



NOTES

Class : VI

Subject : SST (History)

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Lesson 7 : From a Kingdom to an Empire

Answer the following questions:

Q1. Make a list of the occupations of the people who lived within the Mauryan Empire.

Ans. People of the Mauryan Empire were merchants, officials, craft persons, farmers, herders, etc.

Q2. Complete the following sentences:

- (a) Officials collected Taxes from the area under the direct control of the ruler.
- (b) Royal princes often went to provinces as governors.
- (c) The Mauryan rulers tried to control roads and rivers which were important for transport.
- (d) People in forested regions provided the Mauryan officials with elephants, timber and honey.

Q3. State whether true or false:

- a. Ujjain was the gateway to the north-west. **False**
- b. Chandragupta's idea was written down in the Arthashastra. **False**
- c. Kalinga was the ancient name of Bengal. **False**
- d. Most Ashokan inscriptions are in the Brahmi script. **True**

4. What were the problems that Ashoka wanted to solve by introducing 'dhamma'?

Ans. 'Dhamma' is a Prakrit word which means dharma.

Emperor Ashoka wanted to solve the following problems by introducing dhamma:

1. Inter-religious conflicts in his subjects.
2. Animal sacrifice during religious rituals.
3. Ill-treatment of servants and slaves.
4. Constant disputes between neighbours over petty issues.

5. What were the means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of 'dhamma'?

Ans. Ashoka appointed officials (called "dhamma mahamatta") to go from place to place and tell people about "dhamma". Ashoka got his messages inscribed on rocks and pillars too, in a language called as Prakrit which was comprehensible to all. Messengers were also sent to other parts of the world. His son Mahendra and daughter sanghmitra went to Sri

Lanka to spread the idea of dhamma.

6. Why do you think slaves and servants were ill-treated? Do you think the orders of the emperor would have improved their condition? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. Slaves and servants were ill-treated because their masters felt superior to them. The masters treated them as animals. It was because of the old “Varna” system. The emperor’s orders might have helped to some extent. Ashoka was a king who was loved by his subjects. Moreover his “dhamma” was a realistic innovation.

7. Write a short paragraph explaining to Roshan why the lions are shown on our currency notes. List atleast one other object on which you see them.

Ans. The lions are part of the Lion Capital in Sarnath. These lions are shown on our currency notes in honour of one of the greatest kings of India, Ashoka, who built the Capital. Moreover, on independence, the lion was recognized as the national animal, so the notes also showed the Lion Capital.