

# The Story of village Palampur

Date

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## Questions & Answers

2) Modern farming methods require more inputs which are manufactured in industry. Do you agree?

→ No doubt, modern farming requires more inputs than traditional farming methods. Most of these inputs like fertilizers, tools, and implements are manufactured in industry. HYV seeds are developed in agriculture research laboratories. Machine industry provides various kinds of implements, irrigation pumps, and farming machinery to improve productivity, and minimize farming efforts. Chemical and soil engineering based industries provide fertilizers and pesticides to boost agriculture. Water supply is done by canals and tanks. Electricity is supplied by powerhouses.

3) How did the spread of electricity help farmers in Palampur?

→ The spread of electricity helped the farmers in Palampur in the following ways:-

- Most of the houses have electricity connections.
- It is used to run tubewells in the field.
- It is used in various types of small businesses.

4) Is it important to increase the area under irrigation? Why?

→ Irrigation facilities are available only to about 40% of cultivated land area in the country. It means that the rest 60% of cultivated land depends on rainfall for irrigation. The benefit of multiple cropping cannot be obtained by 60% of the country's farmers. They produce less and so their income is low.

Thus, they live in poverty.

Therefore, if these farmers are to be brought out of poverty.

→ Therefore, if these farmers are to be brought out of poverty farm productivity has to increase. This is only possible when they use modern farming methods and dependable "irrigation facilities". Hence, it is important to increase the area under irrigation.

Q) Why are the wages for farm labourers in Palampur less than minimum wages?

→ A) Waged labourers might be employed on a daily basis, or for one particular farm activity like harvesting, or for the whole year. Most small farmers have to borrow money to arrange for the capital. They borrow from large farmers or the village moneylenders or the traders who

supply various inputs for cultivation. The rate of interest on such loans is very high. They are put to great distress to repay the loan. They pay very low wages to the farmers/farm labourers.

8) What are the different ways of increasing production on the same piece of land? Use examples to explain.

→ To grow more than one crop on a piece of land during the year is known as multiple cropping. It is the most common way of increasing production on a given piece of land. All farmers in Palampur grow at least 2 main crops; many are growing potato as the third crop in the past 15-20 years.

10) How do the medium and large farmers obtain capital for farming? How is it different from farmers of small scale? In contrast to the small farmers, the medium and large farmers have their own savings from farming. They are thus able to arrange for the capital needed.

11) Construct a table on the distribution of land among the 1450 families of Palampur.

Size of holdings	No. of families
Landless	150
More than 2 hect -are	60
0-2 hectares	240

12) Describe the work of a farmer with 1 hectare of land.

→ A farmer having 1 hectare of land for farming is called a subsistence farmer because 1 hectare of land is too less for even the sustenance of a small family.

- Production is very low and it is very difficult for the farmer to provide to his family.
- Apart from working in his own field, he has to work in the field of the rich farmers or work as a casual labourer to survive.
- The small farmer has no irrigation facilities.
- He has no working capital and he is not able to buy modern machinery, HYV seeds or insecticides and pesticides.
- In the absence of capital, he has to take a loan from money-lender who charges a high-interest rate, he is rarely able to repay the loan and eventually falls into a debt trap.

ii) On what terms did Pavita get a loan from Jeppal Singh? Would Pavita's condition be different if she could get a loan from the bank at a low rate of interest?

→ Pavita estimated that the working capital itself would cost a minimum of ₹3,000. She doesn't have the money, so she decides to borrow from Jeppal Singh, a large farmer. Jeppal Singh agrees to give Pavita the loan at an interest rate of 24% for four months, which is a very high interest rate. Pavita also had to promise to work on his field as a farm labourer during the harvest season at Rs. 100 per day.

→ If she could get a loan from the bank at a low rate of interest then she can concentrate on her land instead of working as a labourer in Jeppal Singh's farm at very low wage.

13) What are the non-farm production activities taking place in your region? Make a short list.

→ Some of the non-farm activities in my locality are:-

- Dairy
- Construction
- General stores
- Fishing
- Mining etc...

14) What can be done so that more non-farm production activities can be started in villages?

→ To promote more non-farm production activities in villages the following steps can be taken:

- Loans must be available for people at lower interest rates so that they can start up the non-farm activities.
- Proper markets should be set up so that the produced goods can be sold.
- The concerned authorities



must set up better trans-  
-portation between cities and  
villages so that the produ-  
-ced goods can be transpa-  
-rted to cities and more  
money can be earned  
through the non-farming  
activities.

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