1. You have probably noticed that people in Kalpattu are engaged in a variety of non-farm work. List five of these.

Solution 1:

The various farm activities are listed below:

1. Trading
2. Teaching
3. Blacksmith

2. List the different types of people you read about in Kalpattu who depend on farming. Who is the poorest among them and why?

Solution 2:

Different types of people who depend on farming are given below:

1. Landless farmers
2. Small landowners
3. Big landowners

Landless farmers are the poorest among them because their daily wage is very less and they have to depend on landowners for the farming job. Moreover farming is a seasonal job, hence during the non-farming season, they have to go in search of other low-income jobs. Whenever someone in the family falls ill, all their savings and earnings are lost.

3. Imagine you are a member of a fishing family and you are discussing whether to take a loan from the bank for an engine. What would you say?

Solution 3:

The bank is a reliable source of the loan, may not fall into the debt trap.

4. Poor rural labourers like Thulasi often do not have access to good medical facilities, good schools, and other resources. You have read about inequality in the first unit of this text. The difference between her and Ramalingam is one of inequality. Do you think this is a fair situation? What do you think can be done? Discuss in class.

Solution 4:

All are equal in the eyes of the constitution. It is the duty of the government to provide basic facilities.

5. What do you think the government can do to help farmers like Sekar when they get into debt? Discuss.
Solution 5:

1. Provide subsidies for fertilizers and pesticides.
2. Provide low-interest loans.

6. Compare the situation of Sekar and Ramalingam by filling out the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sekar</th>
<th>Ramalingam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land cultivated</td>
<td>Around 2 acres</td>
<td>Around 20 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Required</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Required in large numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans Required</td>
<td>Yes for seeds and fertilisers</td>
<td>Yes for setting up for rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelling of Harvest</td>
<td>Sell at low cost to lenders</td>
<td>Sell at a high cost to traders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other work done by them</td>
<td>Work as labourers in Ramalingam rice mills</td>
<td>Own rice mills and several shops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>