



LESSON-14

THE FIRST EMPIRE

SOLUTIONS:

Exercises:

Q. 1. Answer each question in a word or a sentence:

- a) Who helped Chandragupta Maurya in the foundation of the Mauryan Empire?

Ans: Chanakya helped Chandragupta Maurya in the foundation of Mauryan Empire.

- b) What did Ashoka want to be when he become the king?

Ans: Ashoka wanted to be the emperor of the whole India when he become the king.

- c) Who were Dhamma Mahamattas?

Ans: Dhamma Mahamattas were officers appointed by Ashoka, responsible for promoting the policy of Dhamma.

Q. 2. Answer each question is about 30 words.

- a) How did Chandragupta Maurya expand his empire?

Ans: During his reign, he expanded the territorial boundaries of Magadha. In 297 BC he defeated Selucus, the Greek ruler of north-western India. He occupied Afghanistan, Baluchistan and the territories on the western river bank of the Indus River. His empire included Bihar, some parts of Orissa, Bengal, north-western India, Deccan etc.

- b) What did Ashoka inscribe on rock edicts?

Ans: Ashoka built a number of rock edicts and pillars to spread the message of Buddhism. The principles of Ashoka's Dhamma were inscribed on those rock edicts. These edicts were code for how to lead life in a way for his people. These edicts were sent to different parts of the empire, where they were engraved on rocks or pillars, for the common people to see and read them. These edicts were written by different scripts.

c) Write the importance of Kalinga War in the life of Ashoka.

Ans: The sight of the large-scale carnage moved Ashoka. It marked the turning point in the life of Ashoka. He shunned all forms of violence and became a strict vegetarian. He embraced Buddhism. For the rest of his life, Ashoka preached the principles of Buddhism.

d) Describe the Dhamma of Ashoka.

Ans: Ashoka believed that high ideal could lead people to live peacefully and co-exist in a harmonious environment. These ideals, if followed correctly lead one to be a higher level of living. These came to be known as Dhamma of Emperor Ashoka.

Q. 3. Fill in the blank by using appropriate terms.

a) The last of the Nandas was overthrown by Chandragupta in the year 322 BC.

b) The word Dhamma means Dharma.

c) According to Arthashastra the city was divided in four wards.

Extra Questions and Answers:

Q. 1. Who founded the Mauryan Empire?

Ans: Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan Empire in 322 BC.

Q. 2. Who was Bindusara?

Ans: Bindusara was the son of Chandragupta Maurya. He succeeded his father in 297 BC.

Q. 3. Who was Ashoka?

Ans: Ashoka was the son of Bindusara. He was the most famous of Mauryan kings.

Q. 4. What did Ashoka build to spread the message of Buddhism?

Ans: Ashoka built a number of rock edicts and pillars to spread the message of Buddhism.

Q. 5. Who were sent to the Sri-Lanka by Ashoka to preach Buddhism?

Ans: Ashoka sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to Sri-Lanka to preach Buddhism.

Q. 6. Name some countries where Ashoka spread Buddhism.

Ans: Ashoka spread Buddhism in Sri-Lanka, Burma and other Southern Asian countries.

Q. 7. Who was the head of the administration system?

Ans: The king was the head of the administration system.

Q. 8. Who helped the king?

Ans: The king was helped by a council of ministers.

Q. 9. What were the Mauryans well known for?

Ans: The Mauryans were well known for their administrative system of urban administration, provincial administration and military administration.

Q. 10. Write a short note about Urban administration of the Mauryans.

Ans: The city was divided into four wards. Each ward was put under the charge of a superintendent. The officials of the city maintained records of census, name and occupations of the household, income and expenditure etc.

Q. 11. What was the final unit of the provincial administration?

Ans: The final unit of the provincial administration was the village.

Q. 12. What did the Greek ambassador, Megasthenes say about the military administration of the Mauryans?

Ans: The Greek ambassador, Megasthenes said that the administration of the Mauryans armed forces was divided into six wings- infantry, cavalry, elephants, chariots, navy and transport. There were superintendents of each wings of the armed forces of the Mauryans.

