

Chapter-5

Indigo

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. **Why did Rajkumar Shukla want to meet Gandhiji?**

Ans. Raj Kumar Shukla was a sharecropper from Champaran. He was illiterate but resolute. He had come to the congress session to complain about the injustice of the landlord system in Bihar. He was sure that Gandhiji could help them. He wanted Gandhiji to come to Champaran district. So he wanted to meet Gandhiji.

2. **What was the main problem of Sharecroppers in Champaran?**

Ans. The land was divided into large estates that were owned by Englishmen. The Chief commercial crop was indigo. The landlord forced all the tenants to plant 15 percent of their holdings with indigo and surrender the entire indigo harvest as rent. This was done by a long term contract.

3. **How did Gandhiji react after receiving summon to appear in court the next day?**

Ans. Gandhiji received a summon to appear in the court but disobeyed the order. He remained awake all the night. He telegraphed Rajendra Prasad to come from Bihar with influential friends. He sent instructions to the ashram. He wired a full report to the Viceroy.

4. **How did Civil Disobedience triumph for the first time in modern India?**

Ans. Gandhiji did not obey the British authorities, order to leave Chamapran. The summons were also served but he remained firm. Then he received a written communication from the magistrate that the Lieutenant Governor of the Province had ordered the case to be dropped.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. **Why did Gandhiji consider the Chamapran episode to be a turning point in his life?**

Ans. Key Points

- Gandhiji felt perturbed to see the plight of Indian peasants.
- Share croppers in Champaran were morally and economically shattered.
- Gandhiji fought successfully to get justice for the Champaran peasants.

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- Gandhiji explained that what he did was an ordinary thing
 - But Champaran did not begin an act of defiance
 - It grew out an attempt to alleviate the distress of large number of poor peasants.
 - Gandhiji tried to mould a new free Indian who could stand on his fact and thus make India free.

2. What steps were taken by Gandhiji to solve the problems of Social and cultural backwardness in the villages of Champaran?

Ans. Gandhiji never restricted himself to political or economic solutions only.

- He wanted to bring about some socio-cultural transformation.
- He appealed for teachers. Primary schools were opened in six villages. Many disciples of Gandhiji Volunteered to teach in Champaran and adjoining villages.
- Kasturba Gandhi taught ashram rules on Cleanliness and Community Sanitation.
- To improve the miserable health conditions, Gandhiji got a doctor who volunteered to render his services for six months.
- Three medicines were made available - Castor, quinine and sulphur pointment.
- The filthy state of women's clothes was also noticed by Gandhiji.
- His was not a loyalty to abstractions, it was a loyalty to human beings.