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## CHAPTER-5

## INDIGO

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## ★ QUESTION-ANSWERS

Q1.) Why is Rajkumar Shukla described as being 'resolute'?

Ans. We have come all the way from Champaran district in the foothills of Himalayas to Lucknow to speak to Gandhi. Shukla accompanied Gandhiji everywhere. Shukla followed him to the Ashram near Ahmedabad. For weeks, he never left Gandhiji's side till he asked him to meet at Calcutta.

Q2.) Why do you think the servants thought Gandhi to be another peasant?

Ans. Shukla led Gandhiji to Rajendra Prasad's house. The servants knew Shukla as a poor peasant. Gandhiji was also clad in a simple Dhoti. He was a companion of a peasant. Hence, <sup>the</sup> servants thought Gandhiji to be another peasant.

Q3.) List the places that Gandhi visited between his first meeting with Shukla and his arrival at Champaran.

Ans. Gandhiji's first meeting with Shukla was at Lucknow. Then he went to Cawnpore and other parts of India. He returned to his Ashram near Ahmedabad. Later, he went to Calcutta, Patna and Muzaffarpur before arriving at Champaran.

Q4.) What did the peasants pay the British landlords as rent? What did the British now want instead and why? What would be the impact of synthetic indigo on the prices of natural indigo?

Ans. Peasants paid the British landlords Indigo as rent. Now, Germany

had developed Synthetic Indigo. So, the British landlords wanted money ~~as~~ as compensation for being released from the 15% arrangement. The prices of <sup>natural indigo</sup> would go down due to the Synthetic Indigo.

Q5.) Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 per cent refund to the farmers?

Ans. For Gandhi, the amount of refund was less important than the fact that the land lords had been forced to return part of the money and with it, part of their prestige too. So, he agreed to settlement of 25% refund <sup>to</sup> through the ~~farmers~~ farmers.

Q6.) Now did <sup>the episode</sup> ~~Gandhi agree~~ change the plight of the peasants?

Ans. The peasants were saved from spending time and money on court cases. After some years, the British planters gave up control of their estates. These now reverted to the peasants. Indigo share cropping disappeared.

Q7.) Why do you think Gandhi considered the Champaran episode to be a turning-point in his life?

Ans. The Champaran episode began as an attempt to ease the sufferings of large number of poor peasants. He got support of thousands of people. Gandhiji admits that what he had done was a very ordinary thing. He declared that the British could not order him about <sup>in</sup> his own country.

Q8.) How was Gandhi able to influence lawyers? Give instances.

Ans. Gandhi asked the lawyers what ~~was~~ would they do if he was sentenced to prison. They said that they had come to advise him.

If he went to jail, they would go home. The lawyers held consultations, they came to the conclusion that ~~so~~ it would be shameful if they went home so they told Gandhiji that they were ready to follow him into jail.

Q9.) What was the attitude of the average Indian in smaller localities towards advocates of 'home rule'?

Ans. ~~What was the~~ The average Indians in smaller localities were afraid to show sympathy for advocates of home rule. Gandhiji stayed at Muzaffarpur for two days at the home of Professor Malkani. It was an extraordinary thing in those days for a government professor to give shelter to one ~~to~~ who opposed the government.

Q10.) How do we know that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement?

Ans. Professor J.B. <sup>Kripalani</sup> ~~Kripalani~~ received Gandhi at Muzaffarpur railway station at midnight. He had a large body of students <sup>with</sup> ~~of~~ him. Sharecroppers from Champaran came on foot to see Gandhiji. A vast multitude greeted ~~for~~ Gandhiji when he reached Motihari Railway station. Thousands of people demonstrated around the court room. This shows that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement in India.