

SUMMARY

This story depicts the dreams and aspirations of smalltimers and the apathy of film people for whom making films is a business. Patol Babu was a middle aged man of about fifty years with a bald head. His neighbour Nishikanta Ghosh informed him that his brother-in-law Naresh Dutt, a film producer, was looking around for an actor for a scene in a film, with looks like that of Patol Babu. Patol Babu was so excited to hear this news that in his excitement, he made the wrong purchases in the vegetable market. Patol Babu remembered fondly that he always had a great passion for the stage and in his youth he had acted in many 'Jatras'. Indeed there was a time when people bought tickets especially to see him.

It was in the year 1934, when he lived in Kanchrapara and worked as a clerk with Hudson and Kimberley. He had thought of floating his own theatrical club but he lost his job. Ever since Patol Babu had to struggle a lot to make a living. He worked in a Bengali film, worked as an insurance salesman but nothing lasted. He paid regular visits to various offices for jobs but nothing worked. He still remembered some of the dialogues of the plays he had acted in.

A new offer to work in films sparked his interest. Naresh Dutt duly arrived and told Patol Babu to report at Faraday House, next morning. On enquiry, Naresh Dutt told Patol Babu that it was a speaking role and he had to play an absent-minded pedestrian. Patol Babu was extremely happy and confided to his wife that he was aware that it wasn't a big role, but one rose from small roles only and this might prove to be the beginning of a great career. His wife expressed her reservation but Patol Babu was in no mood to listen.

Next morning, Patol Babu reported on time at Faraday Building. He saw a big crowd with instruments and cameras being shifted here and there. He was instructed by Naresh Dutt to wait for his turn. Patol Babu was quite nervous since he had no idea about his dialogues and he didn't want to make a spectacle of him self in front of the lead actors. In the meantime, the shooting of the movie started and one scene was shot. Patol Babu couldn't wait any longer. He went to Naresh Dutt and asked for his dialogues. On glancing at the paper, Patol Babu was really depressed, since he was required to speak just one word 'Oh!' Patol Babu was supposed to act like an absent-minded pedestrian and collide with the lead actor,

Chanchal Kumar, utter 'Oh' and resume walking. He was instructed to go and wait on one side. Patol Babu felt humiliated and let down. He felt the entire Sunday was lost in false anticipation of a good role. A faint memory stirred his mind. He remembered his mentor, Gagon Pakrashi's advice that as an artist one must make the most of one's opportunity, whatever it might be. This thought drove away his depression and he started rehearsing all kinds of exclamations 'Oh's' that could be given at different occasions.

Finally Patol Babu was called after an hour. Patol Babu suggested to the director that the scene would look more realistic, if the collision took place, while he had his eyes on the newspaper. A newspaper was immediately arranged. The director suggested that a moustache on Patol Babu would really look more interesting. A moustache was stuck on his face. During the shot, Patol Babu packed in his best effort mixing 25 parts of anguish and 25 parts of surprise, in a single "Oh!" Everyone around praised Patol Babu's acting skills and he went back satisfied near the paan shop. Patol Babu was tremendously pleased and felt that his acting skills were not blurred even after so many years. But now he felt dejected because there was no one who had appreciated his dedication. For the film-people it was a moment's work and next minute they had promptly forgotten about that. He knew he would be paid, it would be a very small amount and he did need money very badly. But could twenty rupees measure against the intense satisfaction of doing a job perfectly. Ten minutes later Naresh Dutt was surprised to find Patol Babu missing, without collecting his remuneration. Next minute, all that was forgotten and the camera started rolling for another shot.

सारांश

यह कहानी छोटे-छोटे कलाकारों की आकांक्षाओं और सपनों की है; और उनकी है जो चलचित्र बनाते हैं, और इन लोगों की ओर से उदासीन रहते हैं। पटोल बाबू एक पचास वर्षीय प्रौढ़ व्यक्ति थे। उनके सिर पर एक भी बाल नहीं था। उनके पड़ोसी, निशिकान्त घोष ने उन्हें बताया कि उनके बहनोई नरेश दत्त एक फ़िल्म निर्माता हैं और उन्हें पटोल बाबू से मिलते-जुलते अभिनेता की आवश्यकता है। पटोल बाबू यह सुनकर इतने उत्तेजित हो गये कि उन्होंने सब्ज़ी मंडी में सब गलत खरीदारी कर ली। पटोल बाबू को याद आ गया कि उन्हें अपनी जवानी में स्टेज (रंगमंच) पर अभिनय करने का बेहद शौक था और उन्होंने

बहुत सी जात्राओं में भाग लिया था। एक समय था जब लोग उनका अभिनय देखने के लिए टिकट खरीदते थे।

सन् 1934 में वह कंचापाड़ा में रहते थे, हड्डसन और किम्बरली नामक कंपनी में कलर्क का काम करते थे। तब उन्होंने अपनी नाटक कंपनी खोलने की सोची थी, परन्तु तब उनकी नौकरी छूट गई। उसके बाद से उन्हें जीविका कमाने के लिए बहुत संघर्ष करना पड़ा। उन्होंने एक बंगला फ़िल्म में काम किया, बीमा कम्पनी में बीमा बेचने वाले का काम किया, पर कुछ भी ज्यादा दिन नहीं चला। वह अनेक दफ़तरों में जाते रहे पर कहीं भी सफलता नहीं मिली। उनको अभी भी अपने कई पात्रों के संवाद याद हैं।

उनकी उत्सुकता नये काम के लिए जागृत हुई और नरेश दत्त ने उन्हें दूसरे दिन सुबह फैराडे हाउस में उपस्थित होने को कहा। पूछने पर नरेश दत्त ने पटोल बाबू को बताया कि उन्हें एक भुलक्कड़ आदमी की भूमिका करनी है, जिसमें उन्हें संवाद भी बोलना होगा। पटोल बाबू बहुत खुश हुए। उन्होंने अपनी पत्नी से कहा कि उन्हें पता है वह भूमिका छोटी है, परन्तु छोटी-छोटी भूमिकाओं के बाद ही एक बड़ा काम मिलता है। पटोल बाबू की पत्नी को उनकी बातों पर विश्वास नहीं हुआ पर पटोल बाबू कुछ भी सुनने को तैयार नहीं थे।

दूसरे दिन, प्रातःकाल, पटोल बाबू ठीक समय पर फैराडे हाउस पहुँच गये। वहाँ लोगों का समूह कैमरे और दूसरे यन्त्रों को इधर से उधर ले जा रहा था। नरेश दत्त ने उन्हें अपनी बारी की प्रतीक्षा करने को कहा। पटोल बाबू काफ़ी चिंतित थे क्योंकि उन्हें यह नहीं मालूम था कि उन्हें क्या बोलना है। वह बड़े अभिनेताओं के सामने अपना मज़ाक नहीं बनवाना चाहते थे।

इतने में शुटिंग शरू हो गई और एक सीन को तैयार भी कर लिया गया। अब पटोल बाबू से न रहा गया। वह नरेश दत्त के पास गये और अपना संवाद माँगा। वह बहुत ही निराश हुए जब उन्होंने देखा कि संवाद केवल एक शब्द “ओह” था। पटोल बाबू को भुलक्कड़ आदमी की तरह नाटक करना था जो सड़क पर चलते हुए एक मशहूर अभिनेता, चंचल कुमार से टकराता है और “ओह” कहकर चला जाता है। पटोल बाबू को एक ओर जाकर इंतज़ार करने को कहा गया।

पटोल बाबू को धक्का लगा और वह अपमानित भी हुए। उन्हें लगा कि पूरा रविवार एक अच्छे पात्र के धोखे में व्यर्थ हो गया। पर तब उन्हें अपने गुरु, गोगेन पकराशी का परामर्श स्मरण हो आया। एक कलाकार को हाथ में आए किसी भी सुअवसर को छोटा नहीं समझना

चाहिए, चाहे वह कुछ भी हो। इस विचार ने उनकी खिन्नता को दूर कर दिया और वह अनेक प्रकार से ‘ओह’ बोलने का अभ्यास करने में जुट गए।

आखिरकार, एक घन्टे बाद पटोल बाबू को बुलावा आया। पटोल बाबू ने निर्देशक को सलाह दी कि अगर टक्कर उस समय हो जब उनकी समाचार पत्र पर नजरें टिकी हों, तो सीन बहुत वास्तविक लगेगा। एक समाचार पत्र उसी समय लाया गया। निर्देशक को लगा कि पटोल बाबू के मुँह पर मूँछ अच्छी लगेगी और एक मूँछ उनके मुख पर चिपका दी गई। शाट के दौरान पटोल बाबू ने अपने सर्वोच्च अभिनय की क्षमता का प्रदर्शन, 25% वेदना और 25% आश्चर्य का मिश्रण करके, एक “ओह” में कर दिया। सब लोगों ने पटोल बाबू की अभिनय की निपुणता की सराहना की और वह संतुष्ट होकर पान की दुकान के पास चले गये। वह अति प्रसन्न थे कि इतने वर्षों पश्चात् भी उनकी अभिनय की योग्यता धुँधली नहीं हुई। पर अब उन्हें निराशा का आभास होने लगा क्योंकि किसी ने भी उनके अभिनय के प्रति समर्पण को नहीं पहचाना। फ़िल्मी लोगों के लिए यह केवल एक मिनट का काम था और दूसरे मिनट वह उसे भूल भी गये थे। उन्हें मालूम था कि इस काम के लिए उन्हें पैसे मिलेंगे जो कि बहुत थोड़े से होंगे, और उन्हें पैसों की बहुत आवश्यकता है। पर क्या बीस रुपयों की उनके असीम संतोष से तुलना की जा सकती है? दस मिनट बाद, नरेश दत्त हैरान रह गये कि पटोल बाबू अपने पैसे लिए बिना ही चले गये। दूसरे ही मिनट, सब उनको भूल गये, और कैमरा दूसरे सीन की तैयारी में लग गया।

WORD-MEANINGS

- **genial** : sociable, kind ● **pedestrian** : traveller on foot
- **crucial** : important ● **suspended** : hanging ● **oblong** : rectangular with unequal sides ● **tremor** : quiver
- **perspiration** : sweat ● **hubbub** : noise ● **resumed** : begin again ● **scribble** : to write quickly ● **gigantic** : great ● **hoax** : fraud ● **meek** : timid ● **embezzlement** : cheating of money ● **mellow** : to soften by age
- **edification** : improve morally ● **obeisance** : gesture expressing respect ● **inflection** : modulation of voice
- **monosyllabic** : word of one syllable ● **collision** : to collide with someone ● **apathy** : indifference
- **anticipation** : expecting something before due time
- **commended** : praised ● **excruciating** : acutely painful

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS (SOLVED)

3. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) What was the news that Nishikanto Ghosh gave Patol Babu?

Ans. Nishikanto Ghosh informed Patol Babu that his brother-in-law Naresh Dutt was in film business and he was looking for someone like Patol Babu, to play a role in his film.

- (b) *How did Patol Babu react ? Why ?*
[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans. Patol Babu had always nurtured a passion for acting and theatre. So he was extremely thrilled at the prospect of playing a role in a film, after 52 years of deep longing.

- (c) *Why had Patol Babu lost his first job in Calcutta ?*

Ans. Patol Babu was doing well in his job and he was also in the good books of his boss. But due to sudden retrenchment in his office because of war, he lost his nine-year-old job.

- (d) *How does Patol Babu reconcile to the dialogue given to him ?* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans. Initially Patol Babu was very dejected to know that he was required to speak just one word ‘Oh!’, but later he accepted it because the director told him that he was the only one who had the speaking part that day. Even the lead actor had no dialogues to speak that day.

- (e) *Who was Prakashi ? How do his words help Patol Babu in enacting his role ?*

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Or

What was the advice of Patol Babu’s mentor, Gagon Pakrashi?

Ans. Mr. Prakashi had been Patol Babu’s mentor. He had advised him that each word spoken in a play is like a fruit in a tree, so full justice must be done to each part. So Patol Babu not only got over his disappointment but also practised speaking “Oh!” in many different ways.

- (f) *How do we know that Patol Babu was a meticulous man ?*

Ans. Patol Babu, practiced each step of his tiny role thoroughly. He enunciated “Oh!” in various ways, he practiced how his features would be twisted in pain after collision and how he would fling his arms, how would he crouch his body to express pain and surprise. He requested the director for a rehearsal also, which was declined.

- (g) *Why did Mr Mullick turn down Patol Babu’s request for a rehearsal ?*

Ans. Mr Mullick was a very busy and preoccupied director. He had no patience to grant rehearsal for an insignificant role. Moreover, the scene had to be shot in sunlight and as the clouds were seen approaching, he had to take the shot quickly. So he declined Patol Babu’s request for a rehearsal.

- (h) *What were the special touches that Patol Babu*

gave to his role to make it more authentic ?

Ans. Patol Babu suggested that he should be reading a newspaper when he collided with the lead actor. Later the director added a butterfly kind of moustache to make his character look more authentic.

- 4. Discuss the following questions in detail and write the answers in your notebooks :**

- (a) *“I hope the part calls for some dialogue.” Who says this? Why does he/she ask this question?*

Ans. The above query is made by Patol Babu to Naresh Dutt, the director of the movie. Patol Babu only wished to act out a speaking part and so out of curiosity he asks this question.

- (b) *‘Were these people pulling his legs? Was the whole thing a gigantic hoax? A meek, harmless man like him and they had to drag him into the middle of the city to make a laughing stock out of him. How could anyone be so cruel?’ Why does Patol Babu have these thoughts?*

Ans. Patol Babu had gone to the Faraday House with lot of aspirations and desires. After 52 years of waiting, a role had come his way and he had already confirmed from Naresh Dutt, the director that he had a speaking role. He had not come all the way to be a part of the crowd scene. When he told that he just has to speak one syllable ‘Oh!’, his hopes are shattered and he feels humiliated and insulted. He was modest, ordinary, but why did the film people chose to make a fool of him. He is disappointed and frustrated and wishes to go back home.

- (c) *Patol Babu is an amateur actor for whom walk-on part in a movie turns into an ultimate challenge. Discuss.*

Ans. Patol Babu was blessed with an artistic temperament and meticulous nature. In his walk-on role, he was just required to speak ‘Oh!’. After initial disappointment, Patol Babu remembered the words of his mentor, “However small a part you’re offered, never consider it beneath your dignity to accept it make the most of your opportunity.” He geared up for a superlative performance. He uttered “Oh!” with different inflections, tried to say it differently in different situations. He believed that a true actor could make a mark with one single syllable and set out to achieve this aim. Patol Babu went near a side-street and practised all the steps – how he would react physically, how his features would twist in pain, how he would fling his arms and how he would crouch his body and resume his walk.

When the time for the shoot arrived, Patol Babu suggested a rehearsal. This suggestion was declined but he was allowed to walk with a newspaper, during the collision with the lead actor. He was extremely pleased to support a big moustache which made his character more interesting. He gave an excellent performance, which earned him compliments like “Jolly good! why you’re quite an actor” from an indifferent director. Even the lead actor, Chanchal Kumar commented “My God! you timed it so well that I nearly passed out.”

So Patol Babu's unfulfilled aspirations were ignited when he was already 52 years old. Who knows maybe a fire would follow. Truly, a true artist believed in perfection and not in remuneration.

(d) Do you agree with the statement that Patol Babu is a practical man who comes to terms with whatever life has to offer ?

Ans. Patol Babu had an artist's mind and heart. He was very emotional and the moment he realised that he was supposed to utter just one syllable 'Oh!', he wanted to quit. He felt he had been taken for a ride and didn't wish to look like a fool. But then the advise of his mentor makes him stay and do the job perfectly. Patol Babu does complete the assignment but he cannot be called practical. He labours and sweats too much for fraction of a scene and then walks away without taking the money. He felt his perfection and dedication couldn't be measured by twenty or fifteen rupees.

(e) Why does Patol Babu walk away before he can be paid for his role ? What does this reveal about his character ?

Ans. Patol Babu is very pleased with his performance and felt that he had made his mentor, Prakashi, proud. But he felt that the film people could never appreciate how hard he had laboured for that one shot. The film people were mechanical and even if they paid him fifteen or twenty rupees, could that money ever compensate for the great effort he had put in. That was not the befitting remuneration for such a perfect and dedicated work.

**(f) Do you think making a movie is an easy job?
Discuss with reference to the story ?**

Ans. Movie-making is extremely tiring, painful and a long process. Locations have to be fixed and hired, proper characters who fit the roles have to be scouted, called. Moreover there is heavy equipment that is needed and has to be carted along. During shooting minute details like a moustache for Patol Babu, has to be looked into. The crowds become uncontrollable during shootings and that also has to be seen. The director and other spot boys like Baren Mallik have to sweat it out in the open. Moreover, the director is always on tenterhooks to finish the shooting. When Patol Babu wanted a rehearsal, the director declined it because that particular shot had to be caned in broad daylight.

5. Use the words given below to tell about Patol Babu's character.

passionate actor diligent unassuming
talented genial mercenary
short-tempered introvert meticulous
modest humble arrogant

- (a) That an offer to act in a film - - - - -
beyond wild dreams – unassuming, modest

(b) Indeed - - - - - him.
– talented / passionate actor.

(c) I was with Hudson - - - - - single day.
– diligent / meticulous

(d) It didn't matter - - - - - so many people.
– modest / humble

(e) Patol Babu - - - - - glass window.
– meticulous / diligent

(f) It is true - - - - - dedication ?
– passionate actor / humble

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – MCQs

- 1. Read the following extracts and choose the correct option.**

1. At one time Patol Babu had a real passion for the stage, in fact, it verged on obsession.

- (i) Patol Babu during his earlier years had been
(a) a singer (c) in street plays
(b) a theatre artist (d) in movies

(ii) He was obsessed because :

Answers : (i) (b) (ii) (d) (iii) (c)

2. "Fine, I wouldn't have come to you for just a walk-on part".

(i) The speaker is

 - (a) Patol Babu (c) Naresh Dutt
 - (b) Patol's wife (d) Baren Mullick

(ii) The speaker proves to be _____ what he says.

 - (a) a cheater (c) untrue
 - (b) a crook (d) exaggerating

(iii) The result of this on Patol Babu was:

 - (a) encouraging (c) lukewarm
 - (b) very demoralising (d) bad

Answers : (i) (c) (ii) (d) (iii) (a)

3. *The heat was stifling. The Jacket weighed a ton. Patol Babu couldn't keep standing in one spot any more, his legs felt heavy.*

(i) Patol Babu's condition became bad because :

 - (a) it was very hot
 - (b) he had no place to stand
 - (c) there was so much crowd
 - (d) he felt depressed

(ii) The reason for the Patol Babu's condition was :

 - (a) he was made to wait for a long time
 - (b) he was treated badly
 - (c) he had to speak just one word
 - (d) he wasn't paid

(iii) Patol Babu had not expected this to happen because of :

 - (a) his expectations
 - (b) Naresh Dutt's assurances
 - (c) his wife's jibes
 - (d) the director's orders

Answers : (i) (d) (ii) (c) (iii) (b)

4. *Patol Babu* felt that he could write a whole thesis on that one monosyllabic exclamation.

(i) Patol Babu rehearsed

 - (a) his actions
 - (b) the hero's dialogues
 - (c) the exclamation 'Oh!'.

- (d) his songs

(ii) By writing a thesis, it is meant that :

 - (a) Patol Babu was a scholar
 - (c) he could guide others
 - (b) he was going to the library
 - (d) he became an expert

(iii) Patol Babu did this because he believed :

 - (a) one must practice hard for whatever one does
 - (c) one must ask for money
 - (b) one must discuss with others
 - (d) one must never make any commitment

Answers : (i) (c) (ii) (d) (iii) (a)

5. What was twenty rupees when measured against the intense satisfaction of a small job done with perfection and dedication.

(i) Twenty rupees was the amount meant for :

 - (a) refreshments
 - (b) payment for his role
 - (c) transportation
 - (d) hiring him

(ii) The above sentence reveals that Patol Babu was

 - (a) an accountant
 - (b) very emotional and passionate about his work
 - (c) money-minded
 - (d) not foresighted

(iii) Patol Babu didn't collect the money because he felt :

 - (a) he felt the money was too less
 - (b) no money could compensate for his commitment
 - (c) no one was giving him any attention
 - (d) they should deliver the money home.

Answers : (i) (b) (ii) (b) (iii) (b)

6. *Counting your chickens again before they are hatched, are you? No wonder you could never make a go of it.* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

(i) Who is the speaker?

 - (a) Patol Babu
 - (b) Patol Babu's wife
 - (c) Naresh Dutt
 - (d) Chanchal Kumar

(ii) What topic was being discussed?

- (a) a role in the shoot
 - (b) money
 - (c) writing books
 - (d) none of the above
- (iii) “make a go of it” means
- (a) to act hard
 - (b) to fail
 - (c) become successful
 - (d) to cheat

Answers : (i) (b) (ii) (a) (iii) (c)

7. *Ten minutes later Naresh Dutt went looking for Patol Babu near the pan shop and found that he was not there. “That’s odd- the man hadn’t been paid yet. What a strange fellow!”*

- (i) Where had Patol Babu gone?
- (a) to his guru Mr. Pakrashi’s place
 - (b) to Karali Babu’s house for Kali puja
 - (c) back to his home.

- (d) for the shooting of his TV serial
- (ii) Why was Naresh Dutt looking for Patol Babu?

- (a) He wanted him to know that everybody liked his performance.
- (b) He wanted to give him his payment.
- (c) He wanted him to meet the director of the movie.
- (d) He wanted him to reshoot.

(iii) What does the incident tell us about Patol Babu ?

- (a) that he was an eccentric man
- (b) that he was a busy man
- (c) that satisfaction mattered more to him than money
- (d) that he was a good actor

Answers : (i) (c) (ii) (b) (iii) (c)

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – NON-MCQs

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :

1. “*I hope the part calls for some dialogue ?” “Certainly. It’s a speaking part. You have acted before, haven’t you?”*

- (a) **Identify the two people exchanging the above dialogue.**

Ans : This dialogue is between Naresh Dutt and Patol Babu.

- (b) **What reservations are expressed by the first person? Why?**

Ans : Patol Babu wishes to confirm if he has a speaking part.

- (c) **Do you believe the information given by the second speaker is truthful? Why/Why not?**

Ans : No, Patol Babu did not have any dialogue to speak. He just has to utter one monosyllable ‘Oh!’

2. *Patol Babu hadn’t expected such news at the start of the day. That an offer to act in film would come to a 52 years old nonentity like him was beyond his wildest dreams.*

- (a) **Why didn’t Patol Babu expect such news?**

Ans : He hadn’t got any acting offers for the last 52 years for a film.

- (b) **Why did he consider himself a nonentity after acting in theatre?**

Ans : He was extremely modest and there was a large gap of years between his theatre days and this offer.

- (c) **What was his reaction?**

Ans : He was thrilled and very pleasantly surprised.

3. *“Counting your chickens again before they’re hatched, are you ? No wonder you could never make a go of it.”*

- (a) **Describe the context of the above statement.**

Ans : Patol’s wife believes that Patol Babu was too happy prematurely.

- (b) **Why does the speaker use the expression, “never make a go of it”?**

Ans : His wife believes that Patol Babu could not be successful after so many years.

- (c) **Do you think that the prediction made above proved to be true ? Why/ Why not?**

Ans : No, Patol Babu did perfectly the part he was given to play, even if it was a tiny role.

4. *“Is that so ? Well, I suggest you go and wait in the shade there. We have a few things to attend to before we get going ?”*

(a) Who is the speaker and the listener?

Ans : The speaker is Naresh Dutt and the listener is Patol Babu.

(b) What is the context of the above statement?

Ans : This is said when Patol Babu reports for shooting at the set.

(c) What does the above statement reflect about the speaker's attitude?

Ans : The speaker is not much bothered about Patol Babu's arrival.

5. “As an artist your aim should be to make the most of your opportunity and squeeze the last drop of meaning out

of your lines.”

(a) Who was supposed to have said these lines and to whom?

Ans : These lines were spoken by Gagon Pakrashi to Patol Babu.

(b) Discuss the relevance of the above statement in the given context?

Ans : Patol Babu is trying to derive inspiration from his mentor's advice.

(c) Do you think, the listener followed these instructions? How? To what extent?

Ans : Yes, Patol Babu perfected the little role he was given after remembering his mentor's words.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Who was Nishikanto Babu and what proposal did he bring for Patol Babu?

Ans : Nishikanto Babu was Patol Babu's neighbour and he brought a film offer for Patol Babu. Nishikanto's relative, Naresh Dutt was looking for someone like Patol Babu for his film and Nishikanto had suggested Patol's name.

2. This kind of offer was “beyond his wildest dreams”. Why?

Ans : Patol Babu was already 52 years old and virtually unknown, in the field of acting. So he was pleasantly surprised that a nonentity like him had received a film offer. Moreover, he was very modest in his bearing and for quite sometime had nurtured such kind of dreams.

3. What kind of fame had Patol Babu achieved in ‘Jatras’?

Ans : At some time in his life, Patol Babu had a real passion for the stage. He had been simply obsessed. In the ‘Jatras’ he was very well-known and always in demand. His name appeared in handbills many times and people bought tickets specially to see him perform.

4. What desperate efforts were made by Patol Babu to earn a decent living?

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : Initially Patol Babu had a job in a railway factory. In 1934, he was offered higher salary as a clerk in a famous company. Later he shifted to Calcutta and soon lost his job due to war. He tried his hand at a variety store which only lasted for 5 years. He worked in a Bengali firm, then as an insurance agent but nothing lasted.

5. What details of the role were furnished by Naresh Dutt, the film's director, to Patol Babu?

Ans : Patol Babu was supposed to enact the role of a

pedestrian who is absent-minded and short-tempered. There were some dialogues also according to Naresh Dutt and it was supposed to be a proper speaking part.

6. Describe the scene outside the Faraday House briefly.

Ans : A big crowd had already gathered outside the building. A bus was carrying the equipment. There were cameras, stands, crowds of people everywhere. Most of the people were busy carrying the equipment, carting it here and there.

7. Why was Patol Babu particular about getting his dialogues in advance?

Ans : Patol Babu was a perfectionist. He wished to practice his dialogues beforehand so that he did not make a spectacle of himself in front of the lead actors. He was too enthusiastic and didn't wish to make any mistake in his performance.

8. “Patol Babu glanced at the paper... and found a sudden throbbing in his head. The heat was unbearable.” Why did this happen?

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Or

What were Patol Babu's ‘dialogues’ and what was his reaction on seeing them?

Ans : Patol Babu found that he had to speak just one word, that too a monosyllable ‘Oh!’. He had been promised a proper speaking part and after a long wait and great expectation, he felt too depressed to see his small role. He felt cheated and quite demoralised.

9. What kind of practice did Patol Babu do?

Ans : Patol Babu practised speaking ‘Oh!’ a thousand times. He tried to give it a different inflection, add all

kinds of emotions and styles to this word. He practiced his body language, how he would act during collision with the hero, how he would fling his arms, how his body would crouch in pain and surprise.

10. What justification is rendered by Sasanko regarding Patol Babu's speaking role?

Ans : Sasanko was a very clever and tactful person. He told Patol Babu that he had a regular speaking part and he was indeed very lucky to get such a part in Baren Mullick's film. Most of the people had only crowd scenes and even the lead actor had no lines to speak that day.

11. Why did Patol Babu disappear before collecting his payment? [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : Patol Babu was happy at his performance because he felt that he had done his best. But he was crestfallen at the indifferent behaviour of the film people. So he felt that no money could compensate for his great efforts and the

hard work he had put in. He had been simply exhausted after the long wait and hard work he had put in. Now the reward of twenty rupees looked too meagre and insufficient.

12. Which message is the author trying to convey through the lesson 'Patol Babu'?

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : Through the lesson, Patol Babu, the writer depicts the dreams and aspirations of the small timers and the apathy of film makers for whom making films is a business. Patol Babu, a talented and emotional artist, who is artist at heart and full of dramatic skills, was asked to perform a role after 52 years. Quite excited, he rehearsed the single word (oh) he was asked to speak. Everybody praised his performance but he did not wait there to collect his remuneration. Naresh Dutt asked for him but next minute all that was forgotten and the camera started rolling for another shot

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 1. Patol Babu reached home and was overcome with mixed feelings of happiness for a good performance but disappointment for being sidelined with such a speaking role. He writes a diary entry in this state of mind. Write the diary for him.**

Ans : Dear Diary,

It was a day of mixed emotions, happiness and disappointment packed together. I had gone to Faraday House with great expectations and imagine I was asked to utter just 'oh'! How I died an instant death? All my hopes and aspirations were dashed to pieces. But still I kept my cool. I remembered the advice of my mentor and perfected every bit of my role. Almost everyone, even the hero Chanchal Kumar praised my good work. But the mechanical, inhuman nature of the film-folk hurt me when the time came to collect my twenty rupees, I could not remain there. No money could measure my hard-work and dedication. I know even twenty rupees are needed at home but I felt they were not a worthy remuneration. I hope I am right! God alone knows!

Patol Babu

- 2. Naresh Dutt, the director, was surprised to find Patol Babu missing. He had seen Patol Babu's meticulous nature and eye for minute details. No one ever went away without taking the money. Despite his busy schedule, Naresh Dutt couldn't forget Patol Babu. He found out the**

details of Patol Babu's hard work from other people around. He writes a letter to his friend regarding the hardwork some insignificant people put in and yet their contribution goes unacknowledged. Write the letter for him.

Ans : Service Lane,

ABC City

5 Sept. 2010

Dear Mohan,

In our busy lives we seldom notice exceptional people who look quite ordinary. I wish to recount such an incident to you when I had hired a man, who was 52 years old named Patol Babu for a minuscule role. He just had to utter one word 'oh'! I was told later by my staff and other people that Patol Babu, after the initial disappointment, had practiced that word in all different kind of ways. He gave a superb performance but we were too busy in other technicalities and looking after lead actors to notice it. I was amazed to discover that he did not want to collect his money. Maybe we have erred in some way. I am sure we did not value his capability. Nevertheless I will go to his home personally and try to make amends and talk to him. That will really ease my guilt.

Will share the rest with you later.

Your friend,

Naresh Dutt

- 3. Give a character sketch of Patol Babu giving evidence from the text.**

Ans : Patol Babu was a modest, talented and timid man. He was an artist at heart — emotional, talented but too prone to being hurt. He was full of dramatic skills and could deliver powerful dialogues. He had been a great hit, doing theatre for ‘jatras’ and people specially flocked to

see him. He was a perfectionist and packed in a very powerful performance for his minuscule role. His ‘Oh!’ had modulation of voice, body language and great dramatic skills. He was most emotional and felt really hurt to see the neglect in the eyes of the director. Patol babu is an ideal artist who is not wordly wise and a dreamer who is not practical.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. Write a diary entry of an unsuccessful singer, who couldn’t make it to the top.
2. Meenu practised a lot for days altogether for entry into a T.V. dance show. But she was eliminated in the very first round. Suppose you are Meenu, what course of action would you take? Write a short paragraph relating to your future course of action.



3. Identify a film/TV actor/actress, who could not make to the top due to some unfortunate incident or unfavourable circumstances. Write his/her brief character-sketch.