

SOCIAL STUDIES (ECONOMICS)

CHAPTER 01: THE STORY OF VILLAGE PALAMPUR

(Textbook Q&A)

- 1) Every village in India is surveyed once in ten years during the Census and some of the details are presented in the following format. Fill up the following based on information on Palampur.

a. Location:

b. Total Area of the Village:

c. Land Use (in Hectares):

Cultivated Land		Land not available for cultivation (Area covering dwellings, roads, ponds, grazing ground)
Irrigated	Unirrigated	
		26 hectares

d. Facilities:

Educational	
Medical	
Market	
Electricity Supply	
Communication	
Nearest Town	

a. Location: Bulandshahar district, Western Uttar Pradesh

b. Total Area of the Village: 226 hectares

c. Land Use (in Hectares):

Cultivated Land		Land not available for cultivation (Area covering dwellings, roads, ponds, grazing ground)
Irrigated	Unirrigated	
200 hectares	Nil	26 hectares

d. Facilities:

Educational	2 primary schools and 1 high school
Medical	1 primary health centre and 1 private dispensary
Market	Raiganj and Shahpur
Electricity Supply	Most of the houses have electric connections. Electricity powers all the tube wells in the fields and is used in various types of small businesses.
Communication	Well-connected with neighboring villages and towns. 3 km from Raiganj. All weather road connects it to Raiganj and further on to Shahpur. Many kinds of transport like bullock carts, tongas, bogeys, motorcycles, jeeps, tractors and trucks are

	present.
Nearest Town	Shahpur

- 2) **Modern farming methods require more inputs which are manufactured in industry. Do you agree?**

OR

Explain how modern farming and industrial inputs are interdependent.

Modern farming methods like use of high-yielding variety seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for better productivity, irrigation by tubewells, latest tools like harvesters, threshers, tractors etc. are manufactured in industries. Agriculture provides raw materials for various agro based industries and on the other side, industries contribute much in increasing agricultural production by providing modern tools and technologies.

High yield variety seeds require a combination of chemical fertilizers and pesticides produced by chemical industry, agricultural implements like tractors are produced by automobile industry, and other inputs like electric tubewells for better irrigation, harvesters, threshers are produced by various engineering industries. Therefore, modern farming and industrial inputs go hand in hand.

- 3) **How did the spread of electricity help farmers in Palampur?**

The spread of electricity in Palampur helped farmers in a number of ways:

- It helped farmers to irrigate their lands in a far better way. Previously, they used to irrigate lands with the help of Persian wheels, but it was slow and was not effective. With the help of electricity, they could irrigate much larger areas quickly and effectively;
- Due to better irrigation facilities as a result of electricity, they could grow multiple crops during the entire year. Therefore, same land is utilized for maximum productivity;
- It reduced the dependencies of farmers on monsoon rains which are uncertain and irregular;
- Getting due share of the canal water was difficult for farmers and sometimes led to mutual conflicts. Due to electricity farmers were less bothered about canal water thereby it helped in reducing such conflicts.

- 4) **Is it important to increase the area under irrigation? Why?**

It is important to increase the area under irrigation because it is not beneficial for the farmer to depend upon monsoon rains, which are erratic and undependable. A large portion of the cultivable land in India is not well irrigated and is dependent entirely upon rains. As a result, when rains are late or are inadequate, there is a heavy loss of income for the farmers as well as for the nation's economy. Therefore, to avoid such situations, it is important for the entire cultivable area of the country to be brought under proper irrigation facilities for better output.

- 5) **Construct a table on the distribution of land among the 450 families of Palampur.**

Total area of land under cultivation in Palampur = 200 hectares

Number of families	Land in hectares	Condition of Living
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Number of families	Land in hectares	Condition of Living
150 families mostly of Dalits	Landless and they had no land for cultivation	Poor life – working on the fields of other large farmers
240 families of small farmers	Small fields less than 2 hectares per family	Not able to earn adequate income for family, from small piece of agricultural land
60 families of medium and large farmers	Comparatively large plots of more than 2 hectares and extending over 10 hectares or more	They led good life and able to save some money for future needs. Engage landless people in their farms/lands.

6) Why are the wages for farm labourers in Palampur less than minimum wages?

The minimum wage fixed by the government for a farm labourer is Rs. 60 per day but the farm labourers in Palampur get paid much less, about 35 to 40 rupees a day. The reason for this is the competition for work among the agricultural labourers in the village. Knowing that supply is much more than the demand, they themselves agree to work for wages that are lower than minimum wages.

7) What are the different ways of increasing production on the same piece of land? Use examples to explain.

Multiple cropping and the use of Modern farming methods are the two common ways of increasing production on the same piece of land. Multiple cropping involves growing more than one crop on a piece of land during the year. For example, farmers in the western parts of Uttar Pradesh practice multiple cropping. During the rainy season (kharif), they grow jowar and bajra which is used as cattle feed. It is followed by the cultivation of potato between October and December. In the winter season (rabi), they sow wheat. The other way of increasing yield is by adopting modern farming methods.

Modern farming methods involve the use of high-yielding variety seeds, irrigation, and chemical fertilizers and pesticides to produce maximum output from the same piece of land. The high yielding varieties of seeds produce much greater amounts of grain on a single plant than the traditional varieties. As a result, much larger quantity of food grains can be produced from the same piece of land.

8) Describe the work of a farmer with 1 hectare of land.

The situation of a farmer with 1 hectare of land is truly problematic.

- (i) Income from small land is barely enough to meet the family needs for survival;
- (ii) Loan requirement (often taken at high interest rates) for purchasing tools, seeds, fertilizers etc. for farming creates an additional burden on farmer. It even sometimes results into engaging family members to work on the moneylender's farms;
- (iii) Uncertainty of agricultural output because of factors like dependency on rains, electricity for irrigation etc.

- (iv) After harvest, there is little or no surplus left as almost all the produce is either used for his needs or for repaying his lenders. The lack of savings prevents him from adopting better farming practices and improving the conditions on his farm and in his house.
- (v) As he is left with almost no working capital, his situation at the end of the day is still the same. He is still in need of money to start working on his farm, and for this, he takes more loans. Thus, he remains in the vicious circle of loans.

9) How do the medium and large farmers obtain capital for farming? How is it different from the small farmers?

Medium and large farmers retain a part of their produce and sell the surplus in the market. This provides them with the required capital for farming. Most of them even use these earnings to provide loans to small farmers. By charging high rates of interest on these loans, they succeed in increasing their earnings further. Thus, medium and large farmers have ready capital with them from one agricultural season to the next.

Small farmers on the other hand are not able to save anything due to their limited earning from small land size. To begin working on their farms, they take loans at high rates of interest. Due to the small sizes of their farms, their total production is small. Their produce is kept for their needs or for repaying their lenders. As a result, they have no surplus to sell in the market, and thus, have no savings.

10) On what terms did Savita get a loan from Tejpal Singh? Would Savita's condition be different if she could get a loan from the bank at a low rate of interest?

Savita required money for buying seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, and water for irrigation. She also needed money for repairing her farm instruments. So, she decided to borrow money from Tejpal Singh, a large farmer in her village. Tejpal Singh agreed to give the loan of Rs. 3000 at an interest rate of 24% for 4 months. He also made her agree to work on his field during the harvest season for Rs. 35 a day. Knowing that it would be difficult for a small farmer like her to get a loan, she agreed to these tough conditions.

If she could get a loan from a bank, then her situation would definitely be different. First of all, she would have got the loan at a reasonable rate of interest, which she could easily repay. Secondly, she would be able to focus her entire attention on her farm and bring up her 3 children in a far better way by devoting more time to family.

11) What can be done so that more non-farm production activities can be started in villages?

Three things that need to be done to encourage non-farm production activities in villages:

- (i) The government should set up schemes whereby landless labourers and small farmers are able to get cheap loans to start small individual/community businesses.
- (ii) In addition to financial assistance, the government should set up rural workshops to enable the villagers to build on their skill levels.
- (iii) The government should also work towards improving the infrastructure of villages so that the rural parts of the country are well connected to the urban areas.