



INDIGO

- Louis Fischer (1896-1970)

THEME:**The lesson highlights that the struggle for the noble cause never goes unrewarded.****MAIN POINT OF THE STORY**

1. Raj kumar Shukla apprised of injustice of the landlord system in Bihar
2. Raj kumar Shukla- one of the share-croppers.
3. Gandhi ji- busy but Rajkumar followed him unless he promised to visit Champaran.
4. Gandhi ji on way to Muzzafarpur stopped at the house of Rajendra Prasad.
5. Met J.B Kripalani for more information
6. Meeting advocates in Muzzafarpur and chided them
7. Share-cropping system oppresses the farmers.
8. Introduction of Synthetic Indigo in Germany led to extortion of money from the peasants by landlords.
9. Gandhi's arrival in Champaran- meeting with the representative of landlords and Commissioner of Tirhut.
10. His clash with police superintendent and summon to appear in the court-his plea-admits he's facing the conflict of duties.
11. Demonstration by thousands of peasants and helplessness of the British government plans jail bhara andolan with the help of lawyers.
12. British drop the case against Gandhi ji thus the battle of Champaran won.
13. Report of official commission inquiry.
14. Refund of 25% of money.
15. Landlord surrender and peasants gain courage, learn he has defenders and rights.
16. Social work, education, health and cleanliness in the villages addressed by Gandhi Ji.
17. Champaran episode became a turning point in Gandhi ji's life.
18. Developed an attitude of self reliance among the people/Lawyers.

EXERCISE**Rearrange the following points in sequence of their narration in the lesson**

1. Inquiry into peasants grievances
2. Motihari black with Peasants
3. At the house of Rajendra Prasad
4. Gandhi at Champaran
5. Apprising Louis Fischer about the departure of the British



6. Social Backwardness in Champaran
7. Englishmen owned large Estates
8. Champaran episode- a turning point for Gandhi
9. To Muzzafarpur En route Champaran
10. The Battle of Champaran is won

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. Who was Raj Kumar Shukla? Why did he come to Lucknow?

Ans. Rajkumar Shukla was a poor peasant from Champaran district in Bihar. He had come to Lucknow, where a Congress session was being held, to complain about the injustice of the landlord system in Bihar.

Q2. Why did Gandhi chide the lawyers? What according to him was the real relief for the sharecroppers?

Hint-collecting big fee

Court not any good for the fear stricken peasants

Freedom from fear

Q3. What according to Gandhi was the beginning of the poor peasants 'liberation from fear of the British'?

Hint- Gandhi ji's trouble with the authorities.

Action of protest - spontaneous demonstration outside the court.

Q4. What was 'conflict of duties' in which Gandhi was involved?

Gandhi expressed his conflict that he didn't want to be termed as a law breaker but he had to listen to the voice of conscience and help his fellow countrymen.

Q5. "Civil disobedience had triumphed the first time in modern India". How?

Hint- case against Gandhi ji (disobedience of authorities)

Released without bail

Case against Gandhi ji dropped

Q6. What amount of repayment did the big planters think Gandhi would demand? What did Gandhi ask? What amount was finally settled?

Hint- planters thought full repayment

Gandhi asked 50 percent but settled for 25%

Q7. How did Gandhi teach his followers a lesson of self-reliance?

Hint-idea of staying back of C.F Andrews proposed by lawyers.

Gandhi ji opposed the idea

1. If the cause is just they do not require outside help.
2. Peasents must rely upon themselves.

**LONG-ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**

Q1. Why was Gandhi summoned to appear in the court? How did civil disobedience triumph for the first time in India?

Ans. Gandhi had reached Motihari, the capital of Champaran, to study the problems of the sharecropper peasants. He was on his way to a neighbouring village, where a peasant was ill-treated. On the way, he was stopped by the police superintendent's messenger and ordered to return to town. When he reached home, he was served with an official notice to quit Champaran at once. Gandhi wrote on the receipt that he would disobey the order. So Gandhi received a summon to appear in the court the next day.

Next morning the town of Motihari was black with peasants. Thousands of peasants demonstrated voluntarily outside the court. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Gandhi protested against the delay. He read out the statement pleading guilty. He asked the penalty. The judge announced that he would pronounce the sentence after a two-hour recess. He asked Gandhi to furnish bail for that period. Gandhi refused. The judge released him without bail. After the recess, the judge said that he would not deliver the judgement for several days. Meanwhile he allowed Gandhi to remain at liberty.

Several days later Gandhi received a letter. The case against him had been dropped. Thus, civil disobedience had triumphed, for the first time in India.

Q2. How did Gandhi work for rural upliftment during his stay in Champaran?

Hint- Gandhi ji appealed for teachers and doctors

Primary schools were opened

Mrs Kasturba Gandhi and several other volunteers helped - Narhari Parikh, Mahadev Desai, Devdas (Youngest son of Gandhi) personal and community cleanliness stressed

Q3. 'Self-Reliance, Indian independence and help to sharecroppers were all bound together'. Elucidate on the basis of reading 'Indigo' by Louis Fischer.

Hint - root cause of problem-fear

Gandhi ji tried to eradicate the fear of peasants

Voluntary demonstration against government

Lesson of self reliance

Q4. Why is the Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence?

Hint - Attempt to ease the sufferings of peasants

Gets support of people

Peasants became aware of their rights

Method of non-violence used by Gandhi

Won battle of Champaran