

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q1(e)

Write a short note a changing means of production and increased rural poverty

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Rural and Agrarian transformation in India

Rural and Agrarian transformation in India: Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes; Green revolution and social change; Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture; Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

Core demand of the question

- Write a short note on changing means of production and increased rural poverty
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Green Revolution and machines changed who commands farm surplus.

Labour demand fell and work became casual and migrant.

Incomplete land reform left labourers weak, as Desai argued.

Debt and rainfed exclusion produce poverty beside plenty.

New means of production are not the same as rural welfare.

Introduction

Rural poverty has not simply fallen because ploughs became tractors. Changing means of production—seed, tube well, machine, and hired labour—have recast who owns surplus and who sells cheap work. For many households, that shift has meant new poverty beside new wealth.

Body

What changed in production

- **Green Revolution** inputs raised yields in irrigated belts and cheapened older landlord rents in some tracts.
- Tractors, harvesters, and herbicides cut demand for attached labour and for women's weeding work.
- Land fragmentation, **reverse tenancy**, and contract farming moved control toward those who command capital, not only those who hold a plough.

Why poverty can rise with 'modern' means

- **A. R. Desai** read incomplete land reform as strengthening rich peasants more than labourers.
- **Casualisation** and circular migration turn the village poor into a reserve army for town and farm.
- Debt for seed, diesel, and health, as later farmer-suicide belts showed, can pauperise even small owners.
- Drought and rainfed districts missed the input package, so regional poverty gaps widened.

Sociological point

- Means of production changed faster than property rights and social security.
- Caste-land overlap, as in Srinivas's dominant caste, still decides who captures the machine.

Flow diagram

New means seed machine credit -> Rich peasant surplus
New means seed machine credit -> Shed labour migration
Shed labour migration -> Rural poverty insecurity
Debt -> Rural poverty insecurity

Conclusion

Changing farm technology redistributes surplus. It does not automatically cut rural poverty. Where labour is shed, debt is private, and land remains concentrated, new means of production can increase the poor's insecurity.

Facts & figures**Green Revolution**

Input package that raised yields in irrigated regions and recast agrarian classes.

A. R. Desai

Saw land reform as incomplete bourgeois change that did not free rural labour.

Casualisation

Shift from attached farm servants to daily and migrant wage work.

Reverse tenancy

Capital-rich farmers leasing in from small owners, concentrating operational control.