



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: HISTORY - I

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Lecture-40



MEDIEVAL INDIA

Market Reforms of Alauddin Khilji

The market reform of Alauddin Khilji was one of the most effective and far reaching economic regulations of the Sultanate period. It did not remain confined to rural economy but extended to urban market as well. He issued a set of seven regulations which came to be known as market control measures.

These measures were enacted to regulate the activities of the traders who brought grain to Delhi. The Sultan fixed the prices of all commodities from grain to cloths, slaves, cattle etc. A controller of market (shahna-i-mandi) intelligence officers (barids) and secret spies (munhiyan) were appointed. The grain merchants were placed under the Shahna-i-mandi. Re-grating (ihtikar) was prohibited.

While ensuring strict control in the market, the Sultan did not overlook the regular supply of grains and other things at lower prices. For controlling the food prices, Alauddin Khilji tried to control not only the supply of food grains from the villages, and its transportation to the city by the grain – merchants (Karwanis or banjaras) but also its proper distribution to the citizens.

His first effort was to see that there were sufficient stocks of food grains with the government so that the traders did not try to hike up prices by creating an artificial scarcity or indulging in profiteering (regarding). For this purpose royal stores were set up at Delhi.

Perhaps significant and lasting impact of these reforms was the furthering of the growth of a market economy in the villages and bringing about a more integral relationship between the town and the country, the furthering of the process of the internal restructuring of the sultanate.

Though Alauddin Khilji's market reforms were oriented more towards administrative and military necessities than internal restructuring but he adopted a holistic approach to see

the reform working properly. That is why he did not control the price of essential commodities only, for those meant for direct use by the military.

Instead he tried to control the price of everything from caps to socks, from combs to needles, vegetables, sweet meats to chapatis etc. Such widespread centralised control was found to influence every section of the society.

The price, control system affected trade severely. The merchants were unable to realise sufficient profits. The rule was enforced so rigidly that no corn-dealer, farmer or anyone else could hold back secretly a mound or half a mound of grain and sell it far above the fixed price.

MCQ

1. Why was the court Khilji's was multi-ethnic background of Persian, Indian, Arab and Turkish origin?

- A. Because they adopted the Khura Sanian urbane culture
- B. Because they adopted the Turkish Urban Culture
- C. Because they adopted the Iranian urbane Culture
- D. Because they adopted the policy of Sul-e- kul

2. Who was the founder of Khilji Dynasty?

- A. Malik Firoz
- B. Jalal-ud-din Firoz Shah
- C. Only A
- D. Both A & B

3. Who among the following Khilji Sultan made Kilokhari as his capital?

- A. Alauddin Khilji
- B. Jalal-ud-din Firoz Shah
- C. Muhammad-bin Bakhtiyar Khilji
- D. Mubarak Khilji

4. Which of the following Khilji's Sultan abolished all the agrarian and market control regulations of Alauddin Khilji?

- A. Malik Firoz
- B. Jalal-ud-din Firoz Shah
- C. Muhammad-bin Bakhtiyar Khilji
- D. Mubarak Khilji

5. Who introduced the policy of Dag and Chehra in Military?

- A. Khusru Malik
- B. Jalal-ud-din Firoz Shah
- C. Alauddin Khilji
- D. Mubarak Khilji

