Preface

As a structure or social formation, colonialism is from the beginning riven with inner contradictions whose characteristics change from stage to stage. The colonial state evolves its policies in part as the effort to resolve these inner contradictions at each stage of colonialism. It may be said that colonialism and the colonial state, and its policies, are best illuminated through a study of the numerous inner contradictions of colonialism.

The basic feature of colonialism in India in its long history since the 1750s was the appropriation by Britain of the social surplus produced in India. Also while the forms of surplus appropriation underwent changes through the difference stages of colonialism – direct appropriation of surplus, employment of ‘our boys’, unequal exchange, profits of industrial capitalism and interest on public debt – the fact of surplus appropriation remained constant and basic. There were, of course, many changes and some of them were positive – for example, the development of the railways – when seen in isolation. But these changes came within and as part of the colonial framework and became, therefore, part of the process of underdevelopment.

There for this study aims to examine the solution of famines problems, in so far as agricultural labourers constituted the majority of victims of famines, lay in the development of alternative occupations and the transfer of the surplus population from agriculture to industry. As the famine Commission (1880) pointed out in the concluding chapter of its Report, “at the root of much of the poverty of the people of India, and all the risks to which they are exposed in seasons of scarcity, lies the unfortunate circumstance that agriculture forms almost the sole occupation of the mass of the population and no remedy for present evils can be complete which does not include introduction of a diversity of occupations, through which the surplus population may be drawn from agricultural pursuits, and led to find the means of subsistence in manufacture or some such employments.

The study has been divided into five Chapters, brief descriptions of the chapter is given below

Chapter-I Introduction- This chapter gives general background the establishment of colonialism in India.
Chapter-II Agriculture in India during the British Rule- This chapter covers the commercialization of agriculture, trade and manufacturing Industries.

Chapter-III the study of famines in North West India- This chapter include the major Famines in India during British rule.

Chapter-IV Famines in Haryana- In this chapter we study the famines in Haryana that was affected People life.

Chapter-V Famines Policies of British Rule Conclusion and Limitations of Relief Policies- In this chapter we study the polices that was made by the British, limitation of their relief policies and conclude the Research.