

Contemporary India --9

Imposition of heavy duty on the Indian export goods

England imposed heavy duty on the goods to be exported from India. It patronized the British industry. On the other hand, the government of India imposed light duty on the goods imported into India so that these could be sold in the Indian market easily. Thus, it affected the Indian trade and industry from both sides and resulted in the ruin of trade and industry.

Policy of free trade

In 1833 A. D., the British Government declared the policy of free trade which destroyed the small-scale industry completely. As a result of tax-free trade, the British began to get the raw materials at a very low price and as such, the goods manufactured in the British factories began to be sold cheaply in the Indian market. The Indian goods being costly could not get sold in the market. Hence, the small-scale industry was almost ruined.

Influence on Big Industries

Under the British administrative policy affected the big industries of the country in the following ways:

I. The development of the big industries was quite slow in the country.

II. The Indian industrialists were not provided with any help by the British government.

III. The lack of fundamental industries did not permit the industrial development in India. For example, the production of steel began in India in the year A. D. 1913.

IV. The Indian industries were established in some exclusive parts of the country which contributed to further regional economic inequality.

Drain of India's wealth

The drain of India's wealth to England did not prove to be fruitful to the Indians in economic, commercial and material spheres at all because England was always worried of its own commercial interest and it wanted to drain the wealth of India to England as much as possible. This policy of England was named as the 'Drain of Wealth'. The source of this drain of wealth were trade, favourable import and export policy of the English, revenue system, production of raw material, commercialization of agriculture, railway and means of transportation. It was said that English bleeding, India white.

This policy of the English made India financially bankrupt and economically crippled.