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CHAPTER

PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

TYPES OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Q.1 Define the term **economic activities**.

Ans. Human activities which generate income are known as *economic activities*. Economic activities are broadly grouped into primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities.

Q.2 Describe four different **groups/types of economic activities**.

Ans. Economic activities are broadly grouped as Primary activities, Secondary activities, Tertiary activities and Quaternary activities.

1. **Primary activities**: - it refers to extraction/utilization of raw materials from the earth's surface. These include hunting, gathering, pastoralism, fishing, forestry, mining and agriculture.
2. **Secondary activities**: - it includes industries that transform raw materials into finished goods having higher value. For example manufacturing cotton textiles from raw cotton, and iron and steel from iron ore.
3. **Tertiary activities**: - it includes all kinds of services provided to the people such as education, health, trade and transport.
4. **Quaternary activities**: - it represents special kinds of services, which are related to highly intellectual activities. For example research and development service, information generation, information processing and transmission.

HUNTING AND FOOD GATHERING

Q.3 Mention the two things on which the earliest human being depended.

Ans. The earliest human beings depended on their immediate environment for their sustenance. They depended on:

1. Animals which they hunted
2. Edible plants which they gather from the forests.

Q.4 Describe the characteristics of **hunters and food gatherers**.

Ans. The characteristics of hunters and gatherers are:

1. This activity is practised in regions with harsh climatic conditions.
2. People migrate frequently in search of food.
3. People live in small groups and have no private property.
4. Simple implements are used for hunting.
5. Locally available materials are used for their clothing and shelter.
6. The yield per person is very low and little or no surplus is produced.

Q.5 Name the **regions of hunting and gathering** in the world.

Ans. The hunters and gatherers live in a wide variety of habitats having different climates and biological resources. It is practised in:

1. They live in harsh climates of polar areas which include northern Canada, northern Eurasia and southern Chile;
2. They live in tropical rain forests of low latitude zones such as the Amazon Basin, tropical Africa, northern fringe of Australia and the interior parts of Southeast Asia.

PASTORALISM: -

Q.6 Name two **types of animal rearing**.

Ans. Depending on geographical factors, technological development animal rearing is practised either as:

1. Pastoral Nomadism
2. Commercial livestock rearing.

Pastoral Nomadism or Nomadic Herding

Q.7 What is **Nomadic herding/pastoral nomadism**? Describe any four main features of it.

Ans. Nomadic herding is a subsistence activity depending on animals.

1. The people depend on animals for food, clothing, shelter and transport.
2. The people do not live a settled life. They move from one place to another.
3. Each nomadic community occupies a well-defined territory.
4. Their animals depend entirely on natural vegetation.
5. These nomads migrate with their animals with change in seasons which is called transhumance.
6. The social status of a person is measured by the number of cattle he possesses.

Q.8 Name the animals reared in areas of nomadic herding.

Ans. A wide variety of animals is kept in different regions.

1. In tropical Africa, cattle are the most important livestock,
2. In Sahara and Asiatic deserts, sheep, goats and camel are reared.
3. In the mountainous areas of Tibet and Andes, yak and llamas.
4. In the Arctic and sub Arctic areas, reindeer are the most important animals.

Q.9 Mention one important feature of each of the three broad **regions/areas associated with Pastoral Nomadism in the world**.

Ans. Pastoral nomadic people live in areas of grasslands. They live in areas which are either too hot or too cold. They live in three broad regions:-

1. The largest/core region extends from Sahara desert in Africa to Mongolia and Central China. This region includes Sahara desert, Arabian deserts, Savannas of Africa, Asian mountainous and plateau regions. It is hot and dry region.
2. Tundra region in Eurasia. It is cold and dry region.
3. South West Africa and the island of Madagascar. It is a temperate region.

Q.10 Define **Transhumance**. Also give areas associated with transhumance in the world.

Ans. The seasonal migration of people with their animals in search of pastures and water is known as transhumance. Examples of transhumance are:

- i. In the mountainous regions such as the Himalaya, Gujjars migrate with their animals from the plains to the mountains in summers and from mountains to the plains in winters.
- ii. In tundra region these people migrate from south to north in summers and from north to south in winters.

Q.11 Why the numbers and areas of pastoral nomads have been decreasing?

Ans. This is due to: -

- (a) Imposition of political boundaries: - Now they can not move freely in their regions due to formation of different countries.
- (b) New settlement plans by different countries: - Many countries have used their grazing lands for resettlement colonies and agriculture.

PASTORALISM: - Commercial Livestock Rearing

Q.12 What is **commercial livestock rearing**? Describe the main features of Commercial Livestock Rearing (Ranching).

Ans. The capital intensive and organised rearing of animals on scientific lines is called commercial livestock rearing.

The main features of Commercial Livestock rearing are:

1. It is practised in permanent ranches.
2. The rearing of animals is being undertaken scientifically.
3. Fodder crops and grasses are cultivated to feed the animals.
4. Special breeds of animals are reared to give maximum yields of milk and meat.
5. Great emphasis is given on genetic improvement, disease control and health care of animals.
6. Every activity is carried out mechanically.
7. It is mostly practised in developed countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Argentina and United States of America.

Q.13 What are **permanent ranches**?

Ans. Ranches are large areas of pastures. These ranches are divided into a number of parcels which are fenced. When the grass of one parcel is grazed, animals are moved to another parcel. The number of animals in a ranch is kept according to the carrying capacity of pasture.

AGRICULTURE

Q.14 What are agricultural systems? How are they classified?

Ans. Different types of agriculture practised under different physical and socio-economic conditions are called agricultural systems.

They are classified on the basis of:

- (a) Methods of farming,
- (b) Type of crops grown
- (c) Type of livestock kept.

TYPES OF AGRICULTURE

Q.15 Distinguish between subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture.

Ans. The agriculture systems of the world are grouped into subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture. The differences between the two are:

- i. In the subsistence agriculture the products are consumed by the farmers' family whereas in the commercial agriculture products are sold in the market.
- ii. In subsistence agriculture the farms size is small whereas in commercial agriculture it is large in size.
- iii. In subsistence agriculture the yield per acre is high whereas in commercial agriculture it is low.
- iv. In subsistence agriculture large number of labour is used whereas in commercial specialized machinery is used.
- v. In the subsistence agriculture system farming is very traditional whereas in commercial agriculture it is like the business enterprise.

Q.16 Explain the two types of **subsistence agriculture** systems in the world.

Ans. There are three traditional subsistence agriculture systems in the world:

i. **Primitive subsistence or Shifting agriculture:**

- a. It is the most primitive form of agriculture.
- b. It is mainly practiced by tribes in the tropical forest of Africa, Asia and Central America.
- c. Natural vegetations are cut and burnt to make a clearing in the forests and the ash is used to increase the fertility of the soil.
- d. Fields are small and simple tools are used for cultivation.
- e. After a few years of cultivation, the soil's fertility gets exhausted and then the farmer moves to new land and repeats the whole process of clearing the forest.
- f. Farmers return to earlier fields after 5-6 years.
- g. It is also known as slash and burn agriculture.
- h. It is prevalent in tropical regions and known by different names, e.g. **Jhuming** in North eastern states of India, **Milpa** in Central America and Mexico and **Ladang** in Indonesia and Malaysia.

ii. **Intensive subsistence agriculture:**

- a. It is of two types: intensive cultivation dominated by wet paddy and intensive cultivation dominated by crops other than paddy.
- b. It is practiced in densely populated countries of monsoon Asia such as China and India.
- c. Yield per acre is high due to high input of family labour.
- d. Fields are small due to high density of population.
- e. Most of the work is done by labour.
- f. Farm yard manure is used to maintain fertility of the soil.
- g. The rice, wheat, soyabean and barley are the important crops grown in this agriculture.
- h. Crop specialization is not possible.
- i. Multiple cropping and intercropping is common in this system.

Q.17 Describe the main features of **plantation agriculture**.

Ans. **Plantation agriculture:**

- i. Europeans in their colonies introduced new agriculture system known as plantation agriculture.
- ii. It is large-scale profit-oriented farming.
- iii. Main crops grown are tea, coffee, cocoa, cotton, sugarcane and rubber.
- iv. Large estates or plantations are made where single crop is grown.
- v. Capital investment is huge due to construction of factories on the field.
- vi. Cultivation is done by scientific methods.
- vii. Skilled managers and technical staff are employed.
- viii. Only one specialized crop is grown.
- ix. Plantations are linked with market through good transportation.
- x. Crops are exported.

Q.18 Name important plantation crops introduced by European in different countries.

Ans. Important plantation crops are:

- i. Cocoa and coffee plantations in West Africa established by the French.
- ii. Tea gardens in India and Sri Lanka established by British.
- iii. Rubber plantation in Malaysia.
- iv. Sugarcane and Banana plantations in West Indies.
- v. Coconut and sugarcane in Philippines established by Americans.
- vi. Sugarcane plantations in Indonesia established by the Dutch.

Q.19 Describe the main features of **extensive commercial grain cultivation**.

Ans. Specialized commercial agricultural systems:

- i. High agriculture production is achieved through efficient and more specialized agricultural machines.
- ii. It is practised in interior parts of semi-arid lands.
- iii. Wheat is the important crop grown in this agriculture. Other crops such as cotton, Corn, barley are also grown.
- iv. The size of farm is very large therefore extensive cultivation is done.
- v. The yield per acre is low but the yield per person is high due to low population density.
- vi. It is practised in temperate grasslands such as Steppes of Europe, Prairies of America, Pampas of Argentina, Velds of South Africa, Downs of Australia.

Q.20 Describe the main features of **mixed farming**.

Ans. Mixed farming is a type of farming in which cultivation of crops and raising livestock goes hand in hand. Its main features are:

- i. This form of agriculture is found in the highly developed parts of the world, e.g. North-western Europe, Eastern North America, parts of Eurasia and the temperate latitudes of Southern continents.
- ii. Mixed farms are moderate in size.
- iii. Equal emphasis is laid on crop cultivation and animal husbandry.
- iv. Fodder crops are an important component of mixed farming.
- v. Crop rotation and intercropping play an important role in maintaining soil fertility.
- vi. It is characterized by high capital expenditure on farm machinery and building, extensive use of chemical fertilizers and green manures.
- vii. The crops associated with it are wheat, barley, oats, rye, maize, fodder and root crops.
- viii. Animals like cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry provide the main income along with crops.

Q.21 Describe the main features of **dairy farming**.

Ans. Dairy farming is a type of agriculture in which major emphasis is on breeding and rearing milch cattle. Its main characteristics are:

- i. It is highly capital intensive. Large investments are made on Animal sheds, storage facilities for fodder, feeding and milching machines.
- ii. Special emphasis is laid on cattle breeding, health care and veterinary services.
- iii. It is also highly labour intensive as it involves painstaking care in feeding and milching.
- iv. There is no off-season during the year.
- v. It is practised mainly near urban and industrial market.
- vi. Dairy farming development depends on transportation, refrigeration, pasteurisation and other preservation processes.
- vii. There are three main regions of commercial dairy farming are:
 - a. The largest is North Western Europe.
 - b. Second is Canada
 - c. The third belt includes South Eastern Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania.

Q.22 Why Dairy farming is practised mainly near urban and industrial centres?

Ans. Fresh Milk and dairy products produced in the dairy farming are easily sold in the neighbourhood urban market. Dairy products are perishable commodities therefore they have to be sold at the earliest. Urban centres are large market for the dairy products.

Q.23 Why dairy farming has increased on large-scale in recent years? **OR**
State the factors on which the development of dairy farming depends.

Ans. Dairy products are perishable commodities therefore the factors are:

- i. Transportation: Good transport system facilitates fast movement of dairy products between farms and the market.
- ii. Refrigeration, pasteurisation and other preservation processes increased the duration of storage of various dairy products.

Q.24 Describe the main features of **Mediterranean Agriculture**.

Ans. Mediterranean agriculture is highly specialized commercial agriculture.

- i. It is practised in the countries on either side of the Mediterranean Sea.
- ii. This region is an important supplier of citrus fruits such as grapes, oranges, olives and figs.
- iii. **Viticulture** or grape cultivation is a speciality of the Mediterranean region.
- iv. Best quality wines are produced from high quality grapes, grapes are dried into raisins and currants.
- v. The advantage of Mediterranean agriculture is that more valuable crops such as fruits and vegetables are grown in winters when there is great demand in European and North American markets.

Q.25 Describe the main features of **market gardening and horticulture**.

Ans. Cultivation of high value crops such as vegetables, flowers and fruits only for the urban markets is called horticulture and market gardening.

- i. It specializes in the cultivation of high value crops such as vegetable, fruits and flowers.
- ii. Crops are cultivated exclusively for the urban markets.
- iii. Farms are small and are located near urban market.
- iv. It is both labour and capital intensive.
- v. It lays emphasis on the use of irrigation, HYV seeds, fertilisers, insecticides, greenhouses and artificial heating in colder regions.
- vi. This type of agriculture is well developed in densely populated industrial areas of Europe, U.S.A. and the Mediterranean regions.
- vii. Netherlands specializes in the cultivation of Flowers and horticultural crops which are flown to all major cities.
- viii. Factory farming and truck farming are its two types.

Q.26 What is **truck farming**?

Ans. The regions where farmers specialise in vegetables only, the farming is known as **truck farming**. The distance of truck farms from the market is governed by the distance that a truck can cover overnight, hence the name truck farming.

Q.27 What is **factory farming**?

Ans. Raising of livestock, particularly poultry and cattle rearing, with heavy capital and specialization is called factory farming.

- i. It is done in stalls and pens.
- ii. Livestock is fed on manufactured feedstuff.
- iii. It is carefully supervised against diseases.
- iv. This requires heavy capital investment in terms of building, machinery for various operations, veterinary services and heating and lighting.
- v. One of the important features of poultry farming and cattle rearing is breed selection and scientific breeding.

Q.28 Name two types of farming classified on the basis of farming organization.

Ans. On the basis of farming organisation farming is classified into:

- Co-operative farming
- Collective farming.

Q.29 Give differences between co-operative farming and collective farming.

Ans. the differences are:

- i. Co-operative farming is initiated by a group of farmers whereas collective farming is initiated by the government.
- ii. In co-operative farming farmers pool in their resources, except land, voluntarily whereas in collective farming farmers pool in all resources including land.
- iii. Farmers help each other voluntarily in co-operative farming whereas in collective farming farmers are allotted work by the management.
- iv. In co-operative farming farmers sell their products in open market whereas in collective farming they sell the products to the government at fixed prices.

Q.30 Describe important features of **co-operative farming**.

Ans. **Co-operative farming**

- i. Farming is done under a cooperative society formed by a group of farmers.
- ii. All farmers of the society pool in their resources voluntarily for more efficient and profitable farming.
- iii. Individual farms remain intact and farming is a matter of cooperative initiative.
- iv. Co-operative societies help farmers, to procure all important inputs of farming, sell the products at the most favourable terms and help in processing of quality products at cheaper rates.
- v. Co-operative is successful in many western European countries like Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Italy etc.
- vi. In Denmark, the movement has been so successful that practically every farmer is a member of a co-operative.

Q.31 Describe important features of **Collective Farming/Kolkhoz**.

Ans. **Collective Farming**

- i. Farming is based on social ownership of the means of production and collective labour.
- ii. It was introduced in erstwhile Soviet Union.
- iii. It was also known as **Kolkhoz** in Soviet Union.
- iv. The farmers pool in all their resources like land, livestock and labour.
- v. Yearly targets are set by the government and the produce is also sold to the state at fixed prices.
- vi. Members are paid according to the nature of the work allotted to them by the farm management.

Methods of MINING

Q.32 What are the **two types of mining**?

Ans. There are two types of mining:

- i. **Surface mining**: it is also known as open-cast mining. Mining of minerals lying close to the surface is called surface mining. The top layers of earth are removed by digging, blasting or drilling. It is the easiest type of mining. Costs are low due to less expenditure on safety precaution and equipments. The output is large and rapid.

- ii. **Underground mining:** It is also known as shaft method of mining. The extraction of minerals lying deep inside the earth is called underground mining. It is very risky and dangerous. In this kind of mining vertical and horizontal tunnels are made through which minerals are transported to the surface. It requires lifts, ventilation system, loading machines and drills.
Surface mining is a largest of all types of mining in the world.

Q.33 Why the method of underground mining very risky?

Ans. Underground mining is very risky and every year large number of miners dies due to: -

- i. Emission of poisonous gases such as methane.
- ii. Accidental fires in the tunnels.
- iii. Flooding due to seepage of underground water.
- iv. Caving of roofs and tunnels due to water.

FACTORS INFLUENCING MINING ACTIVITIES

Q.33 Describe the factors which influenced mining activities.

Ans. The factors which influence mining activities are:

- i. **Physical factors:** the characteristics of ores such as size, depth and quality influence mining. If the mineral is found in sufficient quantity and is not found very deep, it will be mined profitably.
- ii. **Economic factor:** the cost of mining, demand in the market, availability of technology and capital, supply of labour determines mining activities.

Q.34 Why the developed economies are retreating from mining activities?

Ans. The developed countries are withdrawing from mining activities due to:

- i. High labour costs.
- ii. Cheap imports from developing countries.
- iii. Strict environmental laws in developed countries.

Q.35 Explain 3 reasons for the increasing use of minerals in the world.

Ans. The increasing use of minerals in the world is due to:

- i. Mineral production provides large export earnings for the developing countries.
- ii. It provides employment to millions of miners.
- iii. Minerals are used in various industries.
- iv. Rising standard of living of the people has increased the demand for various minerals.