

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: Peasant Movements in the 19th Century - Rangpur Dhing [NCERT Notes]

The Rangpur Dhing (rebellion) erupted in the district of Rangpur, Bengal in 1783. It was a protest by the peasants and the Zamindars against the very high demands of revenue by the government.

#### Causes of the Rangpur Dhing

- The East India Company was intent on squeezing out maximum revenue from the peasants.
- At that time, the Ijaradari system was in place according to which the ijardar/ izaredar (revenue farmer) was contracted by the Company to pay revenue that was fixed either annually or every 5 years on a piece of land. The company would auction off the land to the highest bidder (who became the ijardar).
- The ijardar was not interested in the welfare of the farmers who cultivated the land under him or in the development of the land.
- His sole aim was to squeeze out maximum revenue from the farmers so that he could pay the company and also earn some profit for himself.
- Agrarian economy suffered a lot under the various 'experiments' by the British on the land revenue system. Famines became commonplace and rural indebtedness surged. The farmers became mired in deep poverty.
- The tax rates were so high that the farmers found it almost impossible to pay the revenue.
- The zamindars also suffered under this system since the revenue demands were placed on him and he stood to lose his zamindari if he defaulted.
- The ijardars resorted to oppressive means to extract the revenue. Debi Singh, who was the ijardar of Rangpur and Dinajpur was especially severe.

#### The Uprising

- Debi Singh practiced extremely harsh measures against the peasants.
- When the peasants sent a petition to the company asking for relief, it did not pay any heed to the farmers' grievances. This led to the farmers taking things into their own hands.
- The uprising started on January 18, 1783 when peasants and zamindars took control of the parganas of Kakina, Kazirhat and Tepa in district Rangpur.
- They attacked the courts, looted grains and released prisoners. For a whole 5 weeks, these areas were under the control of the rebels who appointed a nawab and other officials for running a parallel government.
- One of the main leaders of the revolt was Kena Sarkar.
- They forbid all revenue payments to the company.
- The uprising spread to Dinajpur also.

- Ultimately, the uprising was put down by the British and many rebels were killed.

### Effect of the Rangpur Dhing

- This uprising brought to light the weaknesses of the ijardari system.
- Though the rebellion was suppressed, the government brought about some reforms in the farming system.
- It paved the way for a more permanent system of land revenue.
- This rebellion saw unity between Hindus and Muslims.

