

### **Short Answer type Questions :**

1. Which country was won by the Burmese in 1784 during the regime of the Burmese king Bodawpaya?

**Answer :** Arakan was won by the Burmese in 1784 during the reign of Burmese king Bodawpaya.

2. From when did the enmity between the Burmese and the British begin?

**Answer :** With the occupation of Arakan in 1784, the enmity between the Burmese and the British began.

3. Name the king of Cachar who fled to Srihatta, unable to tolerate the Burmese oppression?

**Answer :** Govind Chandra was the king of Cachar, who fled to Srihatta, unable to tolerate the Burmese oppression.

4. Purnananda Buragohain died after hearing the news of the defeat of the Ahoms in which battle?

**Answer :** Purnananda Buragohain died after hearing the news of the defeat of the Ahoms in the Battle of Ghiladhari.

5. What is 'Baishali Hukong'?

**Answer :** Baishali Hukong was a written note on the Burmese military operations in Assam.

6. What is 'Baishali Mung-dun-Sun-Kham'?

**Answer :** 'Baishali Mung-dun-Sun Kham' was a written note on the Burmese military operations in Assam.

7. Who was the Prime Minister of Assam when the Burmese army came with Badanchandra?

**Answer :** Purnananda Buragohain was the Prime Minister of Assam when the Burmese army came with Badanchandra.

8. What was the strength of the Burmese army which came to Assam with Badanchandra?

**Answer :** The strength of the Burmese army which came to Assam with Badanchandra was about 8000.

9. How many additional soldiers did Badanchandra collect on his arrival in Assam?

**Answer :** Badanchandra collected nearly 8000 additional soldiers on his arrival in Assam.

10. What was the title given by Chandrakanta Singha to Badanchandra on his appointment as the Prime Minister?

**Answer :** The title 'Mantri Barphukan' was given by Chandrakanta Singha to Badanchandra on his appointment as the Prime Minister.

11. Mention the years in which the Burmese invasions took place.

**Answer :** The Burmese invasion took place in 1817, 1819 and 1821.

12. When was Badanchandra killed or assassinated?

**Answer :** The assassination of Badanchandra took place in 1818.

**Choose the correct answer :**

1. In 1816/**1817**/1819, the Burmese interfered in the internal politics of Assam.
2. **Jagannath Dhekial Phukan**/Badanchandra Barphukan/ Chandrakanta Buragohain was the brother of Ruchinath Buragohain.
3. The murder of Badanchandra took place in August, 1816/1817/**1818**.
4. Numali Rajmao was the mother of **Chandrakanta Singha**/IPurnananda Buragohain Brajanath Gohain.
5. Yandaboo treaty was concluded on 24th February 1818/**1826**/1828.

**Long answer type questions :**

1: Write in brief about the expansion of the Burmese empire in Manipur and Arakan.

**Answer :** During the 18th century, the Burmese kings started their territorial expansion on a large scale. The Burmese king Alaungpaya invaded Manipur and Cachar, which were close to the border of Burma. He adopted the policy of westward expansion of the country. By expanding towards the west, the Burmese king wanted to use Assam as their main military base against the English.

The capture of Arakan in 1784 during the tenure of Burmese king Bodawpaya, led to the establishment of the political supremacy of the Burmese in the entire Bay of Bengal region from Margui Island to Chattagram port.

2. Discuss how the despotism of Purnananda Buragohain gave birth to political conspiracies?

**Answer :** The Ahom Prime Minister Pumananda Buragohain had established his authority over all matters of administration. This was not liked by many officers, which ultimately led to rebellions.

During the tenure of Purnananda as Prime Minister, all the kings were of tender age. Subsequently, they all became puppets in the hands of the powerful Buragohain. A large section of the people disliked the autocratic functioning of the Buragohain. Conspiracies were hatched to remove him from power.

However, the marriage of Purnananda's son Oreshanath with Badan's daughter Pijou Gabharu brought some improvement in their relationship. Purnananda soon came to know that Badan Barphukan was involved in the conspiracy to assassinate him. Further, as the atrocities of Badanchandra had become unbearable, the Buragohain decided on his removal. Badanchandra left Assam and fled to British territories, where he appealed for British help to remove Pumananda from power, but the British refused to help. Later, the Burmese army put an end to the autocracy of Purnananda.

3. What was the ultimate result of the political conspiracies hatched against Purnanada Buragohain?

**Answer :** Frequent internal revolts and conspiracies weakened the power of Ahom Kingdom and its ruler. However, the matter did not remain within the kingdom. With the growing rivalry between Purnananda Buragohain and Badanachandra Barphukan, where Badanchandra appealed for British help to remove Pumananda from power, but the British refused to help

and then approached the Burmese king Bodawpaya. Helping Badanchandrawas in the interest of Bodawpaya's motives,so he assisted him with a huge army, which fought a battle at Ghiladhari 1817 with Purnananda's forces and defeated them. The news of the Ahom defeat saddened Buragohain so much that he died. The Burmese army again defeated Ahoms at Kathalbari and occupied Jorhat. This invasion was followed by two more invasions in 1819 and 1821 by the Burmese.

Thus, it can be said that the Burmese entry and capture of Assam was the ultimate result of the political conspiracies hatched against Purananda Buragohain.

4. Why did the Burmese invade Assam under the leadership of Badanchandra Phukan? Give reasons.

**Answer :** The atrocities of Badanchandra had become so unbearable, that the Buragohain decided on his removal. The Barphukan fled to Bengal and appealed for British help to remove Pumananda from power, but the British refused to help and then he approached the Burmese king Bodawpaya. There were many reasons for the Burmese king to help Badanchandra like-

- i) The Burmese king wanted to expand his empire.
- ii) Bodawpaya wanted to use Assam as a military base against the British.
- iii) The policy of westward expansion was a very important reason for the Burmese king to help Badanchandra.
- iv) Another important reason was Rangili Aidew's request to the Burmese king.

5. Discuss in brief about the Burmese interference in Assam under the leadership of Badanchandra Barphukan.

**Answer :** Badan Barphukan with the help of an army of around 8000 men sent by Bodawpaya, along with another 8000 soldiers belonging to a few tributary kings of Burma, entered Assam via Patkai. Purnananda Buragohain also sent an army under Daman Gogoi and Hau Bora to stop the advancing invaders. A battle was fought at Ghiladhari in which the Burmese army under Badanchandra was victorious.

The Burmese occupied Jorhat, and Badan proclaimed himself as the Barphukan. He became all powerful and Chandrakanta was retained as the nominal king. Badan was made the Prime Minister with a new designation, Mantri Barphukan. The Burmese stayed for a very brief period in the Ahom kingdom and retained Chandrakanta as king. Apart from offering presents of gold and silver to the Burmese army, Badanchandra also presented Themo or Hemo Aidew to the king of Burma.

6. Discuss the causes of the Burmese invasion of Assam.

**Answer :** The causes of the Burmese invasion of Assam are :

i) Conflict between Badanchandra Borphukan and Purananda Buragohain : The first reason for the Burmese invasion in assam was the Conflict between Badanchandra Borphukan and Purananda Buragohain for the removal of Badanchandra Borphukan from his post 'Barphukan'.

ii) Removal of Chandrakanta Singha from the throne : After the death of Badanchandra Borphukan, the whole Assam came under the control of Chandrakanta, as this news

reached to Ruchinath Buragohain he planned to remove Chandrakanta from the throne. This news somehow reached Burma and the king of Burma took advantage of the unstable political situation and sent his army to invade Assam.

iii) Construction of Fort at Joypur : To prevent further invasion of Assam by the Burmese, Chandrakanta Singha had started preparations for the construction of Joypur Fort. As soon as this news reached Burma, the Burmese king sent his army to invade Assam.

7. What were the results of the Burmese invasion of Assam?

**Answer :** The results of the Burmese invasion of Assam were:

- i. The Burmese invasion of Assam paved the way for the downfall of the six hundred years old Ahom rule.
- ii. Though temporarily, the Ahom kings or Swargadeos came under the tutelage of the Burmese king.
- iii. The Burmese invasion of Assam led to political and administrative instability.
- iv. The Burmese invasion had ruined the economy of the state. Production of goods declined. Traders shut down their business.
- v. The invasion also had an adverse effect on the social life of the state. Population came down in the villages as many people out of fear for their lives, left their homes and fled to neighbouring hills and valleys.
- vi. The first Anglo-Burmese war came to an end with the signing of the treaty of Yandaboo. Due to this treaty, the Burmese had to withdraw from Assam. Assam came under the control of the British Government.

8. Which rebellion is known as the 'Panimua rebellion'?

**Answer :** The rebellion organised against the atrocities of the Prime Minister of Assam, Purnananda Buragohain during the reign of Kamaleswar Singha, under the leadership of a chief named Panimua came to be known as the Panimua rebellion. Many leading nobles and officials of the country joined this rebellion..

9. Mention two results of the military intervention of the Burmese in Assam in 1817.

**Answer :** Firstly, a battle was fought at Ghiladhari in which the Burmese army under Badanchandra was victorious. The news of the Ahom defeat saddened the Buragohain so much that he died.

Secondly, The Burmese occupied Jorhat, and Badan proclaimed himself as the Barphukan. Badan was made the Prime Minister with a new designation, Mantri Barphukan.

10. When did the first Anglo-Burmese war take place? Where was this war fought?

**Answer :** The first Anglo-Burmese war took place between 1824 and 1826.

The war took place in four places:

- (i) Brahmaputra valley i.e. Ahom Kingdom,
- (ii) Cachar,
- (iii) Manipur,
- (iv) Burma (present Myanmar).

11. Mention the main provisions of the Yandaboo treaty.

**Answer :** Main provisions of the treaty of Yandaboo Were:

- i. The Burmese king had to pay an amount of Rupees One Crore as war indemnity to the English Company.
- ii. The British would take over Arakan and Tenasserim.
- iii. The Burmese would not be able to interfere in Assam, Cachar and Jaintia country.
- iv. The Burmese recognized Gambhir Singh as the king of Manipur.
- v. There would be a British Resident at Ava. The British too allowed the king of Ava to station an officer at Calcutta.

12. Write about the importance of the treaty of Yandaboo.

**Answer :** The importance of the treaty of Yandaboo lies in the fact that the treaty changed the course of Assam history. This treaty put an end to the Burmese rule in Assam. After this treaty, the whole Assam gradually came under the British rule. Moreover, the treaty marked the beginning of the modern era in the history of Assam and the entire North-east region.

## **Short Notes :**

**(1) Bodawpaya :** Bodawpaya was the sixth king of the Konbaung Dynasty of Burma. The capture of Arakan in 1784 A.D during his tenure, led to the establishment of the political supremacy of the Burmese in the entire Bay of Bengal region from Margui Island to Chittagong port. He was defeated in the First Anglo-Burmese War (1824–26). As a result of his defeat, the provinces of Arakan and Tenasserim were lost to the British.

**(2) Gambhir Singh :** Gambhir Singh was the king of Manipur. His thirst for more power forced him to attack Cachar. The king of Cachar, Govinda Chandra unable to face the attack of Gambhir Singh, fled to Srihatta and sought the help of the British. The British took steps to prevent Burmese aggression further into Cachar as they had already overpowered Gambhir Singh and captured Manipur.

**(3) Gobind Chandra :** Gobind Chandra was the king of Cachar during the nineteenth century. The invasion of Cachar by the Manipuri king Gambhir Singh compelled Gobind Chandra to run away from Cachar. He sought refuge with the English and requested the British to help him. The British took steps to prevent Burmese aggression further into Cachar.

**(4) Daman Gogoi :** Daman Gogoi was one of the commanders who led the forces of Purnananda Buragohain against Badan Barphukan. Badan Barphukan with the help of an army of around 8000 men sent by Bodawpaya, along with another 8000 soldiers belonging to a few tributary kings of Burma, entered Assam via Patkai. Purnananda Buragohain also sent an army under Daman Gogoi and Hau Bora to stop the advancing invaders.

**(5) Hau Bora :** Hau Bora was one of the commanders who led the forces of Purnananda Buragohain against Badan Barphukan. Badan Barphukan with the help of an army of around 8000 men sent by Bodawpaya, along with another 8000 soldiers belonging to a few tributary kings of Burma, entered Assam via Patkai. Purnananda Buragohain also sent an army under Daman Gogoi and Hau Bora to stop the advancing invaders.

**(6) Battle of Ghiladhari :** The battle of Ghiladhari is one of the most significant battles in the history of Assam. The victory of the military force under Badanchandra in this battle marked the end of the autocracy of Purnananda Buragohain. The news of the Ahom defeat saddened the Buragohain so much that he died.

**(7) Brajanath Singha :** Brajanath Singha was a grandson of Swargadeo Rajeswar Singha. After the assassination of Badanchandra in 1818, Chandrakanta's army was defeated and their commander Luku Dekaphukan was killed in the battle. Ruchinath then proclaimed Brajanath as the new Ahom king. Since Brajnath was suffering from a disease, he was considered ineligible for the throne. Therefore his son Purandhar was made king.

**(8) Purandhar Singha :** Purandar Singha was the last king of Ahom dynasty. He ruled the kingdom twice. His first reign ended in 1819, during the second Burmese invasion of Assam, when his forces were defeated and the Burmese reinstalled Chandrakanta Singha on the throne. His second rule was ended by the British authorities which also marked the end of the Ahom rule in Assam.

**(9) Ala Mingi :** Ala Mingi was one of the military generals of the Burmese King, Bodawpaya. After the assassination of Badanchandra, instability prevailed in Assam. Taking advantage of the prevailing conditions, the Burmese king Bodawpaya invaded Assam in 1819 under General Ala Mingi. The main cause of the invasion was to avenge the murder of Badanchandra and to reinstate Chandrakanta Singha on the throne. When, Burmese once again restored Chandrakanta to the Ahom throne, Ala Mingi returned to Burma leaving Burmese soldiers under Mingimaha Tilwa to help the reappointed king Chandrakanta.

**(10) Duwaniya :** The Burmese occupation of Assam from 1821 to 1825 was a period of atrocities and tortures on the common man. The people were forced to give up their homes and live as fugitives or take refuge in neighbouring countries. Some people adopted the guise of Burmese, These people came to be called Duwaniyas.

**(11) The treaty of Yandaboo :** The First Anglo-Burmese War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Yandabu. This treaty put an end to the Burmese rule in Assam. After this treaty, the whole Assam gradually came under the British rule. Moreover, the treaty marked the beginning of the modern era in the history of Assam and the entire North- east region.

Main provisions of the treaty of Yandaboo Were:

- i. The Burmese king had to pay an amount of Rupees One Crore as war indemnity to the English Company.
- ii. The British would take over Arakan and Tenasserim.
- iii. The Burmese would not be able to interfere in Assam, Cachar and Jayantia country.
- iv. The Burmese recognized Gambhir Singh as the king of Manipur.
- v. There would be a British Resident at Ava. The British too allowed the king of Ava to station an officer at Calcutta.