Chapter – 09 Civics

A Shirt in the Market

• This deals with steps involved in marking a shirt.

• A Cotton Farmer in Kurnool:

- (i) A small farmer grows cotton on his small piece of land. Once the harvesting is done, cotton balls are collected.
- (ii) These are taken to the local trader as the farmer had borrowed money from the trader to buy seeds, fertilisers, etc. for cultivation.
- (iii) Even though the market price is high, the trader buys it at a meagre price from the farmer.

• The Cloth Market of Erode:

- (i) The bi-weekly market of erode in Tamil Nadu is one of the biggest cloth markets in the world.
- (ii) Cloth made by weavers from all over comes here for sale.
- (iii) Instructions about the type of cloth to be made is given in advance.
- (iv) The weavers get yarn from the merchants and supply them the cloth.
- (v) It saves money of the weavers as they do not have to buy yarn. Likewise, the problem of selling the cloth is also taken care of.
- (vi) Since weavers do not know the price of the cloth, they are at a loss and get very small amount.

• The Garment Exporting Factory near Delhi:

- (i) Erode merchants sent the cloth to graments export centre in Delhi.
- (ii) The garments factory makes shirts to be sold to the chain of business from the US and Europe.
- (iii) They set standard of quality and time.
- (iv) Faced with pressure the garment centre tries to extract maximum work from their workders of the lowest cost.
- (v) Most hired workers are temporary and get low salary.

• The Shirt in the US:

- (i) The shirts sent from garments export centres are sold in dollars in the US.
- (ii) The shirts sold at Rs 200 by the garment export centre sell at Rs 1,200 in the US.
- (iii) Thus, a chain of markets links the producers of cotton to the buyers at the supermarket.

• Market and Equality:

- (i) Foreign businessman made huge profits in the market.
- (ii) Garment manufacturers only make moderate profits.
- (iii) Weavers at Erode market and small farmers don't make huge profit.
- (iv) Poor people have no option but to depend on the rich.
- (v) Poor are exploited in the market.
- (vi) Laws should be made to protect the interest of weavers and small farmers.