

Prepared by

Dr. Md.Haider Ali, Assistant Professor

Dept.of History, R.B.G. R. College

Maharajganj, JPU, Chapra

**Discuss the features of Ryotwari Settlement, Introduced by Munro in the South India.**

The establishment of British rule in South Western India brought incipient quandaries of land settlement. The officials believed that in these regions there were no zamindars with sizably voluminous estates with whom settlement of land revenue could be made and that the prelude of zamindari system would upset the subsisting state of affairs. Many Madras officials led by Reed and Munro recommended that settlement should therefore be made directly with the genuine cultivators. They additionally point out that under the sempiternal settlement the company was a financial loser as it had to apportion the revenues with the zamindars and could not claim a portion of the growing income from land. Moreover, the cultivator was left at the mercy of the zamindar that could oppress him at will. Under the system they proposed which is kenne as Ryotwari settlement, the cultivator was to be apperceived as the owner of his plot of land subject to the payment of land revenue. The adherents of the Ryotwari system claimed that it was a continuation of the state of affairs that had subsisted in the past. The ryotwari settlement was introduced in components of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies in the commencement of the 19 century. The settlement under the ryotwari system was not made perpetual. It was revised periodically after 20 to 30 years when the revenue demand was conventionally raised. The ryotwari system bulwarked neither the rights of the cultivators nor put them to any financial gain. The system did not introduce peasant ownership. The state remained the owner of the land. The cultivator had to pay customary revenue otherwise they could be dispossessed of their lands any time. The injuctive authorization of revenue by the regime remained very high. The cultivators were, thus, not sure of more preponderant advantage for their more preponderant engendering. For them the state stood as a zamindar which was more potent than the zamindars under the sempiternal settlement or the Mahalwari settlement. Under the Ryotwari system, the regime fine-tuned the revenue directly with the cultivators .The revenue was amassed with the avail of local hereditary village officers who were apperceived by the regime. The state demand was

mostly kept at fifty percent of the engender. To keep out intermediaries from revenue amassment, so that the state could acquire a more immensely colossal quota of the Alexander Read in 1792, for the Madras Presidency. Later it was introduced in the Bombay Presidency as well. Under this system, revenue was initially accumulated from each village discretely, but later each cultivator or 'ryot' was assessed individually. Thus, peasants not zamindars were established as property owners. Albeit this system incremented the revenue amassed by the state, the assessments were faulty and the peasants over encumbered by the taxes. The landed intermediaries perpetuated to flourish.

**Merits of the Ryotwari Settlement** 1. Absence of zamindars with sizably voluminous estates with whom settlement of land revenue could be made in some regions like Madras and Bombay and hence the desideratum to make settlement directly with the genuine cultivators 2 .Desire of the company to claim a portion of the growing income from land which the company could not do under the sempiternal settlement and which the company could do because of the periodic revision of the revenue demand under the incipient system. 3. Need to bulwark the cultivators from the oppression of the zamindars, which was rampant under perpetual settlement .This could be done by apperceiving the cultivators as the owner of his plot of land. 4. The adherents of the Ryotwari system claimed that it was a continuation of the state of affairs that had subsisted in the past. Due to the efforts of Sir Thomas Munro it was introduced first in Madras Presidency followed by Bombay.

**Demerits.** 1. In most areas the land revenue fine-tuned was exorbitant 2. The regime retained the right to enhance land revenue at will. 3. The ryot had to pay revenue even when his engender was partially or extirpated. Supersession of immensely colossal number of zamindars by one giant zamindart he state.