

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(b)

Illustrate the contribution of the Tebhaga Movement to the peasants struggle in India

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Social Movements in Modern India

Social Movements in Modern India: Peasants and farmers movements; Women's movement; Backward classes and Dalit movement; Environmental movements; Ethnicity and Identity movements.

Core demand of the question

- Illustrate the contribution of the **Tebhaga** Movement to the peasants struggle in India
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Tebhaga demanded two-thirds of the crop for the sharecropper.

Kisan Sabha organisation made it a mass peasant movement in Bengal.

It placed class tenancy at the heart of the freedom-era agrarian question.

Women and bargadars joined harvest defence.

Its unfinished legal lesson returned in **Operation Barga**.

Introduction

Tebhaga in 1946-47 Bengal was a sharecropper demand that the bargadar keep two-thirds of the crop. It turned a local tenure grievance into a landmark of India's peasant struggle.

Body

The demand

- Under the adhiari system the landlord often took half or more. **Tebhaga** meant two shares for the tiller and one for the owner, backed by the **Floud Commission's** logic.
- The Bengal Provincial **Kisan Sabha** and Communist organisers carried the slogan into north Bengal districts such as Dinajpur and Rangpur.
- Women, including tribal and Muslim bargadars, joined harvest guarding, so the struggle was not only a male union story.

Contribution to peasant struggle

- It showed that the agrarian question is class on the field, which A. R. Desai placed at the centre of Indian society, not only caste custom.
- **It linked tenancy law to organisation:** recording the tiller later became the lesson of **Operation Barga** in West Bengal.
- It joined anti-colonial timing with a class demand, so independence was not left as a landlord's freedom alone.

Limit

- Repression, Partition, and uneven leadership stopped a lasting tenure revolution in 1947.
- **The contribution is a repertoire:** share, record, and collective harvest defence, reused in later left agrarian politics.

Flow diagram

Adhiari half share -> Tebhaga two-thirds

Tebhaga two-thirds -> Kisan Sabha organisation

Kisan Sabha organisation -> Later Operation Barga memory

Conclusion

Tebhaga contributed a clear class claim, mass peasant organisation, and a memory that tenancy must be rewritten. It did not finish land reform, but it taught later struggles how to name the bargadar as the tiller.

Facts & figures

Tebhaga

1946-47 Bengal movement for two-thirds share to the bargadar.

Floud Commission

Official inquiry whose tenancy findings peasants used as a moral warrant.

Kisan Sabha

Peasant body that organised Tebhaga in north Bengal.

Operation Barga

Later West Bengal recording of sharecroppers that inherited Tebhaga's tiller claim.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-2/2019/illustrate-the-contribution-of-the-tebhaga-movement-to-the-peasants-struggle-in-india/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com