

NTSE

NCERT Solutions for Class 9 Social Science
HISTORY – Pastoralists in the Modern World



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1. What are the two levels by which social changes occurred in Maasai society?

Ans. First, the traditional difference based on age, between the elders was disturbed, but it was not completely broken. Second, a new distinction between the wealthy and poor pastoralists developed.

2. What is meant by kafila?

Ans. In winter, when the high mountains were covered with snow, the pastoralists lived with their herds in the low hills of the Siwalik range. The dry scrub forests here provided pasture for their herds. By the end of April they began their northern march for their summer grazing grounds. Several households came together for this journey, forming what is known as a *kafila*.

3. Trace the movement of pastoralist nomads in the plains.

Ans. Banjaras were well-known group of graziers. They were to be found in the villages of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In search of good pastureland for their cattle, they moved over long distances, selling plough cattle and other goods to villagers in exchange for grain and fodder.

4. Trace the movement of nomads of India in the desert.

Ans. In the deserts of Rajasthan lived the Raikas. Over vast stretches no crop could be grown. So the Raikas combined cultivation with pastoralism. During the monsoons, the Raikas stayed in their home villages, where pasture was available. By October, when these grazing grounds were dry and exhausted, they moved out in search of other pasture and water, and returned again during the next monsoon. One group of Raikas – known as the Maru (desert) Raikas – herded camels and another group reared sheep and goat.

5. The life of the pastoral groups was sustained by a careful consideration of a host of factors. Explain.

Ans. (1) Pastoral Group: They had to judge how long the herds could stay in one area. Know where they could find water and pasture.

(2) Pastoral Group: They needed to calculate the timing of their movements, and ensure that they could move through different territories.

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(3) They had to set up a relationship with farmers on the way, so that the herds could graze in harvested fields and manure the soil.

(4) They combined a range of different activities – cultivation, trade, and herding – to make their living.

6. How did the 'waste land rules' affect the life of pastoralists in India?

Ans. (1) To colonial officials all uncultivated land appeared to be unproductive: it produced neither revenue nor agricultural produce. It was seen as 'waste land' that needed to be brought under cultivation.

(2) From the mid-nineteenth century, Waste Land Rules were enacted in various parts of the country. By these Rules uncultivated lands were taken over and given to select individuals. These individuals were granted various concessions and encouraged to settle these lands. Some of them were made headmen of villages in the newly cleared areas. In most areas the lands taken over were actually grazing tracts used regularly by pastoralists. So expansion of cultivation inevitably meant the decline of pastures and a problem for pastoralists.

7. What was the impact of frequent droughts in the pasture land?

Ans. Change of pasture: Drought affected 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.

Starvation of cattles: Since they could not shift their cattle to places where pastures were available, large numbers of Maasai cattle died of starvation and disease in the years of drought.

Reduction in cattles and sheeps: 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.

8. What were the measures introduced by the British to administer the affairs of the Maasai?

Ans. They appointed chiefs of different sub-groups of Maasai, who were made responsible for the affairs of the tribe.

The British imposed various restrictions on raiding and warfare.

Consequently, the traditional authority of both elders and warriors was adversely affected.

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9. Why were the chiefs appointed by the British not affected by war or drought in Maasai land?

Ans. The chiefs appointed by the colonial government often accumulated wealth over time.

They had a regular income with which they could buy animals, goods and land.

They lent money to poor neighbours who needed cash to pay taxes. Many of them began living in towns, and became involved in trade. Their wives and children stayed back in the villages to look after the animals.

These chiefs managed to survive the devastations of war and drought. They had both pastoral and non-pastoral income, and could buy animals when their stock was depleted.

10. Environmentalists and economists have increasingly come to recognize that pastoral nomadism is a form of life that is perfectly suited to many hilly and dry regions of the world. Why?

Ans. Pastoral nomadism allows communities to survive at bad times and avoid crisis. They adopted all measures to protect the environment including forests and wild life because they knew that their life is depended on the environment.

Since they move from one place to another, overgrazing by animals could be prevented which further prevented soil erosion.

Pastoral nomadism allowed time for natural restoration of vegetation growth.

They combine a range of activities like cultivation, trade and herding to make their living, thus make all efforts to adjust with the environment.

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