

on the way so that the herds could graze in harvested fields and manure the soil.

Q.3. Who were Dhangars? Why were they continuously move?

A: Dhangars were an important pastoral community of Maharashtra. Most of them were shepherds, some were blanket weavers and others were buffalo herders. They moved continuously between the central plateau of Maharashtra and Konkan in the west.

Dhangar flocks manured the fields and fed on the stubble. The Konkani peasants also gave supplies of rice which the shepherds took back to the plateau where grain was scarce.

Q.4. Discuss the lifestyle of Banjaras.

A: 1) They were a well-known group of graziers. They were found in the villages of U.P, Punjab, Rajasthan, M.P and Maharashtra.

2) They were constantly on move in search of good pastures.

3) They also sold plough cattle and other goods to villagers in exchange for grain and fodder.

Q.5. How did the life of pastoralists change under colonial rule?

A: 1) The grazing grounds of the pastoralists shrank.

ii) Their movements were regulated and the revenue they had to pay was increased -

iii) Their agricultural stock declined and their trades and crafts were adversely affected.



Q.6. List the laws introduced by the colonial govt which was unfavourable to nomadic pastoralists. Explain how the laws changed the lives of pastoralists.

A: 1) Waste Land rules: The colonial govt wanted to transform all grazing lands into cultivated farms to increase their land revenue. By the waste land rules, uncultivated land were brought under cultivation. The expansion of cultivation led to the decline of pastures and a problem for pastoralists.

2) Forest Acts: Under these Acts, forests were classified into 'Reserved forests' and 'Protected forests'. No pastoralist was allowed access to Reserved forests and they needed a permit for entry in the protected forests. The permit specified the periods in which they could be legally within a forest. It severely restricted their movement.

3) Criminal Tribes Act: By this Act of 1871, many communities of craftsmen, traders and pastoralists were classified as Criminal Tribes. These communities were expected to live only in notified village settlements. They were not allowed to move out without a permit.

4) Grazing Tax: Pastoralists had to pay tax on every animal they grazed on the pastures. To enter a grazing tract, a cattle herder had to show the pass and pay the tax. It reduced their income and the land for grazing.