp.)

**Answer:** It is usually the rich and the powerful who earn the maximum profits in the market. These people have money and they own the factories, the large shops, large land holdings, etc. The poor have to depend on the rich and the powerful for various things. They have to depend for loans, for raw materials and marketing of their goods and most often for employment. This dependence makes the poor miserable. They are easily exploited in the market. They get low wages in spite of their hard labour and the rich earn huge profits at the cost of the workers. There are ways to overcome these such as forming cooperatives of producers and ensuring that laws are followed strictly.

## Q1. Fill in the blanks.

- i. Women are mostly employed in the Impex garment factory.
- ii. The garment exporting factory exports the shirts to foreign buyers.
- iii. A chain of markets links the producer of cotton to the buyer at the supermarket.
- iv. The foreign businessperson made huge profits in the market.

## Q2. True/False

- i. The trader keeps an account of the yarn given and pays them money for weaving this into cloth. True
- ii. Most often, the big farmers need to borrow money to meet their expenses. False

- iii. The weavers and their families spend long hours working on the looms. True
- iv. Cultivation of cotton requires high levels of inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides. True

**Q3. You might have heard of cooperatives in your area. It could be in milk, provisions, paddy, etc. Find out for whose benefit they were set up?**

Ans. They were set up for the benefit of its members.

**Q4. In what ways are weavers dependent on cloth merchants?**

Ans. Weavers are dependent on cloth merchants both for raw materials and markets.

**Q5. Did Swapna get a fair price on the cotton?**

Ans. No, Swapna did not get a fair price on the cotton because local trader paid her low price.

**Q8. What do women workers do in the Impex garment factory?**

Ans. They are employed as helpers for thread cutting, buttoning, ironing and packaging.

**Q9. On what condition did the trader agree to give loan to Swapna?**

Ans. He agreed to give loan to Swapna on a condition that she would sell all her cotton to him.

**Q10. How garment exporting factories maximise their own profit?**

Ans. They maximise their own profits by getting maximum work from workers at lowest price and supply the foreign buyers at cheap rates.

**Q11. Why do you think more women are employed in the Impex garment factory?**

Ans. Women are employed in the Impex garment factory because they agree to work even at the lowest possible wages.

**Q13. What are the reasons that the businessperson is able to make a huge profit in the market?**

Ans. Business person do business strictly on their own terms. They demand the lowest prices from the supplier and sells at higher rate to high income group.

**Q14. Why did the trader pay Swapna a low price?**

Ans. The trader had lent Swapna money at the beginning of the cropping season on a condition that she would sell all her cotton to him. Thus, Swapna was in his grip. The trader took advantage of this situation and paid her a low price.

**Q15. Merchants hold lot of power. Explain**

Ans. The merchant distributes work among the weavers based on the orders he has received for cloth. The weavers get the yarn from the merchant and supply him the cloth. However, this dependence on the merchants both for raw materials and markets means that the merchants have a lot of power.