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INDIA EXPORTSDURING THE REIGN OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT (1896 -1914)



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Abstract :

The development of transport in India had a major impact on the economic condition of the country and its development. This led to the revival of India's trade. The merchant class in Iraqi society emerged as the most important layer and became richer. The British government could not develop this important area in India. Export was an important source of the economy of India. The trade, whether it might be internal or foreign trade, because of transit and geographical location, the trade played a more important role in activating the trade in the country. The trade consisted of the export of India was based on several stages as follows : In 1869, the opening of the Suez Canal made the biggest impact in widening the scope of the trade in India. It facilitated the access to foreign ships, particularly the British ships at the port of Bombay to export transportation of cargo. The British government policy was to the development of trade in India. The increasing of agricultural and industrial production in India was on the prosperity of trade movement by increasing the export of goods. After the mid-nineteenth century to the earlier period of twentieth century, trade in India was development.

Key Words:- Reign of British , economic condition , society , British government , geographical location

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INTRODUCTION

India had commercial relations with the foreign countries from ancient times. The direct sea routes connecting India with the western countries were mainly two : the Persian Gulf route and the Red Sea route. The latter was rather hazardous due to the existence of a number of rocks, violent winds and thick fog. Therefore, sailors and merchants preferred the Persian Gulf route, which went from Baghdad in Iraq to Canton in China.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 reduced the voyage for cargo boats between London and Bombay. It squeezed the far distance of more than three months to nearly twenty-five days. For the first time in history, the new route made it possible to trade the Indian agricultural products on a large scale with Europe. The Indian seaboard was thus linked to the markets of England, France, Italy and Germany, while the extension of railways, post and telegraphs tended steadily to make the whole country as one market for all types of goods and services. During Dalhousie's era, it was still that food surpluses might be rotting in one part of India while people were dying of starvation in another part of the country.

Adopted the researcher in the study is based on tables and documents taken from Statement of the trade of British India with British possessions and foreign countries for the five years 1886-87 to 1890-91, Tables relating of the Trade of British India with British possessions and foreign countries 1895-1896 to 1899-1900 and also the secondary data, which have been collected from different sources.

The Export Important :

During 19th century, India exported various goods to different countries in the world as follows.

1. Sugar : India had been famous for the cultivation of sugarcane since ancient times. Sugar was one of the most important exported goods of India to the Britain and European countries during the second half of the 19th century as shown in the following tables. The major countries to which India had exported sugar were :

A. Britain : In 1896, the export of sugar to Britain was 1,056,988 cwt, and the cost of this import was Rs. 5,990,560. In 1898, it decreased to 253,700 cwt and the value was Rs 1,227,910. The growth rate of sugar export declined, however, the sugar prices remained highest in 1898 (Table 1).

B. Germany : In 1897, India's export of sugar to Germany was 1,203,309 cwt and the value was Rs. 12,788,050. It decreased in 1898, reached to 413,971 cwt and the value was as high as Rs. 4,338,130 (Table 2). Because of the famine during 1896-97 in India, the export volumes were less to European countries.

C. China : In 1894-95, the quantity of sugar exports from India to China was 113,506 cwt. However, the value of such export was less, which can be seen in (Table 3).

D. Austria-Hungary: In 1898-99, Austria-Hungary imported sugar from India the. The highest value of such import was Rs. 10,84,884. The statistical data of the quantity of sugar exported to Austria could not be available during the research (Table 4).

E. Iran-Persia : Iran imported the sugar from India. In 1898

Table 1: United Kingdom⁽¹⁾

Quantities /cwt	Value /Rs.	Years
977,788	4,917,180	1895
1,056,988	5,990,560	1896
447,143	1,887,640	1897
254,700	1,227,910	1898
528,139	183,656	1899

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Table 2: Germany ⁽²⁾

Quantities /cwt	Value /Rs.	Years
718,218	8,750,220	1895
758,806	8,757,390	1896
1,203,309	12,388,050	1897
413,971	4,338,130	1898
60,526	40,703	1899

Table 3: China ⁽³⁾

Quantities /cwt	Value /Rs.	Years
112,710	513,329	1893-1894
113,506	295,110	1894-1895
104,134	266,190	1895-1896
91,596	179,151	1896-1897
103,336	334,838	1897-1898
108,344	209,850	1898-1899

Table 4: Austria-Hungary

Value /Rs.	Years
131,379	1896-1897
1,044,532	1897-1898
1,084,884	1898-1899

of the import was Rs. 96,706. The statistical data of the quantity of sugar exported to Iran could not be available during the research (Table 5).

It can be seen from the above statistical data that the value of India's exports of sugar suffered fluctuations, ups and downs due to various reasons. Some of the major reasons are as follows :

- ❖ The fluctuations in the demand from European and British markets for sugar crop.
- ❖ Low domestic production of sugar as a result of natural disasters and famines, which resulted into lower export volumes.
- ❖ The policy of the British governors in India to determine the quantities of sugar export to the European

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countries.

Table 5: Iran (Persia).⁽⁵⁾

Value /Rs.	Years
92,681	1896-1897
57,442	1897-1898
96,706	1898-1899

2.Tea and Coffee : The tea and coffee were the most important items of India's exports to European countries and Britain. During the 19th century, in the year 1890, the export quantity of tea was 107,014,993 Lbs, while in 1880, the export of tea was 231,663 Lbs (see table 6). On the other hand, the coffee was exported to Britain followed by France and Australia. (see in the table 7)

Quantities /Lbs	Value /£ Table 6: Tea	Years
231,663	3,051,020	1880
505,029	3,054,240	1881
563,617	3,609,136	1882
467,120	3,699,49	1883
561,410	4,083,880	1884
/	/	1885
78,702,857	4,727,992	1886
87,514,505	5,174,440	1887
97,011,112	5,267,315	1888
103,760,104	5,277,649	1889
107,014,993	5,219,233	1890

See : Statement of the trade of British India with British possessions and foreign countries for the five years 1879-1880 to 1883-1884, printed by Eyre and Spottiswoode, London, 1885, No; 15-16, pp.21-22.

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See : Statement of the trade of British India with British possessions and foreign countries for the five years 1886-87 to 1890-91, printed for her majesty's stationery by Eyre and Spottiswoode, London, 1892, No ; 8-9, pp.38-39.

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Table 7: Coffee

1-United kingdom

Quantities /cwt	Value /Rs	Years
137,236	10,598,540	1895-1896
105,722	8,333,700	1896-1897
114,048	8,353,540	1897-1898
155,290	11,362,540	1898-1899
157,500	634,348	1899-1900

2- France

Quanties /cwt	Value /Rs	Years
101,769	7,478,700	1895-1896
71,871	5,132,430	1896-1897
76,856	4,725,190	1897-1898
83,543	4,264,690	1898-1899
96,853	281,459	1899-1900

3-Austria-Hungary

Quanties /cwt	Value /Rs	Years
17,809	1,437,460	1895-1896
7,061	553,180	1896-1897
5,280	378,510	1897-1898
9,139	674,630	1898-1899
2,667	11,566	1899-1900

See this date about coffee in : Tables relating of the Trade of British India with British possessions and foreign countries 1895-1896 to 1899-1900, printed for her Majesty's stationary offices by Wyman and Sons limited , London, 1901,No;14,15, pp.86-87.

3. Spices : It was one of the important exports from India to European countries and Britain. The trade of spices was known in India since the beginning of the growth of trade with the Middle East countries, especially the Arab Golf. Spices exported were of various types, such as, betel nuts, cassia, cardamoms, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, nutmegs, pepper, other sorts. Ginger was the most important item of Indian exports of spices. During 1886-1887, the total quantities of export of ginger was 14,927,926 Lbs and the value of this export worth £ 199,311(Table 8).

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Table 8: Spices Quantity of Exports of principal of Articles of Indian produce from British India.

Articles	1886-87	1887-88	1888-89	1889-1890	1890-91
Betel nuts	373,623	769,455	328,056	275,102	174,423
Cardamoms	295,446	155,201	377,241	145,607	175,638
Cassia	0	0	112	0	0
Cinnamon	16,815	11,215	12,530	10,758	15,271
Cloves	776	784	336	924	0
Ginger	14,927,926	9,510,564	10,212,971	6,918,681	4,190,594
Nutmegs	840	1,120	190	0	720
Pepper	9,054	7,146,236	7,666,007	8,249,100	11,891,814
Other sorts	6,548,509	6,801,633	6,503,832	7,094,814	8,029,548
Total	31,218,151	24,376,208	25,101,275	22,694,987	24,478,008

See :Spottiswoode of the trade of British India with British possessions and foreign countries for the five years 1886-87 to 1890-91, printed for her majesty's stationary by Eyre and Spotswood, London, 1892, No. 8, p.38.

4. Wheat: It was the important food crop of India. Britain was the most significant country that imported wheat from India. The value of import of the wheat in 1898-1899 was Rs. 45,32,385. The European countries that imported wheat from India included Belgium, France, Germany and also Egypt from gulf. In 1899-1900, Belgium imported wheat from India and the quantity was 2,122,710 cwt. France imported the highest quantity of wheat, which was 3,228,791 cwt. Similarly, in 1898-99, Germany imported wheat from India worth Rs. 1,30,282 and the highest value of the import of wheat from Egypt, in 1898-99, was Rs. 15,74,145.

5. Rice : Rice was another important food crop, which was produced in India on a large scale. Britain was the major country, which imported Indian rice which was known for its quality. In the years 1898-1899, the highest value of the import of rice reached to Rs. 2,090,367. Other countries which imported rice from India were Germany, Egypt and Iran. In 1898-99, Germany imported the rice of the highest value of Rs. 263,181, Egypt imported rice from India worth Rs. 4,118,190 and also Iran imported rice and the value was Rs. 1,80,585.⁽⁶⁾

6. Cotton : India was known for the cultivation of cotton since ancient times. Cotton had been one of the significant cash crops of India. The production of cotton increased during the pre-British era, especially after the application of the land revenue act. According to the act, the British government forced the Indian peasants to take cotton crops instead of food crops, particularly after the industrial revolution in England. Britain needed cotton as the raw materials for its textile industry. As the cotton cultivated in India was known for its good quality, it had a great demand from European markets. Consequently, India fulfilled the demand of cotton from European markets. The major countries that imported cotton from India were as follows:

Britain (UK) : Britain was the most important importing country of cotton from India. British emperors adopted a policy of agriculture in India, according to which, most of the agricultural land, which was used for food crops earlier, was used for the cultivation of industrial crops or cash crops. Britain had control over the quantities of cotton exported to European markets from India. The financial value of cotton exported from India to Britain is as follows:
Cotton Raw from India to United kingdom Export

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Value /Rs.	Years
5,161	1883-1884
31,157	1884-1885
84,927	1885-1886
42,078	1886-1887
/	1887-1888
15,450,64	1888-1889
18,668,404	1889-1890
16,502,77	1890-1891
/	1891-1892
/	1893-1894
768,372	1894-1895
1,564,895	1895-1896
887,85	1896-1897
423,554	1897-1898
411,884	1898-1899

The highest value of the cotton exported from India to Britain's in 1889-1890 was Rs. 1,86,68,404 and the lowest value the cotton export in 1884-1885 was Rs. 31,157. In 1896-1897, Indian cotton was exported to Australia worth Rs. 13,69,696. Italy was another importing country of Indian cotton, which imported the cotton of the value worth Rs. 16,26,548 in 1896-1897. The highest value of the cotton exported from India to Belgium was Rs. 17,43,724 in 1898-99. Germany's highest value of the cotton imported from India was worth Rs. 21,85,077 in 1896-97. In 1896-97, the highest value of the cotton exported from India to France was Rs. 9,74,494. In 1897-98, United States of America imported cotton from India worth Rs. 1,76,746. China had also imported the cotton from India as raw material to manufacture the cloth. The highest value of China's import of raw cotton from India in 1897-96 was Rs. 46,704. In 1896-97, the highest value for the import of cotton manufacture was Rs. 41,309. Thus, increasing demand for the cotton as raw materials proved beneficial for India.

The most important cities in India, from where the cotton was grown and exported to foreign countries, were Bombay, Madras, Sind, Bengal and Burma. Bombay was the most productive center of the cotton in the country and recorded the highest value for the export of raw cotton in 1898-99, which was Rs. 81,44,818.⁽⁷⁾

7. Tobacco : Tobacco was one of the important industrial or cash crops. It included the manufacturing of cigars. After the industrial revolution, which took place in Britain, British industries needed the various types of raw materials for manufacturing the various finished goods with an aim to export them and earn more profits from the trade. According to the new British policy regarding agriculture in India, most of the agricultural land was brought under the cultivation of cash or industrial crops like tobacco, sugarcane instead of cultivation food crops. British imposed restrictions on the farmers in India to cultivate tobacco in two types: manufactured and unmanufactured. In 1882, the highest amount of export of manufactured tobacco to European markets was 738,933 lbs. During the second half of the nineteenth century, in 1884, the highest amount of the export of unmanufactured tobacco was 18,577,276 lbs.⁽⁸⁾ In 1895-96, the United States was an important country, which imported tobacco from India worth Rs. 43,662. In 1897-98, the value of export of the tobacco was Rs. 44,869, in 1897-96 it was Rs. 43,336. In 1898-99, the value of export was Rs. 60,859, which was the highest value of the export of USA. This indicates the importance of this crop for the United States.⁽⁹⁾

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8. Opium : It was one of the important industrial crops in India. In 1886-87, the total volume of export to European markets was 131,630 cwt, and the value of the exported opium was Rs. 1,10,77,669. China was one of the most important countries that imported opium. In 1895-1896, China imported opium from India worth Rs. 63,53,818.⁽¹⁰⁾

9. Jute : It was one of the most important industrial crops which was exported to European markets. The British government imposed restrictions on Indian peasants to cultivate jute instead of food crops. Soon after the industrial revolution, Britain needed the raw materials in huge quantity to manufacture the finished goods. Jute was of two types : raw and manufactured. The manufactured jute included three types, viz. gunny bags-gunny cloth –twine, rope and other sorts. In 1884, the highest quantities of export of gunny bags to European markets was 63,645,984 lbs and the export of gunny cloth was worth 7,049,165 lbs. The major importing countries of jute were the United States, Egypt, Italy, France and Germany.⁽¹¹⁾

10. Indigo : It was one of the important industrial crops cultivated in India. Indigo had a great demand in European markets. The foremost importing country of indigo was Britain. In 1885-1886, Britain imported indigo from India worth Rs. 1,86,093. Other countries that imported indigo from India included the United States, Iran, Egypt, Italy, Germany, France and Australia.⁽¹²⁾

CONCLUSION :

Trade was an important source of the economy of India. The trade, whether it might be internal or foreign trade, because of transit and geographical location, the trade played a more important role in activating the trade in the country. The trade consisted of the export of India was based on several stages as follows :

1. In 1869, the opening of the Suez Canal made the biggest impact in widening the scope of the trade in India. It facilitated the access to foreign ships, particularly the British ships at the port of Bombay to export transportation of cargo.
2. The British government policy was to the development of trade in India.
3. The increasing of agricultural and industrial production in India was on the prosperity of trade movement by increasing the export of goods.
4. After the mid-nineteenth century to the earlier period of twentieth century, trade in India was development.

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