**15. Towards Freedom**

**I. Answer the Following**

1. **How was trade with India profitable for the English East India Company?**

The English East India Company bought goods from India at cheaper rates and soldthem in England and other countries at high prices. This resulted in huge profits forthe Company.

1. **How did the British exploit the farmers?**

The British made the farmers pay very high taxes. They had to pay taxes even during floods and droughts. They were forced to grow indigo and cotton, which were bought at very low rates and sold at very high rates in England and other countries.

**3. Which factor sparked the First War of Independence?**

* A new rifle called the Enfield rifle had been introduced in India by the British.
* A rumour spread that the grease used in the wrapper of the bullets was made from the fat of cows and pigs. Soldiers had to bite off the greased wrapper of the bullet before loading it in the rifle.
* This was against the religious sentiments of both the Hindu and Muslim soldiers. They refused to use these rifles and revolted.

1. **What helped the British to suppress the First War of Independence?**

The following reasons made it easier for the British to suppress the First War of Independence.

* It did not spread to all parts of India.
* Indian soldiers did not have sufficient money and good weapons.
* The Revolt was not organized properly.

1. **How did modern education lead to the rise of nationalism in India?**

* Modern education awakened the spirit of unity among Indians. Educated Indians realized that the British wanted to keep India poor and backward. This realization united them.
* The feeling of nationalism grew stronger and resulted in the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885.

6. Write about Sepoy Mutiny.

A revolt by some sepoys or soldiers of the Indian army. The people of the country also participated in the Revolt. Many rulers such as Rani Lakshmi Bai, Begum Hazrat Mahal, Nana Sahib and Bahadur Shah Zafar and the people belonging to various sections of the society came together to fight against the oppressive rule of the English East India Company.

7. Why were the Indian ruler and princess unhappy with the British rule?

The British passed a law which stated that, if a ruler did not have a male child, that kingdom would be taken over by the British.

This made the Indian rulers and princess very unhappy.

8. Name some of the Social and religious reformers during the period of Independence.

* Raja Ram Mohan Roy
* Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar
* Rabindranath Tagore

9. India had trade relation with many countries. What were the main items of trade?

The Main items of trade were

* Spices
* Jewellery
* Textiles and
* Pearls

10. How did the British try to suppress the rise of nationalistic feeling of Indians?

* The British government passes many strict laws in order to suppress the rise of nationalistic feeling.
* They also used the policy of divide and rule to prevent the Hindus and Muslims from uniting against British.