

Chief Reporter
Punjab Sahas Sabha
Chandigarh

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Punjab Sahas Sabha



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**Punjab Legislative Assembly
Debates**

WEDNESDAY, 28th FEBRUARY 1951

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OFFICIAL REPORT



Chief Reporter
Punjab Vidhan Sabha
Chandigarh

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 28th February 1951.
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ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR

His Excellency the Governor arrived in Procession with the officers of the Assembly and his personal staff at 12. 30 P. M and took his seat on the Throne in the Chamber.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR : Members of the Legislative Assembly, once again it is both a pleasure and a privilege to me to extend hearty greetings to you all. Since I last addressed you, we have suffered many sorrows. On 15th December, 1950, passed away our great leader, Sardar Vallabhbai patel. No words of mine can do justice to the majestic part he played in the struggle for freedom, and to the genius, strength and determination with which he consolidated our newly-won independence, giving political unity to the whole of our country for the first time after Ashoka. To the Punjab, in particular, his death is a special loss. He had a soft corner for us, and felt deeply for our trials and tribulations which were the aftermath of the partition, of the United Punjab. In the midst of his many preoccupations, he devoted much time to our problems and our difficulties, and gave us, without stint, help, encouragement and wise guidance. His name will for ever remain enshrined in the hearts of all of us and the generations succeeding us as one of the greatest patriots, nation-builders and statesmen of all times. On my behalf as well as on behalf of the whole House I tender to-day respectful homage to his memory.

We mourn also the death of Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi, our Minister for Health and Rehabilitation. Quiet and conscientious, he devoted himself whole-heartedly to the tasks entrusted to his care, caring not a jot for his health, which was gradually failing, in spite of the advice of his many friends, including myself, to go a little slow. The cause of our displaced brethren was nearest and dearest to his heart, and he laboured for them till his very last breath. Of his work as a Minister, it is literally true to say that he lived and died for our State. All of us miss him so badly to-day. He was one of the finest and noblest of men, whom I was privileged to know, and his untimely death in the prime of life has left a void in the life of our State, which it will be hard to fill.

This House is poorer today by the sad and premature death of Sardar Gurbachan Singh. As a Parliamentary Secretary and Senior Vice-Chairman of the Ferozepore District Board, he played a very worthy and prominent part in the public life of our State. I saw him at Ferozepore a few weeks before his death, and the zeal and earnestness with which he discussed with me the problems of our local bodies in general and Ferozepore District Board in particular, come back vividly to my mind to-day. The news of his death was a great shock to me, as I am sure it was to all of you.

I would like also to refer to the death of Shri Khurshed Lal, India's Deputy Minister for Communications. He was connected with the Punjab. When I saw him last a few months ago, he was hale and hearty, and little did I realise that it was the last time I would see him. In him we have lost a valuable Public Servant who had made his mark as a Deputy Minister, and who, if not snatched away by cruel death, was destined to play a bigger part in the conduct of the affairs of our Country.

In my last address I referred at length to the havoc caused in the State by rains and floods during the month of September. While we were still striving to relieve suffering in flood-affected areas and our people were hard at work repairing the damage caused and had hardly recovered from the worst effects of this calamity, yet another calamity of no less magnitude has descended on us. I refer to the large scale invasion of some of our districts by locusts. Starting in the last week of January, the locusts visited the districts of Hissar, Gurgaon, Karnal, Ambala and Ludhiana. Fortunately, they did not cause much damage to crops in these districts. Ultimately, however, the locusts came and settled down in about 60 to 70 villages of the Hoshiarpur district. About 25 villages of the neighbouring Jullundur district have also been seriously affected.

The extent of loss to the crops in these two districts is not yet known accurately but I fear it is considerable and on present estimates of the order of not less than about 15,000 tons of foodgrains, that I have stated just now embodies the information received by Government while this address was under preparation. The last information is that the number of affected villages in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur has risen to about 100 and 80 respectively. The pest is, however, being exterminated in both these districts and the situation is showing signs of distinct improvement. Locusts also appeared in very small areas of Ferozepore, Amritsar, and Kangra districts but effective measures have been taken and very little, if any, damage has been caused to crops. My Government has launched an all-out drive to

fight this menace in the affected areas, and has further taken all possible measures to fight it in other districts, should they be similarly affected. A special Sub-Committee of the Cabinet has been set up to handle the situation as it develops from day to day, and Control Boards have been established in the Jullundur Division and also in other districts to deal with this menace. In our campaign to fight this winged scourge, my Government has mobilized all the resources, and Government officials of all Departments, non-officials, school and college students and zamindars are all doing what they can to destroy locusts in all their various stages. In this we are receiving the very valuable assistance of the Army. To all those, particularly the Army and bands of non-official volunteers, who are helping us in our war against locusts I tender on behalf of my Government our grateful thanks, and I feel sure that in saying this I voice the feelings of this House. I have also recently promulgated an ordinance making it compulsory for every able bodied person over the age of 14 years to assist in the anti-locust campaign in the notified areas when called upon to do so. Ample funds have been placed, and more funds will be placed unhesitatingly as and when required at the disposal of the local officers to enable them to fight this menace with utmost possible effectiveness.

The task in front of us is, indeed, a gigantic one. The only remedy against flying locusts is to burn them or kill them at night, while breeding has to be stopped by the destruction of eggs and then of hoppers. I am not a pessimist, nor do I regard this as a losing battle. Nevertheless, it must be recognised that despite our very best efforts, it will not be possible completely to eliminate damage to standing crops. All we can do is to minimise it as much as we humanly can, and to that end my Government and the entire official machinery at its disposal, aided to the utmost by all our people and our Army, is bending all its energies. The problem of locusts will, I apprehend, be on our hands for the next few months, as we may not be able to kill all the locusts with us at present, or to destroy all the eggs or all the hoppers. Moreover, our State may be subjected to further locust invasion from different sides. It is accordingly incumbent upon all of us to maintain unremitting vigilance and to be alert all the the time, whether during day or during the night. In this task none of us, least of all the officers of Government must fail or falter. Apart from the damage already caused to crops, the potential danger is very grave. This calamity is a test of the strength and devotion to duty of our permanent services. It is also a test of the spirit of our people, and my Government is confident of the determination of all of us fully to measure up to our responsibility in waging a relentless fight against this

scourge, regarding it as a work of topmost priority, and leaving, if necessary all other work aside until the honours of the battle are on our side. My Government assures the House that it will extend measures of relief to the areas which have already been, or may later be, affected by this pest.

At present, our energies are naturally concentrated on fighting the pest, but a little later detailed enquiries will be made into the extent of the damage with a view to determine what relief and assistance should be given to the people whose crops have suffered.

In my last address I expressed the hope that the setback which rains and floods gave to the Grow-More-Food Campaign, would be only temporary. This hope has been fulfilled, and the drive for increased food production continues to make a steady headway. We are extending irrigation by canals, tubewells, percolation wells or other minor irrigation schemes. The use of pure seed is multiplying progressively, manure is being increasingly utilised, pests like *pohli* are being eradicated, and waste lands continue to be reclaimed. Private model farms are increasing in number and the proper technique of barani cultivation is being popularised. There is a possible risk that the campaign may lose its momentum, but my Government is guarding against this contingency. The results of increased food production are reflected both in our procurement and in our exports. Our procurement of wheat up to the end of January, 1951, amounted to 3,21,000 tons as against 2,16,000 tons during the same period last year while that of rice was 74,000 tons as against 51,000 tons, and this too in spite of the fact that the paddy crop this year suffered a heavy loss owing to the rains and floods in the months of August and September, 1950. Again, up to the end of January, 1951, our State was able to export 1,35,800 tons of wheat, of which 78,000 tons represent loans returnable by the Government of India, 21,621 tons of gram prior to its decontrol, over 63,000 tons of rice, and nearly 11,000 tons of other food grains. The total quantity of food grains exported from our State was thus a little above 232,000 tons up to the end of last month. The House will readily agree that these results are commendable. Honourable Members will also be interested to know that the Honourable Shri K. M. Munshi recently, complimented our State on the success of its Grow-More-Food campaign, and added that the help given by us to the Centre was invaluable.

Although our State is now surplus in food grains, and, with Nature as our ally, will, I am certain, continue to be so, my Government, taking into consideration, the all India shortage, decided, in accordance with the policy of the Government of India, to enforce a 25 per cent cut in the food grains ration within the rationed areas. My Government could not possibly take any other decision in this matter. It was morally obligatory

on us to fall in line with the rest of India. A common citizenship implies not only equality of privileges, but equality of sacrifice. At the same time, my Government fully realises that this cut does impose a hardship particularly on persons in lower income groups, and it trusts that the cut will be restored as soon as possible. In the meanwhile, we must bear it cheerfully and persevere with all our might to conserve as much food as possible. Needless to say, for all time to come we must concentrate on growing more food, thus adding not only to our prosperity and well-being, but also contributing in an increasing measure towards making our whole country self-sufficient.

My Government is fully seized of the importance of the consolidation of holdings as a vital preliminary step to the improvement of agriculture. The pace of consolidation has, in the past, been slow, almost lamentably slow, and there is very naturally an insistent demand on the part of the zamindars of our State for the adoption of measures with a view very greatly to accelerate the existing rate of progress. My Government has now decided to amalgamate the Consolidation Department with the Revenue Department, and to locate the responsibility for consolidation in the Deputy Commissioner. The work will now be entrusted to the halqa patwari, who will be helped by an additional patwari. For the present, each Deputy Commissioner has been asked to take this work in one tahsil of his district, and provided everything goes well, my Government anticipates that it should be possible to complete consolidation in 1 tahsil of each district, if not in one year, at least in 18 months to two years. In this plan, consolidation throughout the State should be finished in not more than eight years, if not within a shorter period. The plan is an ambitious one, but my Government will leave no stone unturned to make it a success, always bearing in mind the necessity of vigilant supervision, with a view to ensure, as far as may be, justice and accuracy. Consolidation will henceforth be regarded as an integral part of Grow-More-Food activities, and will, therefore, come within the purview of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Increased Food Production, thus making it a specific responsibility of this body to watch progress from time to time. We have set before us a very high aim, indeed, but in case it turns out that we shoot low owing to circumstances beyond our control, my Government trusts that this will be treated as a fault, if at all, on the right side.

As the House knows, we successfully completed quasi-permanent allotment of evacuee land several months ago. Steps have since been taken to complete the transfer of possession to the new allottees. This in itself

was a huge task, and the House will be glad to learn that the possession of about 92 per cent of evacuee land has actually taken over by the allottees. Most of the allotted land, of which possession has not been taken, has been leased out temporarily for cultivation. The Rehabilitation Department is now engaged, among other things, in disposing of applications for review and revision. These applications number a little over one lac. Our anticipation is that the vast bulk of these applications will have been decided before the next sowing season, so as to ensure transfer of possession, wherever called for, in good time before kharif sowings. The House may know that the land available for allotment under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme was insufficient to meet all the demands. A total area of about 99,000 standard acres is still required to meet unsatisfied claims. Proposals to find extra area to meet these claims are now under the consideration of my Government, and an important proposal in this regard is the redemption of evacuee lands mortgaged with possession to the local residents. The Government of India have also agreed to the allotment of 10,000 acres of evacuee land in Ganganagar in Bikaner State and steps are now being taken to allot this land. With the completion of the quasi-permanent allotment of land it was necessary to give further financial aid to the allottees to enable them to resettle on their new holdings. A sum of Rs. 68 lacs had been distributed amongst them by the middle of last month in the form of taccavi loans of different kinds, and further substantial sums have also since been made available. I have also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5 lacs from the Post-War Services Reconstruction Fund for distribution as loan on a co-operative basis to ex-Servicemen who have settled in fauji villages. The loan from the Fund is free of interest, but I am informed that interest at a low rate will be charged to borrowers to meet clerical expenses and possible losses.

The allotment of evacuee houses in villages has been practically completed in all districts, and possession has already been transferred to the allottees in most cases. My Government is aware of a certain amount of dissatisfaction in this matter, especially on the part of Harijans, and non-allottees of land, and it is my Government's intention to do all that is possible to mitigate such of their hardships as are genuine. As regards the Rural Housing Scheme, layout plans have been completed in 322 villages, and the work will be continued during the next financial year. My Ministers and I have, during the course of our tours, visited several evacuee villages. Our displaced peasantry is generally in good heart, and is making the best use of the land allotted to them. This was, indeed, what we all expected of our sturdy peasantry.

Urban rehabilitation is making as satisfactory progress as can be expected under existing conditions, and in this address I would only refer to a few main features. First, in the new townships out of 3,873 houses and 6,250 sites as many as 2,601 houses and 4,742 sites have been sold to displaced persons. In order to speed up the sales, my Government has decided to throw open unsold houses and sites to non-displaced persons also. Secondly, out of 1,403 plots laid out in the six industrial areas 1,125 plots have been sold out. Loans amounting to Rs. 3,46,000 have already been sanctioned by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration in 27 cases, and my Government has been informed that the remaining cases, totalling about 260 are now being dealt with expeditiously. I must add, however, that owing to several difficulties the progress in the construction of factories has so far been very disappointing. It will continue to be the endeavour of my Government to remove or mitigate these difficulties so far as it can. Thirdly, the 8-Marla-Plot-Scheme, to which I referred in my last address, has been finalised, and as a first step the construction of 3,000 houses at different places has already commenced. The Government of India have made available Rs. 54 lacs for this purpose, and these 3,000 houses will, it is hoped, be completed before the next rainy season. Fourthly, loans amounting to Rs. 1,71,00,000 under the Small Loans Scheme have already been sanctioned to 22,257 displaced families. Moreover, the Additional Registrar, Co-operative Societies, has registered 754 Societies, and loans amounting to a little over Rs. 31 lacs have been sanctioned to 617 societies, which claim a membership of a little over 7,000. Again, a sum of Rs. 11,60,000 has been advanced to the House Building Societies at Ambala, Jagadhri and Panipat. Of this amount a little over Rs. 9.15 lacs has actually been paid to them. In addition, house-building loans amounting to Rs. 36 lacs have been advanced to purchasers of plots in the new townships. Fifthly, on the representation of my Government, the Government of India have given a grant of Rs. 14 lacs for the rehabilitation of displaced educational institutions. Of this Rs. 4 lacs are for the Punjab University, and Rs. 7 lacs and Rs. 3 lacs for displaced colleges and schools respectively. This help will, I am sure go some way towards helping these struggling institutions, the plight of many of which is far from satisfactory, if not actually deplorable.

Urban rehabilitation is in many ways tied up with the general economic progress of our State, particularly in the spheres of commerce and industries. In these spheres there are at present many handicaps, like the shortage of raw materials, insufficient credit facilities, and the general outlook is none too bright, in view of the tense international

situation. My Government is repeatedly bringing these matters to the notice of the Government of India. Again, urban rehabilitation is tied up with the satisfactory settlement of the question of evacuee urban property. This settlement is still not within sight, and all I can say is that my Government continues to urge the vital importance of this matter on the Government of India.

Since we met last, in order to ensure efficient, economical and early execution of Bhakra Nangal Project in the Punjab, PEP:U and Rajasthan, the Central Government and the State Governments concerned have agreed to set up a Bhakra Control Board and a Bhakra Advisory Board. They have also agreed that the Control Board should take over all charge of all technical and financial aspects relating to the construction of the Project. I was asked to take the chairmanship of the Control Board in my personal capacity, and in view of the fact that the entire economy and future prosperity, of our State depend on the early and efficient execution of this Project, I agreed to accept this responsibility with the blessings of the Government of our State. The Control Board has held five meetings since its inception. Having regard to facts and circumstances as they exist at present, it has been decided to execute the whole Project by the departmental agency and not to entrust, it to a foreign firm on a contract basis. Some of the specialists required for the work have been recruited, and the Board are in negotiations with a first class American expert for engaging him as a Construction Consultant for preparing a general plan for construction, detailed layout plans and specifications for plant and machinery required for constructing the Dam. The Board has also undertaken forward planning for the procurement of key machinery and spares. A decision has also been taken for the shifting of the headquarters of the Chief Engineer, Bhakra Project, from Simla to Nangal, and this decision will be given effect to as soon as the required accommodation becomes available at Nangal. In brief, the Board, during the short time it has been in existence, is endeavouring, to the best of its ability, to remove bottlenecks and handicaps. Much, of course, depends on the amounts of money that can be made available from year to year by the Government of India for the Project, as obviously the pace of construction is governed, among other things, mainly by finance. Bearing in mind this vital factor, I would like to say that progress on the Project is satisfactory, and I hope that the international situation may not affect adversely its early execution. I must add in this connection that since the Bhakra Project is being financed by loan money, it must be "productive" and that in order to make it 'productive' it will be necessary to levy

betterment fee on all lands receiving irrigation benefits from the Project. The levy of an adequate betterment fee is a condition precedent to the advance of loans by the Government of India. My Government has already accepted this condition and legislation for the levy of the fee will be introduced, if possible, during the current session. This legislation will cover, *inter alia*, all lands which are irrigated or will be irrigated by new schemes financed from loans e.g. the Jagadhri Tubewell Scheme the Scheme of new Distributaries, etc.

As regards the construction of the new Capital at Chandigarh, the Master Plan has been finalised and the services of some top ranking architects from England and France have been obtained. Preliminary work on laying of roads and construction of quarters for planning and construction staff is proceeding. We hope to be able to move this staff to new town very shortly. My Government is anxious to go ahead, as early as possible, with the construction of the Capital, and on present indications plots for sale to the public will be laid out by May-June of this year.

The law and order situation in our State is satisfactory. The Police have been successful in bringing about a further improvement in the suppression and detection of crime. It has been the constant endeavour of my Government progressively to improve the standards of training, discipline and conduct in the Police force, and I look forward to an increasing measure of co-operation on the part of our citizens with the Police in the discharge of their onerous duties. I think, it may be said, by and large, that the working of the Police and Magistracy has now achieved normal per-partition standards. The shortage in the Magisterial strength of the various districts has largely been made good. Continued vigilance by the Police is essential for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in our State, as subversive forces threatening order and security are at work. My Government believes that there are still large quantities of illicit arms and ammunition, and also that some of the licensees are not law-abiding and reliable enough to deserve the possession of licensed arms. My Government is taking appropriate steps in this matter.

The first census in free India started on the 9th of this month and will be completed to-morrow. A large number of enumerators and checkers have been moving about daily in towns and villages all over the State, counting the individuals and recording certain particulars about them. It is a matter of deep regret to my Government that the census operations in our State should have been the subject of a communal controversy about the record in the language column. Nevertheless, the data

collected during the census should be of great value for economic and social planning, forming as they will, the basis of a sound statistical structure in India.

It is now more than a year since India became a Republic, and, according to present decisions, elections under the new Constitution will take place some time towards the end of this year. This election, based as it is on adult franchise with the largest electorate in the world, will launch our country on the greatest democratic experiment of modern times. For the successful working of such an experiment, it is essential that the millions of people who will go for the first time to the polls, are properly educated in their rights and duties as voters. I am sure that you, my friends of the Assembly, will do all you can to assist the Government to make our electorate realise the value of their vote, so that they may exercise it with a due sense of responsibility.

Apart from the Legislative business, to which I will refer a little later, you will be primarily engaged, during the current session, on dealing with the Budget Estimates for the ensuing financial year. I cannot obviously anticipate the Budget, which is the concern of my colleague, the Honourable the Chief Minister, but I would like to observe on behalf of my Government that, situated as we are, there can be no question of any measures aiming at the reduction of our existing revenues. The problem will, in fact, be one of striving hard to make both ends meet, and this is possible only by exploring additional sources of revenue, and, at the same time, by curtailment of expenditure. Both these processes postulate tightening of the belt or, in other words sacrifice. Much as we may want rapid extension of welfare activities—and in this sphere my Government will do its best—first things will have to come first, the aim being to make our State financially self supporting, consistently with the satisfactory discharge of its primary responsibilities towards our citizens.

I regret to have to bring to the notice of the House that the progress of legislation in the past has been rather slow, as a result of which the pending Legislative work continues to swell. The programme for the coming session will, therefore, be very heavy, and I am sure you will make it a point of disposing of as much pending business during the current session as may be possible. Some of the more important Bills which will come up for consideration, include The Punjab Security of the State Bill, The Gaon Panchayta Bill, The Public Gambling Punjab (Amendment) Bill. The Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill, The Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loan to Students) Bill, and the Cattle Trespass (Punjab Amendment) Bill. My Government has had under active

consideration proposals for the liquidation of occupancy tenancies in the State, and if these are finalised in time, it is my Government's intention to introduce, during the current session, the necessary legislation on the subject for your consideration.

Members of the Assembly, in this address I have endeavoured, on behalf of my Government, broadly to indicate the progress made by our State in some important spheres, and also the policy and intentions of my Government in those spheres. Much as I would have liked, I have not found it possible to review the activities of every Department, but I have no doubt that the work of Departments which I have not mentioned and indeed of all Departments will come under your careful review during the several stages of discussion on the Budget. What I have stated shows however, substantial progress all round in our State, in spite of our many difficulties, financial, economic, political and other. Our further progress will depend very largely on our own efforts, and also, to an appreciable extent, on world conditions. Unfortunately for humanity the world to-day is in a disturbed state; fear and lack of security dominate men's minds. The maintenance of world peace is our greatest need; with peace ensured and the threat of war removed, our country and our State can go forward with the solution of its many problems and difficulties. On this ground, if no other, we need to support, both in words and deeds, the valiant efforts of our Prime Minister in the cause of world peace, but come what may, we should never give way to despair or despondency. What our State and our people have achieved during the last 3½ years in the face of heavy odds, is judged by any reasonable standards not unimpressive. Let us all go forward with steady heads and stout hearts in the great task of rebuilding the life of our State, a task which is still not complete, and a task which demands from all of us a great deal of unity, discipline, incessant hard work and regard for the public good.

Members of the Assembly, I now leave you to your deliberations, and wish you all a session of constructive work for the well-being of our State.

Jai Hind.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

REFERENCE TO THE DEATHS OF THE HON. SARDAR PATEL, SHRI KHURSHED LAL, THE HON. DR. LEHNA SINGH SETHI, SARDAR GURBACHAN SINGH, MAHANT PREM SINGH, SHRI A. V. THAKUR AND SHRI AUROVINDO GHOSH.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, it is with feelings of utmost sadness and sorrow that I rise to pay my humble tribute to India's great leader, philosopher, friend and guide, Sardar Patel, and I have no doubt that every hon. Member sitting in the House would join me in that wholeheartedly. In Sardar Patel's death, which sad event took place on December 15, 1950, in Bombay, India lost a born warrior and the Punjab lost its greatest benefactor and most valued guide. Sardar occupied a position of the greatest distinction in so far as he was regarded as the most devoted and faithful disciple of the Father of the Nation. He was aptly described as the leader of the people who carried out what Gandhiji preached. His devotion to Gandhiji's principles and his complete self-abnegation in spreading the message of the Saint of Sabarmati have become almost proverbial and the Sardar's attachment to Gandhiji and the first place he occupied among Gandhiji's closest disciples will adorn the pages of the history of India, particularly when mention is made of the great and heroic struggle in which Gandhiji led his countrymen for the achievement of independence which goal was happily attained during Gandhiji's own life time. The Sardar was known as being the practical interpreter of the teachings of the Saint of Sevagram and to him shall always go the credit of having acted as the spear-head of every movement which our Master planned for our emancipation. What was most remarkable was that the Sardar, an intellectual giant, surrendered himself so completely to his Master that often it was difficult to believe whether he was carrying out the instructions of his leader or the work in which he plunged himself was born out of his own personal convictions. So complete, if I may be permitted to say, was the surrender of a giant to his Master that ever since he got the first glow of light from him

there was hardly a moment of his life when he lived without being inspired by the touch of his Master and the light that emanated from him.

A great and most remarkable product of the miracle that Gandhiji performed during his life in creating men around him, out of the dead soul of India, Sardar Patel was the most eminent among those giants who sacrificed their princely wealth and their equally great comforts and chose to follow the Master on the most difficult path which at that time most people thought would lead to nothing but wilderness. His faith in the teachings of Bapuji was so implicit that he seemed to have forgotten that nature had designed him to be himself the leader of men and the best benefactor of India after Gandhiji. I say this, Sir, because apart from the most distinguished services which he rendered to the cause of India's freedom, his greatest benediction was the everlasting good that he did to India in the unification of our country, which is truly being regarded now, and I have no doubt that the future historians would support this view, as a miracle which dazzled the eyes of those who never thought that some one in India could make that achievement.

Such stupendous was the task which he performed in an absolutely Gandhian spirit without letting even a drop of blood to flow, that he has rightly come to be known as the Maker of Modern India or, Sir, it was nothing less than a miracle after the great performance of the Master who had united India of today with which were amalgamated under his most sagacious leadership about 562 Indian States which the British Rulers had created as so many mines to endanger for always the unity of our great country.

While, Sir, during the life time of his Master, the Sardar remained a devoted torch-bearer carrying the light which he himself got from his Master, as the Master became a martyr in the cause of India's unity, this ardent disciple took upon himself the most difficult task of maintaining the peace and order throughout the length and breadth of the country. The miracle of the light which had inspired him the whole of his life came to be known during the three years of his stewardship of almost all the affairs that concerned India's good, both internal and external, and that not only in the matter of the Government of the country but in India's greatest national organisation, the Congress, also. He became the most

(Chief Minister)

valued and trusted counsel of our Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, with whom he shared the heaviest burden of responsibility which any two men in a country which had achieved independence after hundreds of years of subjugation had been called upon to shoulder from the day of the birth of independence which Gandhiji got for us all.

It is needless for me to refer to the great and distinguished career of Sardar Patel before he took to the life of sacrifice and suffering after the touch of the Master. That is a part of the great story of the life of a man whom his grateful people loved to call as the 'Steel man of India' and for whose great services and qualities of leadership of the dumb millions, the Master gave him the title of 'Sardar'. The Sardar was not only the leader of a group or the guide of a section of the people. He was the guiding spirit of all that was good and noble in the country whether it was the cause of labour represented by the labour unions or the interest of the kisans whom he served the most part of his life most devotedly. The Sardar of Bardoli, as his leader and guide called him, when Vallabhbhai led the great and historic Bardoli movement, is a house-hold word. Vallabhbhai is remembered by his grateful people by that title bestowed on him by Gandhiji who never threw away any words.

The Sardar of Bardoli, Sir, became the Sardar of India when our country became free and we have all known what great contribution he made to the even greater cause of maintaining India's freedom. His great contribution in that direction would always be remembered by the coming generations with even a greater sense of gratitude for he found out the 'plague spots' and provided the necessary remedies without even the necessity of causing the pain resulting from even an injection. It was his sagacious and wise guidance that performed that miracle of the accession of Hyderabad.

Sardar's word carried the greatest appeal to his people and it will be remembered with feelings of gratefulness to him that his was the greatest contribution towards the establishment of peace after the partition and this resulted in the saving of the lives of thousands, and perhaps, lakhs of people.

Any reference to the Sardar of India, Sir, would remain incomplete if it was not stated how much beholden the people of the Punjab are to our benefactor who to our misfortune is not amidst us today. His heart

bled on the sorrows and sufferings of the lakhs of people who had to escape from the valley of death--which the West Punjab became a little before and soon after the partition. There was not a more sympathetic heart which wept for the untold miseries which befell the Punjabis. I say this, Sir, without meaning any exaggeration, for while the Master laid down his life for the sake of these misery-stricken people, his disciple did every thing that a human mind could do to give relief to the people in their miseries and their sorrows. His word carried hope and gave new life to the misery-stricken people in spite of their untold sufferings. He was undoubtedly looked upon as one of the hopes of the refugees. They looked to him as the real benefactor and no wonder they loved him so dearly. There was hardly an occasion when the Sardar did not lend his paternal care and loving hand to the distressed people of the Punjab and his wise guidance and advice were always of the greatest value to us all. That is why, Sir, we feel that in Sardar Patel while the country has lost a great Leader and a guide, we have lost a benefactor in whom our hopes greatly lay and by whose removal from the scene of India's activity we in the Punjab feel that we have lost after the light that went out on January 30, 1948, yet another light which had its glow from the light I have just now mentioned. The light that went out on December 15 has created darkness around us and we feel bewildered like the man who in darkness loses his stick which is the only mainstay for him to find out his path. All honour to such a soul that was of the Sardar of India and we bow our heads in reverence and sorrow.

It is now my painful duty, Sir, to refer to another tragedy that took place on December 1, when our esteemed colleague and my friend Dr. Lehna Singh fell while on the post of his public duty. All of us know how dearly he was loved by his people and in what great affection each one of us present here held him. Unassuming, a fearless man with spirit that was dauntless, Dr. Lehna Singh by the sheer force of his love for the people and his selfless devotion created a place for himself in the public life of our State which will be remembered by those who come after us and by ourselves with a feeling of due pride. Dr. Lehna Singh who belonged to Gujranwala started life in Sargodha, joined the army of devoted disciples of Gandhiji and while treading this path suffered rigours of imprisonment and poverty. To him the cause of the service of the people through the instrument of the Congress organization was a matter of duty from which he never flinched even for a moment. We have all known how devoted he was to his national organization and how gradually he made his way up to occupy a position of great distinction in that organization in the State where he was chosen as the General Secretary of the State Congress.

(Chief Minister)

The services which Dr. Lehna Singh rendered to the cause of India's freedom and her people in the limited sphere of the Punjab are too well-known to bear any repetition here. We all know what meritorious services he rendered to the people, particularly of the Sargodha District in the evacuee camps and with what courage and lion-heartedness he brought out these people from the jaws of death, unmindful the whole time of the lives and safety of his nearest kith and kin whom he did not agree to send to India until the last man was taken out from the Sargodha Camp in safety.

Dr. Lehna Singh was a self-made man who paved his own way up in life and on account of his ability and selfless devotion to the cause of the services of the people he came to be loved most dearly and I have had the privilege of counting him not only among my personal friends, and I loved him most dearly, but on that score when I decided to take the benefit of his help and guidance in the work of the Government, I am proud to be able to say that I regarded myself as very lucky in having made that choice. While as an hon. Member of this House he inspired most of us by the simplicity of his affection and the urbanity of his manners, to his colleagues in the Cabinet, he became the cause of great strength. He was indeed the man of the masses who loved him and he served them with equal devotion.

Sir, the loss of such a distinguished and esteemed colleague as Dr. Lehna Singh was, is irreparable and I feel sad when I find his seat vacant and I miss that charming personality with a cheer on his face which never got ruffled in spite of the many difficult positions which he had to face. I have no doubt that the House feels poorer today by the absence of such a gem among men as Dr. Lehna Singh was.

It is my sad duty also, Sir, to refer to another loss which we have sustained by the death of Sardar Gurbachan Singh, Parliamentary Secretary which took place in January 1951. By his death the House has been deprived of an esteemed colleague who made valuable contribution to the proceedings of this House particularly by his special interest in the beneficent departments of the Government. We all remember how vehemently he used to plead the cause of the people in general and of his constituency in particular. He was interested in the development of agriculture and in his own district where he occupied the position of senior vice-resident of the Ferozepore District Board, he was known for having taken keen interest in the welfare of the people in the rural areas. Even though he belonged to a rich and aristocratic family and owned big landed property yet he was a friend of the tenants with whom he was always found willing to share his fortunes.

Mahant Prem Singh was a religious man and has done a great deal for the educational uplift of the backward classes, particularly amongst the Sikhs. He was a social reformer and preached the giving up of social vices. He belonged to Gujrat District and served the refugees whole heartedly. The Labanas, which is an important martial tribe in the Punjab, considered him as their spiritual and temporal leader. He was greatly respected by the Sikh community.

In the death of Shri Khurshed Lal, Deputy Minister for communications, Government of India, at the age of 48, the country has suffered a great loss by the sudden end of a distinguished and promising career.

Shri Khurshed Lal was elected to the Constituent Assembly in 1946 and appointed a Deputy Minister in October 1948. He took active part in the national struggle for freedom and suffered greatly for the country's cause. He took an active part in civic affairs of his home town Dehra Dun and was chairman of the Municipal Board for a number of years, during which period he worked greatly for its improvement.

As Deputy Minister for communications, Shri Khurshed Lal distinguished himself as an able administrator. He made his mark in the Indian Parliament where he was very popular with all sections of the House.

I am not able to get out from this sea of sorrow, Sir, having made the above references, I deem it my sorrowfull duty to refer also to the death of another eminent Indian of Gandhian era that great self-less and devoted social worker, Thakar Bapa. He beloged to that great line of men who devoted themselves to the service of cause which was nearest to Ganbhiji's heart. Thakar Bapa belonged to that section which regarded it as their duty to get on to the task which their Master would ask them to do. To him was allotted the most difficult task of the uplift of that section of the community whom we wrongly called as the untouchables. Simple, sincere, and devoted Thakkar Bappa, under the advice of his Master took up that task and did it with the greatest devotion all his life so that this blot of untouchability may be removed for ever from the face of India. He served the humble and the meek and by his own inspiring personal example dutified the glow of the light of his Master. He went from village to village and from place to place asking successfully the people to give the right of living as equally respectable people to those whom their greatest friend Gandhiji called as the Harijans. His devotion to the cause and the great contribution he made would be remembered with utmost respect and admiration. His life and work would

(Chief Minister)

remain as a shining light and guide to those who have the good fortune to work in the rather glamourless sphere of social work.

Sir, the country has suffered a great loss in the death of another Leader Shri Aurovindo Ghosh, the sage of Pondichary. A man of action deeply read in Western literature he imbibed in him the best of East and West. Among the older generation he is still remembered as a great fighter in the cause of India's freedom while during his later years though he left the political field and devoted himself to the study of philosophy, yoga and religion he left his mark on the contemporary thought. He was one of the greatest philosophers of modern times and visualised a new world which was about to be born soon. He was a great Indian and was held in esteem by all his country men.

Sir, I beg to move:—

That the Assembly be adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of ;—

The hon. Sardar Patel,
Shri Khurshed Lal,
The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi,
Sarbar Gurbachan Singh,
Mahant Prem Singh,
Shri A.V. Thakur and
Shri Aurovindo Ghosh.

I also request that you may be pleased to convey a message of condolence on behalf of this House to the bereaved families of these personalities.

Mr. Speaker. Motion moved:—

That the Assembly be adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of :

The hon. Sardar Patel,
Shri Khurshed Lal,
The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi,
Sardar Gurbachan Singh,
Mahant Prem Singh,
Shri A. V. Thakur and
Shri Aurovindo Ghosh

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (*ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban*); I beg to offer my tributes to the memory of the departed seven souls that have been taken away from our midst. Sardar Patel died full of honours, in the zenith of his worldly glories. He will be remembered for all times as one of the greatest makers of modern India. He was a fighter all his life and he fought the battle of India's freedom in a manner all his own. He was the first to make the

British feel the strength behind India's demand for freedom. We have known Sardar Patel when he was introduced to us politically as a successful Barrister. We are told how boisterous he used to be as a practising lawyer and even then the great traits of character which later on came to be reconed as one of the greatest assets of the country were seen in play. Even then he dominated all situations wherever he was. His task, if I may say so, was a task of those great men who are destined to fulfil certain specified tasks. He fulfilled his task in a manner which has been the envy and the glory of the greatest of people that have come to live on the face of this world. History will record for all times the greatest of the man who had been responsible for bringing India together and consolidating its position. He was known to the public life through Mahatma Gandhi and the greatest compliment that can go to him is that Mahatma Ji planned and he executed and the task which was left incomplete by Mahatma Ji, he took upon his own shoulders to complete.

Shri Thakkar Bapa was another public worker who had devoted his life working for the country along the lines laid down by Mahatma Ji.

Shri Khurshed Lal was a personal friend of mine. He was a gentleman known for his qualities and as Deputy Minister he had made his mark. He was one of those who fought the country's battle for freedom and acquitted himself with courage wherever he was.

Shri Aurovindo Ghosh's disappearance from the scene is a void which will remain unfilled.

Nearer home we are poorer by the death of our esteemed colleagues whom we do not see in this House.

I personally know what Dr. Lehna Singh did after the partition, The manner in which and the courage and devotion with which he undertook to perform the difficult task of evacuating those who were left behind in Pakistan was unrivalled. His work as a Minister is well-known and there cannot be a greater proof of that in view of the fact that he died in harness.

Sir, Mahant Prem Singh was a most conscientious gentleman who is no longer in our midst today. He was a quiet worker and did not want any sort of show.

(Shri Bhim Sen Sachar)

With Sardar Gurbaehan Singh I had occasion to work in a number of Committees and I can say from my personal experience that he was a perfect gentleman simple and unassuming. He distinguished himself in the sphere of his activities as a member of the district board, Ferozepore. We all miss him greatly in this House.

Sardar Partap Singh (*Amritsar, South, Sikh Rural*) (*Punjabi*): Sir, one's heart is overcome with grief when one thinks of the sad deaths of all these personages especially Sardar Patel who had made it his life mission to raise the fallen Bharat to its pristine glory and to guide its fortunes to a glorious future. His departure just after three and a half years of the achievement of independence is a tremendous loss to our country. The Sardar began to shine like a bright star on the political firmament of India after the Bardoli Campaign. It was then that he demonstrated his great love and sympathy for the peasants and organised and led them into a great movement against the decision of the British Government to enhance the land revenue and ultimately succeeded in bending down the imperialist power. It was the masterful lead that he gave on that occasion that earned for him the title of 'Sardar'. Later on, he proved himself in the true sense of the word to be the 'Sardar' of India.

Sardar Patel cherished a great love for the Punjabis especially after the sufferings that they had undergone due to the Partition. Every minute of his life he remained anxious that the energy of the Sikhs, for whom he had a great regard, because he considered them brave people, should not be diverted into wrong channel under the misguidance of interested politicians and that they should play their rightful roll in Free India.

It is generally said that the Sardar was a man of steel will taking into consideration his unshakable determination, Himalayan in its strength and firmness, non can deny that he justly merited this description. But underneath his iron frame beat a heart essentially tender and loving, a fact to which who had had the good opportunity of coming into close contact with him can easily testify. When the Cabinet Mission visited India, its members were under the impression that they would find in Sardar Patel who had been the chief organiser of so many agitations and movements against the British rule a man full of hatred and spite against the Britishers. But to their utter surprise, they found him gentle and sweet-tongued

beyond all their expectations. It was then that the Sardar unmistakably showed that though he was a great hater of British imperialism, he bore the British people no malice. It was this large-heartedness coupled with unique firmness and tact that made Sardar well-known all the world over. The task that Bismark completed with the aid of sword was accomplished by our Sardar without shedding a drop of blood through his consummate tact. Perhaps he had other schemes in his great brain which he could not put into effect, yet it will be universally admitted that he succeeded in laying solid foundations for building a glorious edifice and ensuring a splendid future for his country.

We also deeply mourn the deaths of Shri Khurshed Lal and Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi who were near relatives. Who does not know the sufferings, both physical and mental that Dr. Lehna Singh had to undergo as a soldier fighting for the freedom of his country? In fact, we owe our freedom to men of the type of Dr. Lehna Singh. His services to the people of this State as Minister for Rehabilitation, as General Secretary of the Congress and as a sincere social worker deserve to be written in letters of gold. To the cause of the rehabilitation of refugees he devoted himself with unflinching zest and absorbing interest till his last breath. He served them and looked after their interests at the cost of his health. Above all, Dr. Lehna Singh was an embodiment of truth, honesty, and cleanliness, both physical as well as mental. The whole of the Punjab has suffered a grievous loss through his death.

Mahant Prem Singh was really an angel. He spoke less but he had a heart which was full of love for every body. He rendered a yeoman's service in uplifting the Labana community and I think that these people have suffered an irreparable loss. Thakur Bapa devoted his life to the cause of the Harijans. His work will guide us like a beacon light for all time to come.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh was an unassuming and a straight-forward representative of his constituents. He had an earnest desire to make the district board of Ferozepore a model district board.

Sir, I honestly feel that these gentlemen who have left us for ever have done so much for us, for our country and for our Province that it is not possible for us to show our gratitude in words. They preached love

(Sardar Partap Singh)

and unity and warned us against the dangers of conflict and discord. May God give peace to these departed souls.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (*Hansi, General, Rural*) : Sir I associate myself with the tributes paid by the Leader of the House and by other hon. Members to Sardar Patel and other illustrious sons of our motherland whose loss we have sustained. I had occasions to meet Sardar Patel a number of times and was always struck by his ability and straight-forwardness which convinced me that the title of 'Sardar' was rightly given to him. He was a born leader of men. He was the son of a soldier who had fought against the British during our first fight for freedom, the so-called Mutiny. Coming as he did from the peasant class, he had all the qualities of head and heart which make men really great. At the time he was a Member of the Coalition Cabinet at the Centre along with the Muslim League, I happened to go to Delhi where I met Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan who also was a Minister in that Cabinet. We had discussion about the working of that Ministry and I was wonder struck to hear from Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan who was a great opponent of Sardar Patel that the Sardar was by far the ablest administrator of the time. We needed him most at the moment because there are in fact very few administrators of his calibre and ability. Our loss is irreparable. Sardar Patel had always been very sympathetic towards the backward and the rural classes and we had very great respect and regard for him.

Sir, besides the hon. Sardar Patel we have lost our dear Friend Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi. He always struck me as the most sincere and the most unassuming Member of the House. He always took keen interest in the refugees and silently worked for their betterment and felt for them. After becoming a Minister in this Government he got a better chance to work for the refugees as he had the portfolio of rehabilitation. People of the State had very high hopes about him but cruel hand of death has snatched him from us so suddenly.

In Sardar Gurbachan Singh we have lost a man who had always been fighting for the zamindars and the rural people. He was a man who, although, did not go about much, yet, always stood for the rural classes and fought for them in the House. Sir, men like Sardar Gurbachan Singh and Mahant Prem Singh, who have left us, were a great asset to the House and I feel that their loss is a loss not to this House alone but to the State as a whole. Mahant Prem Singh was an old colleague of ours. He was a

Member of the last Assembly also. In him I found a man who was always prepared to work for the good of the people of the Province. About Shri Khurshed Lal and Thakkar Bappa I do not know much personally and am, therefore, unable to say much about them.

In the end I whole-heartedly associate myself with the feelings and sentiments expressed by the hon. Leader of the House and other hon. Members of the House, for the departed souls.

Minister for Labour (The hon Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) (*Hindi*)
Sir, I feel like quoting a line from the holy Shastras which is as follows:

प्राप्त प्रात मुपासोत हृदयेना पराजित :

(With the heart even undaunted one should discharge whatever duty comes to him)

It means that when one is performing his duty, he should not be afraid of any thing in this world. I think that if a man ever acted up to this lofty principle, he was our most revered leader Sardar Patel. Where Sardar Patel is so well known for the great services he has rendered to the cause of the country as a whole, he is equally well known for what he has done in the social field by way of uplifting that appreciable part of our population which goes by the name of the Scheduled Castes or the Depressed Classes. No doubt Gandhiji spent the whole of his life in finding out ways and means for securing a proper place for the Harijans in the social and political life of this country, but if I think aright, it was given to the great Sardar to give practical shape to the programme of Mahatmaji to a considerable extent after the achievement of our independence. It was in August 1950 that the Sardar said in a speech that the remainder of his life was to be dedicated to the Harijans so that they were enabled to find their proper place in our society. He took practical steps to achieve this end. He agreed to become the chairman of the Minority Committee which was set up to protect the rights and interests of the Harijans and other minorities and did that memorable work in this direction which is sure to find a very prominent niche for him in the great temple of the great men of the world. He was a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi and it was with his zeal and love for the depressed people that he worked his hardest to secure the social and political rights for the down-trodden.

(Minister for Labour)

In December last when Sardar was thinking of leaving Delhi, some leaders gathered around him. The words which he spoke at that time show that he was really a great leader and protector of India. He spoke about the pledge he had taken before Gandhiji for the uplift of workers, peasants and Harijans. He expressed his sorrow that he could not complete this work in his life time. He said that if it was true that a man was reborn after death, he wished to complete his work in his next life. This will show that Sardar Patel lived and died for those people who are generally neglected by the society and get little help from it. We usually speak of the great part played by Sardar Patel in the struggle for independence and of his magnificent achievements in the field of consolidation of the country. He is sometimes compared with Bismark of Germany. In my opinion this true disciple of Mahatma Gandhi worked like Chanakya in bringing about the union of over six hundred states scattered all over the Country. Acting on the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, he raised the backward classes to the level of humanity and thereby strengthened the country to a very large extent. I join the House in paying tributes to the memory of the great Sardar.

In the resolution before the House, there is reference to the death of another eminent social worker, *viz.*, Shri Thakar Bapa. He did not occupy a prominent place in the political field but had devoted himself to social service for the last over half a century. He worked among those people whom others have generally neglected. He worked among Bhils, Gonds and such other backward tribes and tried to bring them at par with other people. A short while before his death, he submitted his report to the Government regarding Aditasis and made several suggestions for their uplift. We can never forget a social worker like Shri A.V. Thakur who lived all his life on Gandhian principles. It will not be possible to fill the void created by his death.

Then, Sir, another gentleman who recently departed from amongst us was Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi, who occupied an important place in this House. He had been keeping indifferent health for sometime past but he paid no heed to it and devoted all his time in the discharge of his duties. Though suffering from heart trouble he spared no pains in serving his countrymen. The loss caused by his death to the Government and to the State Congress can never be made good.

Shri Khurshed Lal Sethi, who also passed away recently, belonged to the Punjab. He spent the major part of his life at Dehradun, where I had the good fortune of spending my childhood near him. I learnt

most of the things of my life from him. He taught me the value of working in social field. I know how he was always busy serving the people. Later, when he joined the Central Government, he devoted himself completely to his official duties. The loss caused to the country by the passing away of a man like him is really irreparable.

Then, Sir, we have lost Sardar Gurbachan Singh and Mahant Prem Singh who were Members of this House. The latter was a representative of the backward classes for whose uplift he did real work. We can never forget a sincere and unassuming worker like him, because it will not be possible to fill the void caused by his passing away.

Before resuming my seat, I wish to make an appeal to the hon. Members of this House. All of us wish to pay our humble tributes to the memory of Sardar Patel who did not forget our State even for a single moment in the whole of his life. He was always thinking about our problems. Even during the days of his illness he devoted a great attention to our State. The Leader of the House and other hon. Members know perfectly well that he was always concerned about the difficulties faced by our State and was anxious to see us surmount all these successfully. I can tell the House that if Sardar Patel were not at the Centre, the boundary line dividing the East and West Punjabs would have been different from what it is now. He attached great importance to the Punjab and at the time when we were passing through a very difficult period he was constantly worried about us, and was most anxious to see the restoration of normal conditions.

No doubt, we are grieved at the loss of the Sardar, because he had high regard and consideration for the Punjabis in his heart, and we are paying our tributes to his memory. But mere words cannot serve any desirable purpose. According to the teaching of Holy Gita the soul never dies:-

नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि । नैनं दहति पावकाः ।

न चैनं क्लेदयन्ति आपां न शोष्यति मारुतः ।

According to this Sauskrit Sloka, the soul remains alive and watches us from above. It sees what I do and what others do. It is, therefore,

(Minister for Labour)

important that we should try to lead the nation on the lines on which that great disciple of Krishna, the loin-cloth wearing Mahatma wanted to take it for its prosperity and happiness, because his soul is even now watching us. The condition of the people would not have been so bad if the Sardar had been living today. I, therefore, submit that the people who are paying their tributes to the memory of the Sardar today, should try to follow in his footsteps to take the country on towards prosperity and happiness. With these words, I associate myself with the reference made by the Leader of the House.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal. (South Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, we are today mourning the loss of Sardar Patel who spent a great part of his life in the service of the country. At this time when India needed the services of the greatest as well as the humblest amongst us, the Sardar is greatly missed. The hon. Members who have preceded me have expatiated over the later part of the life of the Sardar. But I want to submit that he got the title of the Sardar after a certain stage of his life. While in Gujrat, he was only Bhai Vallabh Patel. It was 25 years ago that I met Bhai Patel. Even though I did not meet him very frequently, yet I had the opportunity of meeting him scores of times. I don't want to waste the time of the House by repeating what the Sardar did in the political field. I want to offer my respectful tribute to the memory of that Bhai Patel who had always a soft corner for our sisters in his heart. Gujrat where he was born was a very backward province in the matter of female education and other social activities. He uplifted it. Whenever we had an occasion to contact him in connection with some social work, he gave us his attention immediately. I am reminded of an incident of 1930, when I was engaged in service of the Kanya Mahan Vidayala, Jullundur. I wanted to take the help of every national leader in this connection. It was in the middle of 1930 that I requested the Sardar to deliver the convocation address at the convocation of the Kanya-Mahan Vidyala. He promised to do so. But then it so happened that the same year he was elected the president of the All India Congress. I want to tell my brethren that the Sardar was a man of his word and he lived upto it. This was the greatest trait of his character. I think there were three personages responsible for the making of the Father of the Nation, Mahama Gandhi. They were, firstly, the late Mahadev Desai, secondly Shri Mani Lal Kuthari and thirdly the late Sardar Patel. When I met the Sardar at the Karachi session of the Congress, he told me that he had not forgotten his promise to me. Although he could not himself come, he sent Shri Kuthari

for delivering the convocation address. At this stage, I must confess that we are actuated by selfish motives when we mourn the loss of the Sardar. There is a proverb in Punjabi that nobody weeps for the loss of his mother but for the loss of benefits accruing from her.

ਕੀੜੈ ਜ ਰੋਂਦਾ ਭਰਮਾ ਨੂੰ, ਤੇ ਰੋਂਦੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਕਰਮਾ ਨੂੰ.
ਕੋਈ ਨ ਰੋਂਦਾ ਅੰਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ, ਤੇ ਰੋਂਦੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ।

We miss the Sardar today because he was a great sympathiser of the Punjabis. In spite of his being a great national leader, he had a place in his heart for the Punjab and its people. I do not want to contradict this view of my hon. Brethren.

I just want to submit that if we are convinced that the Sardar was a sympathiser of the Punjabis, we should change and acquire the strong determination he always exhibited. We should, also, acquire his other good qualities. His good qualities were many and I don't find myself capable of detailing them. The late Sardar Patel was a man of iron will and strong determination. What he willed, he pursued relentlessly and steadfastly. We should, therefore, learn to be steadfast like him.

Had we followed Gandhi-ism in its true sense there would have been no partition of India at all. I know Shri Thakur Bapa since long and got ample opportunities of meeting him. He was an honest and selfless worker.

Sir, here I wish to make reference to the sad demise of Shri Aurovindo Ghosh. He was one of those top ranking personalities who brought about a revolution in the thoughts of his countrymen. At such a time when the very name of an English man made an average Indian tremble in his shoes, this great personality inspired him to be bold in thoughts and actions. He believed in Bhakti and Shakti. He was in fact, a great revolutionary of his time. Every breath of his was spent in the service of Motherland. Sir, it is a matter of great sorrow that we have lost four eminent Punjabees at the time when their services were so badly needed. One of them was Shri Khurshed Lal. I knew him for the last fifteen years or so. His wife was one of my students at Ferozepore. As such I came into an intimate contact with her. She is a gentle lady of good habits and sweet tongue. She has so often discussed with me various affairs of the country and the Congress. We talked of matters

(Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal)

concerning our national life. About six years back when we met she narrated at length the manner and means by which various people had recently arisen to high posts of power and authority in the country. At that time she little knew that Shri Khurshed Lal himself, by dint of his brilliance would soon rise to a position of eminence. She did not then know that her husband was destined to play an eminent part in the affairs of our country. During the short span of six years we have seen how this great Punjabee made his mark. But alas, who knew that the end would be so soon. One cannot know beforehand what fate has in store for any of us. In my opinion he was one of the remarkable personalities of Punjab. During the last five or six years he became a member of the Indian Parliament and rose to the position of a Deputy Minister. It is beyond my power of expression to find words for paying a tribute worthy of the high character and attainments that were his. In the Parliament Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru and Shri Kidwai spoke of him in words which I need not repeat but which express a complete appreciation of the character which he possessed. May his soul rest in peace.

Another great Punjabee who has left us is Doctor Lehna Singh Sethi. He used to sit with us here on these very benches. At first he used to sit on this side and later on he was selected for occupying a seat along with other hon. Ministers. As a Member and also as Minister we have seen that he always spoke in a tone which was soft, gentle and full of sympathy. He was an honest and hard working public man. We can say that on account of his character and hard work the services which he rendered to this Province were really great.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh was one of us. He became a Parliamentary Secretary. We often met him and found him an honest servant of the people. The people of Ferozepore loved and admired him. He served them with all his energies. In him we have lost a true public worker and the State of Punjab has suffered a loss on account of his untimely death.

Before I resume my seat I have to say a few words more in this connection. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that no one can foretell what is in store for any of us. Today one cannot say what is to happen tomorrow. All of us have great aspirations and plans for the future. But who can say whether one will be able to survive to see even the next October Session. How many of us and who will go

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A. V. THAKUR AND SHRI AUROVINDO GHOSH.

tomorrow nobody knows. The intricate philosophy of life and death has, as a matter of fact, a sobering effect upon the spirit of man. Today we are here to condole the passing away of seven eminent persons. We have already related some of the services which they rendered to the country during their life time. If we rise above parties and persons and try to grasp the principles which they followed, we can also make a short life us ful to the country and humanity at large. On the other hand if we do not learn a lesson from their lives we won't stand to gain anything and our lives and activities will be of no use. I again appeal to the hon. Members to follow in the footsteps of those who laid down their lives in the service of their country. It is only by doing so that we can make our lives sublime. Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru has also stated that our endeavour should always be to follow high ideals and work in pursuit of noble principles. With these words I resume my seat.

Sardar Swaran Singh. (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, by the passing away of Sardar Patel, India has lost a great man, a foremost leader and a firm administrator. As a man, Sardar Patel was very affectionate though he had the rare quality of saying things straight in the face of the people. It is not an easy task and it somewhat borders on unpleasantness but the greatness of a man in Sardar Patel was that he had the courage, he had the capacity and he had the background and experience to say even unpleasant things. It was for this reason that he was a somewhat misunderstood personality during his life time. But beneath that straight-forwardness and direct approach he had a very affectionate heart. I have seen him melting into tears when he the heard misery of the people particularly during the 1947 disturbances. Whenever weeping and wailing refugees came to Sardar Ji, whenever ladies in their difficulties approached him, whenever any individual told him his hardships, difficulties and sorrow, the heart of Sardar Ji always melted and tears flowed from his eyes. That was the man in him. As a leader he had the rare quality of inspiring confidence amongst those who looked up to him for guidance. His appreciation of the situation whether on the home front or on the political side of the various problems that confronted the country, was always correct. He was able, by his experience, by the breadth of

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his vision and by the huge magnanimity of heart, to grasp the problems and to give a correct lead at the correct moment. There was a great decisiveness about his leadership. He was a leader who never minced matters and what is more striking about his personality is that he was a man of very few words. Every word that he uttered was thoroughly weighed, each sentence that slipped out of his lips meant volumes and it was for this reason that whenever he spoke and whenever he talked of home affairs and whenever he talked of our relations with Pakistan and whenever he had anything to say about the international situation or about our relationship with Great Britain before our freedom or after it, he contributed a great deal towards the crystalization of matters and formulation of correct policy. I remember having attended a very controversial meeting at which he was present and which lasted from 10 in the morning till 4 in the evening. Representatives of both India and Pakistan including the two Governors General of the two Dominions and the Prime Ministers attended that conference. A lot was discussed in that meeting and many problems were thrashed out concerning evacuation and restoration of law and order. It surprised everyone when they found that Sardar Ji had not uttered a word till two or three minutes to four. We had to disperse at four and it was a surprise to all of us when two or three minutes before four came the thundering voice of Sardar Ji. He said 'I have been feeling that all of you have been discussing a futile matter. I feel that the conditions in Pakistan are such that it will be impossible for Hindus and Sikhs to stay there'. We have discovered that what is said was cent per cent true. That was the leader in Sardar Patel. By the loss of Sardar Patel we have lost a great personality, whose presence amongst us all was so very necessary for stabilizing the affairs of our country which had emerged after centuries of slavery into a free country. We have problems in our country which required guidance and straightening out by a person of the stature of the stability, of imagination and of the determination of Sardar Patel who had already set the things on the right lines. On the home front internal problems were such that required not only being dealt with on an administrative level but which required solution by tactful handling. Sardar Ji's method and Sardar Ji's role in straightening out these home affairs were really remarkable. If our Prime Minister Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru can today be counted as the foremost international figure, then towards the shaping of that personality Sardar Ji's work on the home front was of equal, if not of greater importance. It was Sardar Ji's broad shoulders which took upon themselves the heavy

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responsibility of keeping the house in order and affording the Prime Minister leisure and imagination to tackle the international affairs. Both of them were complementary to each other and the position of India was rising higher and higher by the co-operation of these two great personalities. Sardar Ji is no longer with us and it is moment when we should show determination and set our hearts and gird up our loins for the solution of those intricate problems which Sardar Ji had taken upon himself to solve. The loss is great. The void is such which cannot be easily filled. But that is no ground either for despair or to feel any despondency. It is in such moments of trial that the character of a nation is judged. It is by showing discipline and by contribution of constructive thought that we can really justify the leadership of Sardar Ji which was given to us for such a long period and at so much sacrifice to his own person.

Coming nearer home, Sir, the loss of Dr. Lehna Singh is indeed great to our State. He set himself to the task of amelioration of the difficulties of the displaced persons with great zeal and devotion. The role he played in evacuating those who were absolutely stranded and had no friend and counsel in far off corner of Pakistan has no parallel. Many times even when he had no escort he undertook great personal risk and went to the farthest end of the districts where any Hindu or Sikh individual or families wanted his guidance and help. The greatest thing in him was that his approach was realistic. In many difficult situations or for solving intricate problems when many people are prone to take a theoretical view, Dr. Lehna Singh by his experience and by his sincerity brought about a touch of reality. In many controversial matters he had his own clear-cut ideas and had his own suggestions to make whether those were liked by his friends or not. Such qualities combined with a spirit of sacrifice and sincerity are great assets in public life. The public life of our State is poorer by the passing away of Dr. Lehna Singh.

Sir, Shri Khurshed Lal both in Parliament and as a Minister of State contributed a great deal and was source of great help for running the fairly difficult Department of Communications. He had set himself to the running of the entire department and his boss in Cabinet was spared a good deal of routine work. It was really surprising that in addition to looking after his department, he found time and ungrudgingly gave his attention to Punjab whenever we made a demand on him. He used

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to move about in various parts of India with great rapidity. With the mobility about him he associated himself with all sorts of activities for betterment of the people and the country.

The loss of Sardar Gurbachan Singh of Ferozepore and Mahant Prem Singh is to all of us a personal loss. Sardar Gurbachan Singh was a practical type of man. He ran the affairs of the District Board of Ferozepore with great enthusiasm. He was the Vice Chairman of the District Board of a huge district like Ferozepore. One great quality in Sardar Gurbachan Singh was that whenever he set himself to public work, he did it wholeheartedly even at the expense of his private work. One would always find him in a small *chabara* in a lane in Ferozepore. He used to work day and night looking after the affairs of the District Board and other rural matters. He associated himself with the administration for a large number of years. In matters like Irrigation, Agriculture, Co-operative movement and local bodies, he always took personal interest and had constructive suggestions to make. In the House itself, Sir, you must have noticed that he was a Member of a number of Committees which were constituted by the House or by the Government. He took a great deal of interest in the various matters connected with those Committees. In his sad demise, the State as a whole and the House in particular has lost a practical man who made valuable and constructive suggestions in the various problems that faced us.

Mahant Prem Singh, Sir, was a person who had contributed a great deal to the public life of the Province. For about last fifteen or sixteen years he was a Member of this hon. House. During this period he had wholeheartedly set himself to the task of educational advancement of his constituents and the people who had accepted him as their leader. I, Sir, had an opportunity to watch the reverence with which he used to be looked upon by his disciples to whom his word was law, and not without meaning and not without reason, if I may say so, because he did not spare any pains for working for the advancement of those who looked up to him for guidance and leadership. He had established a network of educational institutions for boys and girls. He financed almost all of them from his own pocket or from the collections which were showered on him. People had full faith in him and they gave him thousands when he wanted money, because they knew that money given

to him would be used for the right cause. The loss of a leader of this type is not only a loss for their followers but also to the public at large.

I whole-heartedly associate myself with the resolution now before the House and I join in the feelings and sentiments expressed by the hon. Leader of the House and other hon. Members and feel that this is really a moment of great loss to us, the State and the country.

Sardar Bachan Singh; (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*); Sir, the wars of liberation have produced great men. For centuries India had been under the domination of the foreign rule and had thus been subject to a very ignominious and a very humiliating position. But today the position is quite different. Now we are a great nation in the eyes of the whole world. Now the whole world holds us in high esteem. All this has been mainly due to the fact that the last 30 years, during which period we gave a tough fight to the foreigners, who dominated us, for the attainment of our country's freedom, have produced great men of high calibre and intellect. Sardar Patel was one amongst those personalities. He was a brave fighter in the freedom struggle of his country. There were innumerable virtues in him and days and not hours would be sufficient to recount those. The redeeming feature of his virtues was that he was the bravest amongst all the warriors in the freedom struggle of his country. As a matter of fact India has not produced so far such a determined fighter of the highest magnitude. The redeeming feature of this great fighter of our country's freedom was that he was a terror even to the foes of his followers. As a matter of fact he was a unique personality in so far as his very name, under which his followers sought protection and thus considered themselves safe and secure, was a terror to their enemies

The battle fought by Sardar Patel in his country's freedom struggle is a very lengthy episode. John Gunther has pointed out that this solid, firm and unshakeable "Man of Iron" in the beginning of his career as a criminal barrister, while pleading a criminal case on receipt of a telegram about the death of his wife did not make those present in the court feel in the least that his life-long companion had breathed her last. He was so reserved and shrewd that he read its contents and without showing any sign of grief kept it in his pocket and resumed his discussion. The

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Presiding Officer of the court came to know in the evening that Sardar's beloved wife had passed away and that the telegram which he received in his court while, pleading, his case was about the same sad happening. This is how this Iron man had the strength and courage to bear the sad news regarding the death of his life long companion, his beloved wife. There can be very few persons of such a sterling type in the whole of this world. These sterling qualities which we find today in Sardar Patel had already been found by John Gunther and other foreigners about a decade ago who had already expressed themselves fully in appreciation of such virtues of the highest magnitude. I have found that in our country everybody irrespective of his being his friend or foe was extremely grieved to hear the sad news about his death. People who fully subscribed to his policy and also those who disagreed with him have equally heard with deepest regret the news about his passing away. As a matter of fact everybody is proud and has much to say in appreciation of the sacrifices and services rendered by him for the good of his country.

Sir, the great men like him are rarely born in this world—the men who change the course of life of their nations. By the death of Sardar Patel a great void has been created in the life of our country which it would be extremely difficult to fill. Although I did not fully approve of the policy pursued by him during the last days of his career but when I heard of the tragic news of his death I was greatly shocked and felt that his death was a terrible blow to India. I have a great reverence for him now after his death that I had for him during his life time. Everybody now feels that if he were alive he would have steered clear the ship of India through the heavy storms that are facing the country these days. He was a man of indomitable courage and was ever prepared to face any danger to accomplish his object. I am of the view that every adventure is attended with risk and we cannot expect to achieve anything great unless we are willing to take risks. Sardar Patel was endowed with this great virtue and always took great risks on bold enterprises and in the end won laurels for himself. Everybody in India is smitten with grief and feels that a gap which has been created by his death will ever remain unfilled. Sardar Patel had made valiant efforts in the cause of unification of India and had earnestly endeavoured to improve the condition of law and order in the country but unfortunately he could not see for himself the fruits of his labour. In fact he

had taken all those aspirations to make India strong with him. As he is now no more with us to guide us in our affairs, the responsibilities have now devolved upon us and we will have to consider seriously how we can go forward with the solution of our problems and difficulties. I think there is a need for forging a united front to accomplish a great task of rebuilding the life of our State and we will have to pursue this task with the same zeal and determination with which we fought against the Britishers in our struggle for freedom. If Sardar Patel were alive he would have tackled vigorously with our problems. By his death we have suffered a heavy and irreparable loss. I would say that the greatest pillar of our strength and stability has fallen. India has lost one of his noblest sons who had made great sacrifices in the struggle for freedom. We have lost in our Sardar a jewel and this loss in this critical period is a great tragedy. When Indian history is written, the name of Sardar Patel will remain immortalised and his life and the courage with which he fought against heavy odds to uplift the nation will be the object lesson for us. We should all try to follow his shining example and should be prepared to make big sacrifices in the cause of our nation. It is only in this way that we can fill the vacuum that has been created by his death. I hope that in this vast sub continent many great men like Sardar Patel will be born who by their strength of character will lead their countrymen to march toward progress.

So far as Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi is concerned, I must say that I have had the privilege to work with him in close association for a number of years. We were both members of the congress. Dr. Lehna Singh was senior to me. I know that Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi continued to show great affection and regard for me even after I had left the Congress Organization. He was an active member of the Congress and commanded great respect from all sections of the people. I remember when the congressmen swerved from their duty he showed indomitable spirit to put them along the right path. He had a soft corner for the poor and served them till his last breath. He always helped them out of their difficulties. The whole-hearted application to the work entrusted to his care was beyond praise. The strain of work told heavily on his health for which he did not care a jot. I had great admiration for the qualities of his head and heart. He died as a poor man as he always proceeded along the

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path of honesty and never took undue advantage of his official position. It has also been a great shock to us to lose our friends like Mahant Prem Singh and Sardar Gurbachan Singh, members of this august House. My friends have already paid glowing tributes to the memory of these departed souls. As regards A. V. Thakur Bapa, I would say that he was a mighty personality who enhanced the prestige of India. By his selfless services he had endeared himself to all especially the poor classes of people. I join myself in mourning the loss of these personalities. But at the same time, I consider that the best way to keep alive their memory is to follow in their footsteps and in this way we will be able to fill the gap that has been created by their deaths. I fully support the resolution that has been moved before the House and suggest that it should be passed.

Minister for Revenue (The Hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Panjabi*): Sir it is our greatest misfortune that so many noted public workers of our country have departed from our midst ever since the last session of this Assembly. It is with hearts full of grief that we are making a reference to their deaths. Sardar Patel occupied a distinct place among the statesmen of our country. No doubt the Congress movement produced many great men yet Sardar was one of the greatest, the like of whom we shall not see soon.

I have been acquainted with Sardar's career since the time when he taught the dumb peasants of Bardoli to raise their voices and agitate against injustice and oppression. I have had the good fortune of being an eye-witness to this campaign. No body who was not there on the spot can form an exact idea of the marvellous hold of the Sardar on the peasants and the love and esteem in which he was held by them. No doubt he rendered yeoman's services to the nation in its battle of independence but perhaps his services to it after the achievement of independence are unsurpassed and will perhaps remain so for all time to come. No one did more to consolidate the country's newly-won independence and to establish it on firm foundations. Among those who were called upon to govern the country after the attainment of independence, perhaps none was a greater master of statecraft and the work of administration than the great Sardar. He may rightly be called the administrator par excellence of Free India.

We also deeply mourn the death of our esteemed colleague Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi. No Punjabi has in recent times served the refugees, the Congress and this State more than Dr. Lehna Singh. He was in the true sense of the word the representative of the best and noblest tradition of the Congress in the Punjab. Who is not aware of the sincerity with which he served the people stranded in West Punjab at the time of the Partition? No Punjabi has done more for the rehabilitation of refugees than him. His death is a great loss to the House and the Ministry and for the refugees his loss is really irreparable. Had he been spared a few years more it would have been of immense gain to the refugees. It is all the more unfortunate, Sir, that so soon after his death his illustrious relative Shri Khurshed Lal should also have passed away. We can well imagine the sense of loss of the family that had had to lose two of its eminent members.

Thakkur Bapa whose death also we mourn today was a great champion of the poor and backward people. No one has done more for the uplift of the backward tribes such as the Bhils etc.

Mahant Prem Singh, a colleague of ours who is no more with us, was a source of strength and inspiration for the people of District Gujrat before Partition. Till the last breath of his life, he continued to help thousands of displaced people of his district to rehabilitate themselves. His zeal to serve the people remained unflagged till the very end of his life. A pre-eminently religious-minded person as he was, he devoted a considerable part of his life to the noble task of eradication of social evils.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh is also, alas, no more amongst us. He was a sincere public worker as the people of Ferozpur whom he served till his end know very well. I had had the happy opportunity of meeting him a few days before his death. He told me at that time that his only regret was that owing to his preoccupation with some personal affairs he had not been able to devote himself to public work as before for some time past. His one desire in life was that all his time should be spent in the service of the people. It has been often observed that some people find it very difficult to speak the truth. About Sardar Gurbachan Singh, I can say from personal knowledge that he was a

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man whose mental make-up was such that he found it an extremely difficult thing to tell a lie and would tremble at the mere thought of saying something that might be untrue

The passing away of all these personages has left a deep void and a sense of loss in us which we shall continue to feel for a very long time to come. With these words, Sir, I associate myself whole-heartedly with the resolution that has just been moved.

Sardar Ujjal Singh (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban); Sir, the passing away of Sardar Patel was the greatest calamity that overtook free India after the loss of Mahatma Gandhi. Sardar Patel was really a born leader of men, a great soldier and a great organizer in the fight for India's freedom. He turned out to be one of the greatest statesmen and administrators that history has known. To draw a true picture of all monumental work will be the task of the historians but I think that every historian will place him in the front rank of free India's architects and nation builders. As a unifier of India and one who consolidated the country his services are un-paralleled and the method of achievement of that task is also unique.

Although his exterior was a little rough but beneath that rough exterior was a kind and affectionate heart. I recollect his great services to Sikh community as a member of the Advisory Committee of which he was the Chairman. I know, Sir, that but for him and the stand that he took, and of course with the valuable support of Pandit Nehru, the backward classes among the Sikhs would not have got that equality of treatment with other backward classes that they have got today. Sir, the Sardar had a mind which penetrated deep into the complexities of a problem and he came to quick decisions and when once his mind was made up nothing could stand in his way and check him. Sir, his achievements had been due no less to his iron will and determination than his imagination, sagacity and statesmanship.

The country is very much poorer by his loss. Panditji and the Sardar formed an ideal combination for the leadership of the country. Panditji's lofty ideals, his sagacity and his sincerity coupled with practical statesmanship of the Sardar gave the country the right type of

leadership and guidance that the country needed. At this juncture when the country needed him most, his loss is undoubtedly unbearable and irreparable.

About Dr. Lehna Singh, my Friends have already said a good deal. He was a perfect gentleman and a quiet and conscientious worker. In the fight for freedom he rendered great service and made many sacrifices. Since he belonged to my home district of Sargodha, I know in how great esteem and regard the people of that district held him. He enjoyed the confidence of the refugees and when he became Minister for Rehabilitation, the displaced persons reposed faith in him, and his sense of duty and devotion to the task stood him in good stead. We deeply mourn the great loss that the people of the State have suffered.

Sir, we feel greatly the absence in our midst of our esteemed colleagues Sardar Gurbachan Singh of Ferozepore and Mahant Prem Singh. Sardar Gurbachan Singh was a sturdy peasant who devoted his whole life to the task of betterment of the rural people of the district of Ferozepore. He worked for the people of that *ilqah* in the House as well.

Mahant Prem Singh was a quiet unassuming gentleman who commanded great confidence of the Laban tribe. Although he did not speak much in the Assembly, those of us who knew him can very well assess the influence that he commanded over his followers by virtue of his strength of character. We deeply mourn the loss that the State has suffered.

About Shri Khurshed Lal and Thakur Bappa I am not in a position to say much as I did not personally come in contact with them. But I know of the services that were rendered by them to the country. Thakur Bappa devoted his whole life to the uplift of the people and Shri Khurshed Lal did a great work as Deputy Minister of Communications.

With these words, Sir, I support the resolution and wholeheartedly associate myself with the tributes paid to these illustrious sons of the country.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I think we have been very unfortunate during the last few months as some of our very able countrymen have been snatched away from us by the cruel hand of death. It has already been pointed out by some hon. Members that we have lost by the death of Sardar Patel a leader of whom not our own country but the whole of the world could rightly be proud. He was one of those brave and dauntless fighters who side by side with Mahatmaji fought with whole of his might for the achievement of our independence. Gandhiji unfortunately died immediately after independence and the burden of maintaining this hard-won independence fell on the shoulders of this brave soldier of our country. We are all proud to say that this brave soldier had shoulders which were broad enough to carry this burden. I shall surely be not guilty of any exaggeration if I say that but for the all-out efforts of this great man the map of our country would have been much different from what we find today. We all know the circumstances we were in immediately after the attainment of independence. As already stated our greatest misfortune was that only a short while after our achieving independence we lost the leadership of our beloved Mahatmaji. His death gave us such a severe blow that we somehow felt that all was perhaps not going to be right with us. But a few days after we found that our well known Premier Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Patel were doing their level best to fill the gap that had been caused by the death of the Father of the Nation. These two beloved leaders of our nation handled the situation as also the administration in such a tactful way that they got applause and appreciation from every one of us. I have no mind to take much time of the House in relating the achievements of these two great statesmen, but I can't help mentioning the well known exploit of our Sardar in connection with the Police Action of Hyderabad. When the Hyderabad problem cropped up, the whole country became restless. It appeared as if we were faced with a very dangerous situation and there was no knowing as to what consequences we were to encounter. Many of us actually thought that Hyderabad must be a very hard nut for India to crack but our surprise knew no bounds when we found that Sardar Patel had done the needful only in two days time. Such gigantic task can be accomplished by extraordinary men and needless to say that our leader was possessed of rare and extraordinary qualities

Dr. Lehna Singh our Minister and a great provincial leader had earned

the admiration of every one in this province. Not only the congressmen but even those who hated the Congress were full of praises for him. Every citizen of this State felt and some time in so many words said that if there was an honest worker in the Congress ranks, he was Dr. Lehna Singh. He was indeed a gem that this organization produced. All I am saying about him can very easily be illustrated by the honour that the people did him by joining his funeral procession in such large numbers. His funeral procession was a genuine tribute that could be paid to him. I have had the honour of working with him during the partition days at Lahore and studying him from close quarters. I always found him willing and ready to undertake any trouble for his refugee brethren. I hope hon. Members will agree with me when I say that Dr. Lehna Singh was the pride of our ministry. He was sacrifice incarnate. People sacrifice themselves by offering themselves for the gallows but he sacrificed his life while he lived. In his zeal for the service of the uprooted people he neglected his health and despite the requests of his friends to take rest he insisted on doing whatever he could. He continued to work as a Minister not because he had any greed for ministership but he did so as he had an infinite love for his people.

I have also to pay my tribute to Sardar Gurbachan Singh and Mahant Prem Singh. Ever since I have been a member of this house I always found them quiet and sincere workers. I knew Mahant Prem Singh more closely as he usually lived at Jullundur. He was indeed an angel. And as for Sardar Gurbachan Singh he was an active worker and always did his best to become a true and honest representative of his constituents.

In the same way I wish to say a few words about Shri A. V. Thakur, who was a real disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. He did not deliver speeches from the platform but devoted himself to constructive work on the ideals of Gandhiji.

Similarly, Shri Khurshed Lal, whom I had the opportunity of knowing when he lived at Dehradun, had a great feeling for the country and the people from his very childhood. We cannot interfere with the course of nature but can merely express sorrow at the passing away of these eminent persons. In view of the difficult conditions through which we are passing there is at least one thing which, however, we can surely do.

(Shrimati Sita Devi)

We should try our best to emulate those good qualities for which we are praising Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi, and others. If we inculcate those virtues, we shall be doing our duty in the advancement of our country. If we really feel that our country has suffered a great loss by the passing away of these persons, we should at least act in the manner in which they acted. With these words, I offer my humble tributes to the memory of these leaders.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, it is with a deep sense of sorrow that I rise to associate myself with the feelings expressed by the Leader of the House and other members. I can assure you that if I touch briefly on the merits and the various aspects of the lives of the departed personalities, I will not be lacking in admiration of those persons but I will do so for the simple reason that the members who have spoken had already dwelt on the various aspects and merits of their lives. I find that a majority of these illustrious personalities who have passed away were victims of heart failure. The first victim was one of the greatest administrators of India, Sardar Valabhbhai Patel. In him we have lost not only an administrator but one of the foremost and the greatest leaders who could make India one of the top ranking countries of the world. He was the architect of the present India and during these 3 or 4 years he had displayed somewhat unparalleled qualities in administration. Some people may dislike the term 'ruler' but I think I am not wrong if I call him a democratic ruler in the real sense of the term of present India. He ruled this country and by his administrative capacity he made the Government of this country stable and he divested this country of all the disruptive forces which would disturb the peace and tranquillity of any country. We have lost him but I think we will be guided by the example he had set before us.

The other personalities whose loss we mourn is that promising young parliamentarian Shri Khurshed Lal whose career has been cut short again by that disease of heart failure. I do not know much of him but from what I can read from the proceedings of the Parliament, I can say that he was always ready with his answers and unruffled in the replies which he gave in the Parliament. From the administrative point of view, during his period as Deputy Minister in the Government of India, he put forward certain schemes and I am told that much credit is due to him for those schemes.

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KHURSHED LAL, DR. LEHNA SINGH SETHI, SARDAR
GURBACHAN SINGH, MAHANT PREM SINGH, SHRI
A. V. THAKUR, AND SHRI AUROVINDO GHOSH.

Then in this House I am trying to spot some members but in vain and I am missing them very badly. When my eyes go towards the right I miss my hon. Friend, Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi. Everyone of us is fully aware of his qualities of head and heart. He was the person who during the pre-partitioned days, even at the risk of his life, brought thousands of persons from that side and save their lives. Those persons belonged not only to his own district but to other districts also. When he joined the Cabinet, he was given the portfolio of rehabilitation and he devoted himself to this work with heart and soul for the betterment of the condition of those displaced persons. The betterment of their condition was a creed with him. Day and night he was moving about, hearing their grievances and complaints and trying to redress them. He was not only incharge of rehabilitation but he was discharging responsible duties in other departments also such as Medical department and was taking interest in the improvement of the lot of the common man. A few days back I happened to preside over a conference at the very spot where he passed away and I was reminded of his last words which the authorities of that school put before me and I was asked that I should convey those words and his feelings that he had for the medical institutions and other institutions, to the Government. Not only is this House deprived of his wise counsels but the Congress Party is also deprived of his balanced and right judgement in many important matters. As a parliamentarian I was always impressed by the replies he gave. Even his critics and my friends on my left will admit that he was giving to all the supplementary questions direct and factual replies. I was always impressed by his replies because I found that there was sincerity and no quibbling.

As regards Sardar Gurbachan Singh I knew him for the last 20 years. He was my distant relation also and a co-worker for nearly 20 years in the District Board affairs. Whenever I discussed with him these affairs I always found that his right judgement was very helpful. Whenever he had occasion to say something in this House, he used to put his views very ably without caring for any frown and favour. He was a Landlord. When the tenancy question was being discussed he came to me and discussed the matter with me. I can assure you

(Mr. Speaker)

that in these discussions I found that he displayed most liberal and broad-minded views. We miss him very much.

There was another member on this side whom also I miss. He was Mahant Prem Singh. I would like to call him Sant Prem Singh. I know that he was doing his utmost for the uplift of his followers. I mean spiritual uplift not only of his followers but also of all his constituents. At the time he was contesting the elections, I asked him what was the reason for his contesting the elections so keenly. His only reply was, "If I am keen for the uplift of my followers spiritually, why should I not do my best to uplift all the people?"

I do not know much so far as the other personalities are concerned. As regards Thakar Bappa we know that he did a lot for the social uplift of Indians as a whole. Shri Aurovindo Ghosh may be called as the Rishi of India, the greatest spiritualist of India. By his spiritual teaching and by his Ashrams and Yogas he has raised the reputation of India as a whole.

We have lost all these personalities no doubt, but I expect that we will not be failing in our duty to keep them and their achievements in our hearts and to follow the examples they have set before us. With these words, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members. I expect you to pay your tribute to these great personalities by rising in your seats and observing two minutes silence.

All members stood in silence for two minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Question is:-

That the Assembly be adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of ;—

The hon. Sardar Patel,
Shri Khurshed Lal,
The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi,
Sardar Gurbachan Singh,
Mahant Prem Singh,
Shri A.V. Thakur and
Shri Aurovindo Ghosh.

The motion was carried.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Thursday,
1st March 1951.*

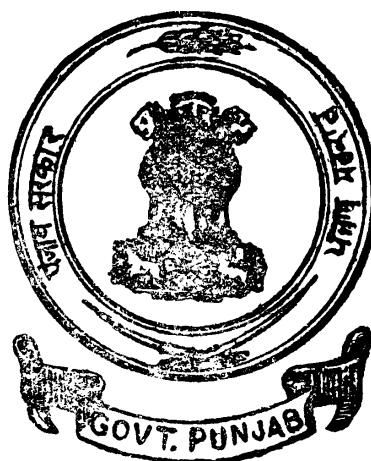
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

1st MARCH 1951

Vol. III — No. 2.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 1st March 1951.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEMANDS OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OVERSEERS ETC.

*2315. Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the details of latest demands put forward by the Overseers of the Irrigation and the Public Works Department before the Government ;
- (b) whether any of these demands have been wholly or partially accepted by the Government; if not, the reasons therefor and the time the Government will take to arrive at a final decision in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) The main demands of the overseers are detailed below :—
 - (i) Their scales of pay should be increased from 90-5-140/6-200/7-235/8-275 to 150-10-280/15-475.
 - (ii) 50% posts for promotion to P. S. E. II should be reserved for overseers.

[Chief Minister].

- (iii) Overseers should be eligible for promotion to Executive rank or higher charges.
- (iv) 15 or 20 overseers should be brought on quasi permanent scale every year.
- (v) Uniformity should be observed in fixing the seniority of various classes of establishment with respect to their date of appointment in the department.
- (vi) Promotion to P. S. E. II from amongst the overseers should be made strictly in order of seniority except when a man has been debarred for inefficiency or for other similar reasons.

(b) The various demands of the overseers as detailed above are under consideration of the Government and it is hoped the decision will be taken shortly and communicated to the Overseers Association.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know since when this matter is under consideration of the Government.

Chief Minister : I do not remember the exact date.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it about six months or more that the matter is under consideration of the Government ?

Chief Minister : It might be about six months or so.

Shri Ram Sharma : On what stage does this matter stand now ? Has the Government received the report of the Chief Engineer ?

Chief Minister : The case is now with the Finance Department.

Shri Ram Sharma : Will this matter be decided by the hon. Chief Minister or by any other Minister ?

Chief Minister : I am myself incharge of the Finance and Irrigation departments.

EXTENSION OF JASRANA MINOR IN HARYANA DIVISION

*2316. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the extension scheme of Jasrana minor in the Haryana Division is under the contemplation of the Government ; if so, the proposals prepared by the department in this connection ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer in his last visit to Rohtak had assured the Zimindars concerned that the Government would consider the scheme regarding the extension mentioned in part (a) above favourably ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) The scheme of extension of Jasrana minor has been finalized and the estimate for the work is under sanction. Rupees 1.2 lacs have been provided for this work during 1951-52.
- (b) Yes.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know when would this extension scheme be completed ?

Chief Minister : I think it will be completed next year.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know how much area of land will be irrigated by this scheme ?

Chief Minister : I will inform the hon. Member after making necessary enquiry.

Shri Ram Sharma : When will the work start in this direction ?

Chief Minister : The scheme has been prepared and necessary provision has been made in the Budget. The work will be carried out after the Budget has been passed by the Assembly.

BANWARI DACOIT.

*2317. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the details about the shooting down of Banwari dacoit at the hands of the Rohtak Police;
- (b) whether he was resisting or firing at the police at the time of his being shot dead;
- (c) whether there are some Government instructions that such desperadoes be shot dead rather than captured alive?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) A detailed report is placed on the table. ‡
- (b) Yes.
- (c) No.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether this report has been

‡ Kept in the Library.

[Shri Ram Sharma]

received from the Police Department, Rohtak or from any other agency?

Chief Minister: This report has been received from the agency appointed for this purpose.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether the Government do not appoint any special agency to enquire into the serious complaints made to the Government?

Chief Minister: Inquiry into this matter was made by the Magistrate.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know why the Government did not consider it fit to refer the matter to A Special Enquiry Agency?

Chief Minister: I may inform the hon. Member that cases of corruption are investigated by the Special Agency.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether the magistrate gave his finding that the culprit had been rightly shot dead?

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether the Government has issued instructions that such absconders be shot dead rather than captured alive?

Chief Minister: No such instructions have been issued by the Government.

RESTRICTIONS ON MEETINGS, PROCESSIONS AND USE OF LOUD SPEAKERS ETC. IN THE STATE.

*2625. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that restrictions under section 144 Cr. P. C. on meetings, processions, the use of loud speakers and megaphones are still in force within the municipal limits of many cities in the Punjab; if so, the considerations for which such restrictions are modified;
- (b) whether it is a fact that almost everywhere in the State the district authorities refused to modify these restrictions, when the Socialist Party workers approached them in December, 1950, to relax the restrictions in connection with the meetings to be held by Shri J. P. Narayan in the Punjab;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the district authorities at Ludhiana refused to modify these restrictions to facilitate

the announcement of instructions in connection with the funeral procession of the late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi;

- (d) whether the restrictions at Ludhiana were modified in connection with the funeral of the late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi on the intervention of an hon. Minister; if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the district authorities?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) (i) No restrictions under section 144 Cr. P.C. on meetings and processions are at present in force in any district of the Panjab.

(ii) The use of loud-speakers and megaphones within the Municipal limits of Gurdaspur city between 10 P. M. and 6 A. M. and of loud-speakers only within the Municipal limits of Ludhiana in the case of Commercial houses, Hotels, and Restaurants is, however, prohibited at present.

(iii) The restrictions are modified only when the necessity for use of the loud speakers etc. is genuine except in Ludhiana, where the restrictions are not modified for any consideration.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: The hon. Chief Minister has stated in his reply that the use of loud speakers within the municipal limits of Ludhiana in the case of commercial establishments, hotels and restaurants is prohibited, may I know why these restrictions have not been imposed in case of announcement of public meetings?

Chief Minister: Such restrictions are in force in Ludhiana and if these had been withdrawn I would have certainly got information from the district authorities.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: May I know why these restrictions have not been modified in Ludhiana?

Chief Minister: The use of loudspeakers caused a good deal of nuisance in Ludhiana.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: May I know whether such restriction also apply to public meetings in Ludhiana ?

Chief Minister: The use of loudspeakers is prohibited in Ludhiana.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: May I know why these restriction have not been modified by the Government when the necessity for their use is genuine, for example, for the public meetings and their announcements ?

Chief Minister: I may inform my hon. Friend that such a drastic step had to be taken because the nuisance of loud-speakers had increased.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: The hon. Chief Minister has stated in his reply to part (a) of the question that there are no restrictions under section 144 Cr. P. C. on meetings but may I know whether it is a fact that Socialist Party applied for permission for the use of loud-speakers when Shri Jai Parkash Narayan had to address a public meeting in Ludhiana but it was refused ?

Chief Minister: The use of loud-speakers in the meetings in connection with the visit of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan was prohibited.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether it is a fact that these restrictions apply only to meetings convened by the political parties or also to public meetings that are to be addressed by the hon. Ministers ?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that when Shri Jai Prakash Narayan came to Ludhiana to address a public meeting the permission to use loud-speakers was refused ?

Chief Minister: I have already replied to this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether such restrictions are imposed on the ground of public nuisance or with a view to avoid larger attendance in public meetings ?

Mr. Speaker: This is an expression of opinion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: How is it that the use of loud-speakers is a nuisance in Ludhiana while it is not so in the case of other districts?

Chief Minister: It appears my hon. Friend has not followed the reply already given by me. I had stated that this drastic step was taken in Ludhiana as the nuisance had much increased there. These restrictions will, however, be withdrawn when the Government is satisfied that the use of loud-speakers will not cause nuisance in the city.

Shri Ram Sharma: But is it a fact that the number of loud-speakers used in Ludhiana is the highest?

Chief Minister: If the hon. Member had visited Ludhiana during these days he would himself have realised the nuisance created by them.

Shri Ram Sharma: Are the conditions still the same?

Chief Minister: I am talking of that time.

T. A. DRAWN BY THE CHAIRMAN ANTI CORRUPTION

SUB COMMITTEE

*2629. **Chaudhri Badlu Ram:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) The total amount of travelling allowance drawn month-wise by the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Sub-Committee from November, 1949 upto-date;

(b) How much journey was performed by him in the car?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) The Anti-Corruptions Sub-Committee did not exist during the period November 1949 to the end of May, 1950. Information in respect of the period after its formation in May, 1950 is contained in the statement below

Month	Amount of T. A.
May and June, 1950	Rs. 322/4/-
July, 1950	Rs. 264/11/-
August, 1950	Rs. 140/-/-
September, 1950	Rs. Rs. 45/-
October, 1950	Rs. 445/-/-
November, 1950.	Rs. 26/-/-
December, 1950.	Rs. 220/-/-

(b) 2304 miles.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: On a point of order, Sir. Can the hon. Chief Minister reply to a question which has not been put? The question relates to November while the Chief Minister has given a statement which relates to a later period.

Chief Minister: If the hon. Member cares to read the question he will find that 'up-to date' information is required.

APPROACH BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS TO M. L. As.

*2631. **Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued a circular that no Government servant should approach any M. L. A. to recommend him for promotion or transfer, and that disciplinary action will be taken against anyone adopting such a course ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes :

(b) In the interest of good administration and maintaining proper discipline.

Shri Virendra: If it is an offence for a Government servant to approach an M. L. A. what action is proposed to be taken against those Ministers who approach the lambardars and the patwaris ?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

Shri Ram Sharma: Is an aggrieved Government servant forbidden to approach the M. L. As. only or is he forbidden to talk to anybody else also about the wrong done to him ?

Chief Minister: He can appeal to the higher authority.

Shri Ram Sharma: But if his appeal is not allowed to reach the higher authority, what should he do ?

Chief Minister : I might inform the hon. Member that the Government has issued instructions to all the heads of departments to submit monthly returns to the Government of the representation withheld by them. So there is no reason why appeals addressed to the Government should not be forwarded.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Chief Minister sure that no immediate officer withholds the appeals of the aggrieved officials of his department ?

Chief Minister : I can assure the hon. Member that no officer can do so.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : In view of the fact that questions relating to promotions, transfers etc. of officers of the Government are asked on the floor of the House with a view to influencing the decisions of the Government, will the Government consider the desirability of banning the asking of such questions ?

Chief Minister : It is for the hon. Speaker to decide whether a particular question can be asked or not.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that in reply to a question the hon. Chief Minister had once stated that he could not take action against the M. L. As. for their undue interference because he regarded them as part and parcel of the Government ?

Chief Minister : But an official cannot be allowed to approach some other department with his grievances.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : When the hon. Chief Minister was prepared to acquiesce in the undue interferences of the M. L. As. why is he against their voicing the grievances of a public servant ?

Chief Minister : I had never said that I could acquiesce in the undue interference of the M. L. A.s.

Shri Ram Sharma : If a question is asked by an M. L. A. in the House about the case of any official, is it necessary for the Government to presume that the latter must have approached him ?

Chief Minister : If discipline is to be maintained, Government has to presume this.

Shri Ram Sharma : But is it not possible for that M. L. A. to come to know the facts of the case from some source other than the official himself ?

Chief Minister : So long as the official himself does not broadcast, no one can know anything about his case.

Shri Ram Sharma : But surely there is nothing to prevent the relatives and friends of the aggrieved official from bringing his case to the notice of an M. L. A. ?

Chief Minister : But this would be a breach of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Has a Government servant no right to tell his friends and relatives anything about the wrong done to him ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say whether he has this right or not. But if he does anything in contravention of Government Servants' Conduct Rules action will be taken against him.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Is it within the knowledge of the Chief Minister that many a time there are scandalous cases which become the talk of the town and there is a possibility of the hon. Members of the House coming to know of them through sources other than the Government servant himself ?

Chief Minister : Scandals do not exist in my mind ; they might be existing in the minds of some other persons. If an officer approaches any outside agency for the purpose of getting his grievances redressed, action shall be taken against him.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know whether every decision taken in a Government office regarding a Government servant is kept confidential ? Does it not become known to any other person ?

Chief Minister . It should not.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Do the Government realise that a number of persons work in an office and if an official is superseded, this fact is known to other officials also. It becomes more or less a sort of a scandal and everybody comes to know about it.

Chief Minister : Whenever anything happens the person concerned goes about telling it to others and wants to create a scandal. It is our duty to take action against such a person.

Shri Ram Sharma : Does the hon. Chief Minister think that the knowledge of the wrong done to an official cannot become public even though he remains absolutely quiet ?

Chief Minister : But we have to prevent this thing from happening. Under the rules, such information ought to remain confidential.

Shri Ram Sharma : But if the officer responsible for doing him a wrong himself discloses this information and thus it becomes generally known ?

Chief Minister : If it is proved, action will be taken against him.

Thakur Pancham Chand : But why should the officers be afraid of the M. L. A.s ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Does the Government take ill only when M. L. A.s. are approached for promotion or transfer and whether the hon. Chief Minister's remarks apply only to this and to nothing else ?

Chief Minister : I have replied to whatever I have been asked.

RESOURCES AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

*2632. **Shri Virendra:** Will the hon Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the date on which the first Resources and Retrenchment Committee was appointed;
- b) the number of sittings of this committee which have taken place, together with the date of its last sitting;
- (c) whether there exists any time limit by which the Committee is expected to submit its report; if so, when the report is finally expected to be presented to the Assembly?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 5th July, 1948.

(b) 8 meetings of 32 working days ; the date of last sitting was 18th May, 1950.

[Chief Minister] : Does the hon. Chief Minister think that the
 (c) The committee has already submitted its report which
 has been printed. It has been circulated to the
 Members of the Assembly through the Legislature
 Secretariat

Shri Virender: What steps are being taken by the Government to
 implement the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment
 Committee?

Chief Minister: The required information will be given in reply
 to another question.

Shri Ram Sharma: Does the Government take action on the
 reports only when they have been published and copies thereof have
 been supplied to the M. L. A.s. ?

Chief Minister: I have already stated that the required
 information will be given in reply to another question.

**RESTORATION OF CONFISCATED PROPERTY TO EX-POLITICAL
 PRISONERS IN THE STATE.**

*2634. **Shri Virender:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased
 to state:

- (a) the number of applications received from ex-political
 prisoners, asking for the restoration of their property, which
 was confiscated during British regime, or asking for the remi-
 ttance of fines paid by them during that period;
- (b) the number of cases in which property has been restored, or
 fines remitted;
- (c) the actual amount of fines remitted so far;
- (d) the number of cases which are still pending with the Govern-
 ment.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) (i) Applications for the restoration
 of property.

(ii) Applications for the refund of fines.	256
(b) (i)	8
(ii)	60
(c)	Rs. 15, 123/8/-
(d)	224

Shri Prabodh Chandra: When the Government has once decided to restore the property and refund the fines, may I know what agency stops the Government from putting this decision through?

Chief Minister: The persons concerned are asked to furnish proof.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Does or does not the Government accept the affidavit of a person who says that he was fined during times of political agitation?

Chief Minister: We try to verify the claims from the office records but when no records can be had, affidavits are accepted.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that Ram Singh a political prisoner applied for restoration of property and refund of fine and his case was recommended by Sardar Ajit Singh, M. L. A., Sardar Piara Singh, M. L. A., and the late Sardar Harjab Singh, ex-M. L. A., but the Government did not accept this recommendation?

Chief Minister: I want notice for this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Will the Government be prepared to refund the fines if two M. L. A. S. certify that a certain individual has been a political prisoner?

Chief Minister: Such a question requires notice.

Shri Ram Sharma: Is it very difficult to prove that a certain individual was a political prisoner particularly when there are no records?

Chief Minister: An affidavit is accepted in the absence of records.

Shri Ram Shrama: In how many cases fines have been refunded on the basis of affidavits?

Chief Minister: The hon. Member should kindly give notice of this question.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Would the cases of those people whose records are left in the West Punjab be decided merely on the affidavit or will the Government observe some other formality?

Chief Minister: We will try to get the records but if we cant, we will have the affidavits.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN THE STATE.

*2652. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number and names of villages in the State where punitive police posts were established from 1st April 1950 to January, 1951 together with the reasons in each case;
- (b) the amount realised from each village for the cost of such punitive police posts;
- (c) the period for which each of such punitive police posts has been set up?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) and (c) A statement is laid on the table
- (b) No amount has been recovered in respect of these Additional Police Posts except for Additional Police Post Dhanana in the Rohtak District for which a sum of Rs. 11920/-has been realised so far.

Shri Pam Sharma: In which districts of the State has the punitive police been posted?

‡ Kept in the Library

ENFORCEMENT OF ECONOMY DRIVE IN THE STATE.

***2653. Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether there was any economy drive in the State; if so, how much money has been saved as a result thereof by the Government in 1950 and 1951 (March 1950 to January 1951)
- (b) the measures adopted by the Government in this economy drive;
- (c) whether these measures also applied to the low paid servants?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) and (b)-The original Budget Estimates for 1950-51 as put up by the Departments were cut down heavily and while communicating the reduced budget grants as approved by the Legislature, Departments were asked to limit their expenditure within the grants so approved. Heads of Departments were also asked to ensure that those who were charged with the spending of public funds did so wisely keeping fully in view the canons of financial propriety. Later in October 1950 further instructions were issued that no expenditure should be incurred during the current year which could be avoided or postponed. This was done in view of the marked deterioration in the financial position on account of the September floods which were estimated to put the Provincial Exchequer to some heavy expenditure

The Revised Estimates submitted by Departments show that generally almost all Departments have tried to economise their expenditure, and there is an excess of about Rs.4½ lakhs over the original Budget approved by the Legislative Assembly only under one head, namely, Revenue Expenditure.

(c) The general orders issued by Government applied to all the expenditure incurred, and the question of high or low paid Government servants did not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that this economy drive has affected the nation-building activities, e. g. schools, hospitals and buildings and roads etc., but it has not touched the fat salaries of the Government officers?

Chief Minister: My hon. Friend will appreciate that it is not possible for the Government to reduce the salaries of the Government officers. We have certainly attempted to effect economy in contingencies, travelling allowances etc., but it is not possible for us to reduce the salaries of the Government servants. It will be recalled that some time ago Government of India decided to apply a compulsory saving scheme for officials getting salaries between Rs. 250 and Rs. 2750 and those who were getting more than Rs. 2750 were asked to come down to Rs. 2750. The Punjab Government tried to follow this decision in every detail.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Did the Governor of this State reduce his salary to Rs. 2750?

Chief Minister: He did act as desired.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Did he (the Governor) reduce his salary to Rs. 2750/-per mensem as directed?

AMRITSAR.

*2668. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the city of Amritsar, that was one of the most prosperous business centre in the prepartitioned Punjab, is fast losing its prosperity and commercial importance and a considerably large number of businessmen have shifted their headquarters to Delhi, Bombay and other places outside this State ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the business community of this town has repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government certain defects responsible for this trend ;
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to restore the city to its original position ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) Yes ; on account of its proximity to the border, stoppage of Indo Pakistan trade and insecurity that followed partition for sometime, some loss in its trade and shifting away of Capital was inevitable.

- (b) One or two representations have been received from the business community and the Government have always been alive to the various difficulties created by the partition.
- (c) Efforts continue to be made by Government for resumption of trade with Pakistan, but this matter, as is well known, is not completely within the powers of the State Government. All possible facilities for the barter trade, which is now going on at Wagha, are however, being provided. Maximum possible quotas of controlled raw material and finished goods are being allotted to the city; and the demand for lowering the rates of insurances against fire and riots to the all India level which was made sometime back has since been conceded by the insurance companies. Railway and other transport difficulties have also now lessened; and as a result of all these efforts, economic life of the city is getting restored to prepartition level.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that there are causes other than that of its being situated on the border, which are responsible for loss of trade in Amritsar? Is not the internal trade

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Member is giving information. He should put a direct question.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it not a fact that the traders of Amritsar complain that they are not being given facilities for internal trade even?

Minister : In the case of controlled commodities separate syndicates have been provided for each district. Special facilities can not be granted to Amritsar at the cost of other districts.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : What steps have been taken to compensate the traders of Amritsar?

Minister : We have been writing to the Government of India to keep the interests of Amritsar in view. At the conclusion of recent Indo Pakistan agreement, we again wrote to the Government of India that proper facilities be given to the traders of Amritsar in order to restore the trade of this town to its original position.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Is it not a fact that most of the traders of Amritsar are black-marketers ?

Mr. Speaker : Order please.

Shri Ram Sharma : What are those efforts which the Government is making for the restoration of trade in Amritsar to its former position and what is the result of those efforts ?

Minister : As I have already stated we have been always drawing the attention of the Government of India to the importance of this matter. Recently also we wrote to them that proper facilities should be afforded to Amritsar in the matter of proposed trade between India and Pakistan.

Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government think that this step will be sufficient for restoring Amritsar trade to its former position ?

Minister : I can not say anything more about it.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that Amritsar is the centre of black market trade these days ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, please. You cannot say that everybody at Amritsar is a black-marketer.

Shri Ram Sharma : I wished to know whether the Government proposed to increase trade in Amritsar by encouraging black-marketing or they proposed to suppress it.

Chief Minister : If Amritsar is the centre of black-marketing, it must be a prosperous business centre.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : Is it not a fact that the traders of Amritsar who were indulging in black-marketing recently collected funds for agitating for the transfer of Shri P. C. Suri who was posted as Civil Supplies Officer there ?

Minister : It is not correct.

Mr. Speaker : All these are questions of opinion only.

GOVERNMENT CENTRAL WORKSHOP, AMRITSAR.

*2669. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that in the month of August or September, 1949, he visited the Government Central Workshop, Amritsar, and in his speech had given an assurance to the workers there, that such an alteration will be made in the rules, and the prevailing arrangements will be so changed, that as a result thereof either the workers would get full pay for the various gazetted holidays like the other staff or the number of the holidays would be reduced to the minimum, so that the workers are not deprived of their daily wages, on account of frequent closure of the workshop ;
- (b) What action, if any, has been is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes. The workmen of Government Central Workshop Amritsar, will be allowed 14 paid gazetted holidays in addition to Sundays in a calendar year. The workshop will also remain open on remaining gazetted holidays, except those falling on Sundays.

(b) The leave rules have been revised accordingly.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: Will the earned leave due to the workers under the Factories Act be included in the fourteen days stated by the hon. Minister or it will be in addition to that?

Chief Minister: The factory workers complained that they were not paid wages for the days when the factories were ordered to be closed by the Government. In order to remove this difficulty the Government has decided that the workers should get their wages for such days. These days will, however, be deducted from the total number of fourteen days to which they are entitled as earned leave with full pay.

**PROSECUTION OF N. V. C. OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS FOR
EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS.**

*2685. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names and the number of N.V.C. officers and other ranks in the State against whom orders of arrest and prosecution for embezzlement of public funds have been passed ;
- (b) the number of completed challans in respect of persons mentioned in part (a) above produced in the law courts so far ;
- (c) the number of cases that are still under investigation ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) 93, as detailed below district-wise :—

Kangra	3
Hoshiarpur	3
Ferozepore	5
Gurdaspur	5
Amritsar	15
Jullundur	22
Ludhiana	9
Ambala	7
Karnal	6
Gurgaon	4
Rohtak	8
Hissar	4
Simla	2
Total	93

(b) 34, as detailed below district-wise :—

Ferozepore	14
Kangra	3
Hoshiarpur	17

Total	34

(c) 355, as detailed below district-wise :—

Gurdaspur	8
Amritsar	50
Jullundur	86
Ludhiana	74
Ambala	4
Gurgaon	20
Karnal	27
Rohtak	10
Hissar	29
Simla	47

Total	355

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : Is the hon. Minister not aware of their names or does he not wish to disclose these ?

Chief Minister : I do not wish to disclose these.

Shri Ram Sharma : The long list read out by the Chief Minister shows as if it relates to members of some criminal tribe. Is it not a fact that the attention of the Government was drawn to the deterioration of conditions in the N.V.C. during every session of the Assembly ? Why did the Government not take timely steps to avoid this state of affairs ?

Chief Minister : The Government always takes action when a matter is brought to its notice.

Shri Ram Sharma : Does the hon. Chief Minister remember that his attention was drawn to this matter during every session of the Assembly and that N. V. C. was one of those subjects which evoked strongest criticism during discussions in the House ?

Chief Minister : Almost everything is criticised in the House.

Shri Ram Sharma : Does it mean that the Government pays no heed to the criticism offered in the House ?

Chief Minister : The Government takes action wherever it considers necessary to do so.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the persons against whom action has been taken will be re-employed when vacancies occur in the future ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the causes of such widespread corruption and dishonesty in this new department ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member desires, we can refer this question to a sub-committee.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it a fact that almost all the personnel of the National Volunteer Corps consisted of ex-military-men?

Chief Minister : No, all of them were not ex-military-men. There were some I. N. A. men and some others among them.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know if, among the persons against whom action has been taken for being corrupt, there were some who were accused of misappropriating such small amounts as Rs. 1/8/- ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know if the officers concerned saw to it that the volunteers were being properly paid ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a question of opinion.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it a fact that action against some of these persons was taken simply because they refused to give false evidence at the bidding of the police ?

Chief Minister : I am sorry, Sir ; if I get notice I will be able to collect the information.

Pandit Faqir Chand : May I know if any action will be taken against the department which is accused of so much corruption and carelessness ?

Chief Minister : It is a request for action.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Has the Government any intention of taking action ?

Mr. Speaker : The question has been replied to. The hon. Member might not have heard it.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know under what rule the Chief Minister has refrained from giving the names of these persons while the names of other criminal offenders are freely disclosed ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government on knowing that such widespread corruption is prevalent in this department has found out the causes of this corruption ; if so, what are those causes ?

Chief Minister : We shall refer this question to a sub-committee.

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING IN COLLEGES.

*2686. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government intend to introduce compulsory military training in the colleges of the State ; if so, when ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : There is no intention at present to make this training compulsory unless it is so decided by the Government of India, Ministry of Defence.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know when that scheme would be ready and when it would be enforced? (*Laughter*).

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the permission of the Government of India is necessary for this work or can it be started by the Provincial Government of its own accord?

Minister : Permission is necessary, because it is a military matter.

Pandit Faqir Chand: May I know if the Government is considering the statement of the hon. Health Minister of India that the girls should not be given military training?

Minister: Some training is being imparted to girls.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if our Government looks towards the Centre in every matter or makes its own proposals as well?

Minister: It sends its own proposals.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if the Government wrote to the Central Government that in view of ours being a border province, military training should be imparted to the people here?

Minister: Military training is being given.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: On a point of order, Sir. Just a short while ago the hon. Minister in reply to a question of mine said that there were no instructions from the Central Government about giving military training in the colleges. But in reply to my later question he has said that some training is being given. May I ask which reply is correct?

Mr. Speaker: I think both are correct.

Chief Minister: Sir, the hon. Member has not listened to the reply given by the hon. Minister. In the original question it has been asked whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce compulsory military training in the colleges. In the supplementary now put he has asked whether some sort of military training was being given. There is difference between the questions and, therefore, the replies are also different. However, I may inform the House that the Government of India had appointed a committee to enquire whether military training be given to students or not. On the recommendations of the Committee the Government of India enquired from the States as to the number of students for whom the arrangements would have to be made. We told them to give us as large a number of instructors as they could give. There was a dearth of instructors and therefore we could not arrange to give military training to as much students as we wanted. But I may inform the House that we are much ahead of the other States; our National Cadet Corps has an Artillery Corps and certain other corps which other States do not have.

COST OF ADDITIONAL POLICE POSTS IN THE STATE.

*2700. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the nature of the activities which were stated to be closely allied to political activity together with the details thereof which were resorted to by the inhabitants of villages Jataula, District Rohtak and village Jagmalera, District Hissar referred to in reply to Assembly question No. *2137 put during the autumn session of 1950 on account of which the costs of the punitive police posts located in these villages were remitted;
- (b) the grounds for quartering the additional police posts at Jandiala Town, Guru Bazar Amritsar City, 'D' and 'E' Division of Amritsar City., Village Bhattewidh, village Harsechhina, and village Barar of Amritsar during 1946-47;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to remit the costs of the Police posts referred to in part (b) above; if not, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) It is not in public interest to disclose the nature of activities for which the cost of the Additional Police Posts at Jataula and Jagmalera have been remitted.
- (b) It was thought advisable in the interest of maintenance of law and order in the area.
- (c) The matter is under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the police posts were posted in public interest. May I know if this was done in the interest of the public or in that of the Government?

Chief Minister: Government works for the public.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that the public does not recognize this Government as its own?

Chief Minister : People recognize the Government to be their own Government.

HUNGER STRIKE BY COMMUNIST DETENUS

*2701. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) whether the Government has followed the principle embodied in a resolution moved in the Punjab Legislative Assembly on 25th January 1938 by the hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava the then Leader of the Opposition that “This House recommends to the Government to concede the demands of the political prisoners who have gone on hunger strike in the Punjab Jails and effect their immediate release”;
- (b) whether he still holds the view which he expressed during the course of his speech which he delivered in support of the above resolution in the Legislative Assembly, namely:—“Whosoever is punished for his political views or political actions should not be treated as ‘C’ class prisoner. I wish the treatment in jail were improved for all the people but as long as this is not done, at least the political prisoners should be treated as better class prisoners”;
- (c) whether any communist detenus were prosecuted for having gone on hunger strike in jails during 1949-50 or 1950-51; if so, their number ;
- (d) the reasons for this hunger strike?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

(a) No

(b) Yes. My views are the same as before. After dawn of Independence there is however no political prisoner now in the real sense of the word who may have to fight for the freedom of our country. The treatment of all prisoners has since been improved.

(c) First part—Yes.

Second part:—

1949-50:— 21

1950-51:— 64

(d) The reasons for this hungerstrike were the concerted plan of Communist detenus in Jails to create an embarrassing situation for Government. The hunger strikers even assaulted the Jail Officers to create chaos and indiscipline.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: On a point of order, Sir. Does an answer to a question contain the views of the Government or that of an individual Minister? The hon. Chief Minister has just now said that his views are the same as before.

Chief Minister: Sir, I will ask the hon. Member to read the question. My views have been asked in it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Chief Minister's views might be Government views also but in this particular question his views have been asked.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: It was for the hon. Speaker to see whether such a question should have been admitted or not. But we are not concerned with the views of an individual; we are concerned with the views of the Government.

Shri Ram Sharma: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether in his opinion after the achievement of Independence there is no political prisoner left in the State? Does he mean to say that only he who fought against the foreign rule is entitled to call himself a political prisoner and none else?

Chief Minister: How can he be a political prisoner who does not fight for the freedom of the country? He is a traitor.

Shri Ram Sharma: Does the hon. Chief Minister mean that he who has a difference of opinion with those in power today cannot become a political prisoner?

Chief Minister: Why will he be arrested at all?

Shri Ram Sharma : Because the present laws are defective.

Mr. Speaker: It is a question of opinion only.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, may I through you request the hon. Chief Minister to make it clear whether he thinks that any political activity which is not savoury to the Government is the activity of traitors in this country?

Chief Minister: Yes. I believe that any activity which is against the Government which is a popular Government and which has been established by law, is traitorship to the country.

Mr. Speaker: This is a legal question and I think it should not be discussed here.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Do I take it that the Government holds that any activity to replace the State Government or for the matter of that to replace the present Government will be the activity of a traitor ?

Mr. Speaker: Any question relating to legal opinion should not be taken up here.

Shri Ram Sharma: In view of your ruling what should we think of the reply of the hon. Chief Minister ?

Mr. Speaker: That I cannot say but I am of the opinion that legal questions should not be discussed on the floor of the House. Next question, please.

KISAN SATYAGRAH IN TEHSIL FAZILKA.

*2703 **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether any persons were arrested, convicted and detained for launching Kisan Satyagrah in the Tehsil of Fazilka during 1950 ; if so, the number of the persons so arrested, convicted and detained respectively ;
- (b) whether any of them was convicted for using violence ; if so, their number and the nature of the violence used in each case ;
- (c) (i) whether the persons referred to in part (a) above were regarded as 'Political offenders' and treated as such ?
(ii) the number of the accused, convicts and detenus who were put in A, B and C classes respectively ;
(iii) the reasons for this differential treatment ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) First part—No ;

Second Part—Does not arise.

(b) & (c) Does not arise.

ANTI-RAJDHANI MOVEMENT

*2704 **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) (i) whether any persons were arrested, convicted and detained in connection with Anti-Rajdhani Movement in the ilaqa of Chandigarh ; if so, their number in each category;
- (ii) the offence they were found guilty of ;
- (b) (i) whether the persons referred to in part (a) above were regarded as 'political offenders' and treated as such in the police lock—ups or jails ; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (ii) the number of the persons referred to above who were put in A, B and C classes in jails or police lock—ups respectively ;
- (iii) whether any of them was guilty of having used violence ; if so, their names and the nature of the violence used in each case ;
- (iv) whether the convicting magistrate passed any remarks about the violence used ; if so, the copy of these remarks be laid on the Table ;

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes ; 159 persons were arrested u/s 23 of the Punjab Public Safety Act and 156 convicted u/s 14 of the Act for defying the ban imposed by the District Magistrate, Ambala, on demonstrations, etc.

12 persons were detained u/s 3 of the P. S. Act for indulging in activities prejudicial to the maintenance of public law and order ;

[Chief Minister]

(b) (i) The 12 persons detained and one of those arrested were treated as special offenders. The activities of others were of a criminal nature ;

(ii) Of the 159 persons arrested, one was given 'A' class and the remaining were treated as ordinary prisoners in the jail ; Of the 12 detunes, two were given 'A' class, 9 'B' class and one 'C' class in the jail ;

All were treated as 'C' class prisoners in the police lock-up ;

(iii) First part—No ;

Second part—Although the persons arrested and detained were not allowed to use violence due to police vigilance, the former exhorted the villagers to resort to violent means to compel the Government not to construct the capital at Chandigarh and as a result of the propaganda of the latter, Police Officers were mobbed by the people and the survey parties were prevented from doing their work.

(iv) First part—No ;

Second part—Does not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know on what grounds some of offenders were awarded better class when others who were charged with the same offence were given "C" class ?

Chief Minister : It was considered proper to award better class in the case of certain persons because of their status in life.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When the offence was the same, how is it that it was considered proper to make such discriminations in favour of certain persons ?

Chief Minister : I am sorry I cannot enter into arguments here.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that it was considered proper to award better class in the case of certain persons. May I know from him, whether the Government is guided by any rules in the matter of arriving at decisions on awarding better class treatment to any of the offenders?

Chief Minister : There are certain considerations which the local officers keep in view in such cases.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that in connection with Anti-Rajdhani Agitation certain persons were arrested who, as a matter of fact, did not take any part in it? Is it also not a fact that the High Court made remarks which show that the intentions of the Government were not bona fide in the matter of the arrest of some of these persons?

Chief Minister : I want notice of that question?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that in the course of its judgement in the case of Mr. J. L. Kapur Advocate, Ambala, the High Court passed strictures which clearly show that the Government did not act with a bona fide intention?

Chief Minister : I want notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether in the course of a reply to a deputation which met the Government, it was stated that enquiry will be held in the case of such arrest?

Chief Minister : I want proper notice to reply to this question.

ARREST OF PROF. TILAK RAJ CHADHA

*1705. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) (i) whether Prof. Tilak Raj Chadha M. A. General Secretary of the Punjab Socialist Party and Ex-M. L. A. was arrested by the Chandigarh Police on or about 31st August, 1950; if so, the offence for which he was arrested;
- (ii) whether he was taken to Rupar Judicial lock-up after his arrest;
- (iii) the distance between the Resident Magistrate's court Rupar and the local judicial lock-up;
- (iv) whether Prof. Tilak Raj Chadha was made to travel on foot with handcuffs from the court of the Resident Magistrate to the judicial lock-up and vice versa on or about 31-8-50;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (b) (i) the class in which Prof. Tilak Raj referred to above was put by the Resident Magistrate in the judicial lock-up, Rupar and the Ambala Central Jail, respectively ;
- (ii) whether he was sanctioned a better class from the very beginning ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (iii) when was he put in the better class :
- (c) (i) whether the Government has been informed by the Anti-Rajdhani Satyagrah Committee of Chandigarh that it has decided to withdraw the Satyagrah ;
- (ii) if the answer to part (c) (i) above be in the affirmative whether the Government has decided to release or proposes to release the persons arrested, detained or convicted in connection with the Anti-Rajdhani Movement ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) (i) Yes, for defying the ban imposed by the District Magistrate, Ambala, on the holding of public meetings, processions and demonstrations ;
- (ii) Yes.
- (iii) about 5 furlongs ;
- (iv) Yes.
- (b) (i) 'C' Class ;
- (ii) No. He was originally placed in the 'C' Class in accordance with the rules governing the custody of undertrial prisoners ;
- (iii) From 14-9-50 ;
- (c) (i) Yes ;
- (ii) All persons detained and convicted in connection with the movement have since been released.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; May I know whether the status of a person is taken into consideration while awarding him any treatment or is it that simply the whims of the local officers are allowed to play their part ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied to this.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that Prof. Tilak Raj Chadha was not given a treatment which a man of his status deserved ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that on receiving an information the matter was enquired into by the Government. It was a mistake on the part of the local officers and they have been instructed accordingly.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Have any instructions been issued to avoid repetition of such mistakes ?

Chief Minister : Instructions are already there.

Shri Ram Sharma : What are those ?

Chief Minister : They are printed in the 'Jail Rules'. I refer the hon. member to these printed rules.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN VILLAGE DUADPURA DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

631. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of owners to whom more than 20 acres of land have been allotted under the quasi permanent allotment scheme at village Daudpura, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar;
- (b) whether the allotment of houses in this village has been completed, if so, the description of the houses allotted to each of the persons referred to in part (a) above ;
- (c) (i) the number of the pucca houses in this village and the way in which they have been allotted ;

[S. Sajjan Singh].

- (ii) the names of the persons to whom these pucca houses have been allotted together with the reasons therefor ;
- (iii) whether any of the persons referred to in part (a) above had put in any application regarding the valuation of the houses they were owning in Pakistan, if so, their names together with the value of the claims put forward by each of them ;
- (d) whether each of the allottees referred to in part (a) above has been put into possession of the house allotted to him if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

Serial No.	Name.	Area.	
		K.	M.
1.	S. Inder Singh	60	10½
2.	L. Nand Lal	55	0
3.	S. Anup Singh	45	0
4.	S. Chanan Singh	39	15½
5.	S. Bahal Singh	39	13½
6.	S. Sadhu Singh	36	8½

- (b) This village has been placed under the model village scheme. For the present, the allotment of houses has been carried out as a temporary measure. Temporary allotment has been made as detailed below :—

Serial No.	Name of allottee	Description of house allotted,	Area.	
			K.	M.
1.	S. Indar Singh	Kacha-pacca House	1	2
2.	L. Nand Lal	Kacha house (in village Dabipur)	1	4
3.	S. Anup Singh	—do—	—	19½
4.	S. Bhal Singh S. Chanan Singh (real brothers)	Pacca house	1	17
5.	Sadhu Singh	Kacha house	—	18

(c) (i) There are two big houses, one pacca and one kacha-pacca as this allotment has been temporarily made, the possession of the house by the allottees has been taken into consideration.

(ii) These houses have been allotted to the following persons:—

(i) S. Bhal Singh and S. Chanan Singh (real brothers) pacca.

(ii) S Inder Singh Kacha-pacca

The reasons are the same as given in (i) above.

(iii) None of the allottees referred to in part (a) above had put in any application regarding the valuation of their houses in Pakistan.

(d) Only S. Inder Singh has not been given the possession of the house so far. Police help has been sought for this purpose.

SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE, ROHANA, DISTRICT HISSAR.

634. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

(a) when the last election of the President of Small Town Committee, Tohana, District Hissar was held;

(b) (i) when the confirmation of the President-elect was notified in the Punjab Government Gazette;

(ii) the date on which the President-elect took over the charge from his predecessor;

(iii) who worked as President during the period between the election and the date of his taking over charge;

(iv) whether the President-elect was allowed to work as President of this Committee before the notification referred to in part (b) (i) above; if so, the provision of law under which it was done?

The hon. Captin Ranjit Singh:

(a) On 11th January, 1950.

[Minister for Public Works.]

- (b) (i) The Commissioner, Ambala Division's sanction was received on the 27th February, 1950.
- (ii) 26th January, 1950.
- (iii) Shri Brij Lal Vice President worked as President during this period.
- (iv) The President elect took over as President before the Commissioner's approval was received, without the knowledge of the local officers. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, and the Commissioner, Ambala Division, they called for the explanation of the President and after consideration of the matter, he was asked to get the proceedings of the meetings held before the receipt of the Commissioner's approval, confirmed at the regular meeting of the Committee. The needful has been done by the President.

**THEFT CASE OF VILLAGE RAWALWAS, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT
HISSAR.**

635. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether any theft case was registered during the year 1948 at Sadar Police Station, Hissar by Khetsi Dass, son of Harnam Mahajan of village Rawalwas, Tehsil Hissar.
- (b) (i) whether Shri Shanti Sarup, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police conducted the investigation of this case ;
- (ii) whether Shri Khetsi Dass referred to in part (a) above submitted a complaint to the Superintendent of Police Hissar alleging that the conduct of the said Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police was objectionable and that he (A. S. I.) had remarked during the course of investigation "why do the jats fight, let there be thefts in the house of Mahajan" ;
- (iii) whether after the enquiry about the complaint referred to in part (b) (ii) above the complainant was prosecuted under section 182 of the Indian Penal Code ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (c) (i) whether the accused referred to in part (b) (iii) above was acquitted by Shri B. S. Malik, Magistrate 1st Class, Hissar on 31st January 1950;
- (ii) whether the Magistrate in the course of his judgement remarked that (1) "the Assistant Sub-Inspector had conducted the investigation in a most irresponsible manner as is obvious from his remarks that 'why the Jats fight let there be theft in the house of Mahajan' ;
- (2) that from the evidence one thing is clear that Shanti Sarup, Assistant Sub-Inspector did not conduct the investigation properly and also his remarks were such as would raise some doubts in the mind of the accused" ;
- (d) (1) if the answer to part (c) (ii) and (1) and (2) above be in the affirmative, the action, if any, taken by the Government against the said Assistant Sub-Inspector if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (ii) whether the copy of judgment referred to above which was forwarded to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ambala Range by me in the month of September 1950 was received by him ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes
- (b) (i) Yes. A.S. I. Shanti Sarup No. 197/A partly investigated the case
- (ii) Yes (iii) Yes. (c) (i) Yes. (ii) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (d) (i) No action was taken against A. S. I. Shanti Sarup as the Police enquiry conducted on the spot did not prove that he had uttered the alleged remarks and the case u/s 182 I. P. C. against Khethsi Dass was considered to have failed in court on account of the prosecution witnesses having been won over.
- (ii) Yes.

UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL

636. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the date when the charge of the canal banks of Kasur Branch of Upper Bari Doab Canal was taken over by the Forest Department for plantation purposes ;
- (b) (i) the number of trees at the canal banks when this charge was handed over by the canal authorities ;
 - (ii) the number of trees planted by the Forest Department in each of the sections of Tarn Taran, Rasulpur and Waltoha respectively since the taking over of the charge up to 31st August 1950.
- (c) whether any regular records are maintained by the Forest Department regarding the following in connection with the plantations on the canal banks ;
 - (i) the number of trees planted each year ;
 - (ii) the number of trees cut each year ;
 - (iii) the balance of trees at the end of each year ;
 - (iv) the sale price of the trees sold up to 31st August 1950 by the Forest Department along with the Bari Doab canal ;
- (d) whether any trees were planted by the Forest Department at any of the banks of the canal minors and distributories noted below during the period referred to in part (b) (i) above ; if so, their number on each minor and distributory ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
 - (i) Khem Karan Distributory ;
 - (ii) Kalsian Kalan minor ;
 - (iii) Makhi Kalan ;
 - (iv) Mano Chahal minor ;
 - (v) Rasulpur distributory ;
 - (vi) Tarn Taran ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (e) the total establishment expenditure regarding the Upper Bari Doab Canal bank upto 31st August 1950;
- (f) (i) whether the Government is aware of the fact that before the transfer of the charge referred to in part (a) above the grass on the canal banks was sold to the zamindars of the adjacent villages for grazing purposes ; if so, whether the same practice is continued now-a-days ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (ii) whether the grass on the canal banks of the Kasur Branch has been sold this year for grazing purpose between the canal burjis 270 to 335 ; if so, when was it auctioned and the amount so earned ;
- (g) (i) the total number of the trees on the banks of Kasur Branch and each of its branches at the end of each year since the transfer of the charge referred to above ;
- (ii) whether the trees are counted every year and enumerating marks put on each tree now-a-days ; if not, in what way the balance is calculated ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) 1st May, 1945.
- (b) (i) The number of trees at the canal banks was not counted at the time of taking over charge from the canal authority, nor was this possible without spending a considerable sum of money.
- (ii) The words Tarn Taran, Rasulpur and Waltoha sections of the Upper Bari Doab Canal are not self-explanatory. If the hon. Member will kindly specify the sections according to canal R. D. the required information will be collected and supplied to him.
- (c) (i) Yes and in case of sowings the record is for the acreage sown.
- (ii) Yes.

[Minister for Education].

- (iii) No, nor is this possible without spending a considerable sum of money with corresponding advantage.
- (iv) Yes.
- (d) No sowing and planting work has so far been done as turn for sowing and planting operations on these Minors and distributories has not yet come according to the prescriptions of the working plan.
- (e) Rs. 2,80,934/-.
- (f) (i) Before the transfer of charge of this canal to the Forest Department grazing was permitted on certain canal banks and grass cutting was also allowed in certain regeneration areas and crops below 5—6 years. This practice continued till August, 1950, and not the Irrigation Authorities have issued instructions not to permit grazing as even the slightest damage to canal banks is undesirable because very high supplies of water are being run in the channels. Grass cutting is, however, allowed.
- (ii) No. The area was however, leased out for grass cutting during July-August and Rs. 543/- were realised in open auction.
- (g) (i) Not known. It is not possible to count the trees without spending a large sum of money ;
- (ii) Trees are not enumerated every year ; the enumeration is done only at the time of preparation of working plans. Approximate volume of timber etc. can however, be always roughly estimated on area basis.

**RECOVERY OF ARTICLES FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD SARAI,
AT BEAS, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

638. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the full descriptions of the articles together with their weight, their number and their value which were taken into possession by the raiding party of the Police on 2. 10. 48 from the District Board Sarai situated at village Beas, District Amritsar in connection with the case against Sardar Joginder Singh, Sub-Inspector Police ;
- (b) whether these articles were auctioned ; if so, when and by whom ;
- (c) (i) the full details regarding weight, number, and the description of these articles which were handed over to the auctioning authorities for auctioning ;
- (ii) the total sale price realised for each of the different categories referred to above ;
- (iii) whether some of the articles were found missing at the time of auction ; if so, their list together with their details ;
- (d) the manner in which the articles recovered from the house of the officer referred to in part (c) (i) above were disposed of ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) The details of the articles taken into possession by the Police are given in the lists marked 'A' and 'B'†. Their weights and value are not available. These recoveries were, however, made on 2. 10. 47 and not on 2. 10. 48.
- (b) Articles noted at serial Nos. 8, 11, 12 and 13 of list 'A' were auctioned on 7. 11. 49 and those at serial Nos 16, 17 and 19 of the same list on 31. 1. 50 by Custodian's Department.
- (c) (i) All the articles enumerated in list 'A' mentioned in part (a) supra, excepting 3 lorries noted at Serial No, 14 which were given to owners of supurddari, were handed over to the Custodian's Department.
- (ii) Rs. 4690/- on 7. 11. 49 } Details showing amount fetched
Rs. 1201/- on 31. 1. 50 } by each article is not available with the Police.
- (iii) No.

† Kept in the Library.

[Chief Minister].

- (d) The articles noted at serial Nos. 1 and 12 of list 'B' were confiscated by the State, and deposited in the District Malkhana, Amritsar, being confiscated ones. The remaining articles noted in list 'B' were returned to S. I. Joginder Singh under the orders of Magistrate. The articles noted at Serial Nos. 1 to 7, 9, 10, 15, 18 and 20 of list 'A' were made over to the Custodian's Department and further details regarding their disposal etc. are not known to the Police. Final orders for the return of lorries (mentioned at Serial No. 14 of list 'A') to the owners which are already with them on *sapurddari*, have been passed by the court concerned.

**GRANT OF PENSION, ETC. TO THE WIDOW OF THE
DECEASED CHOWKIDAR OF VILLAGE GHURKWIND,
DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

641. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the village chowkidar of village Ghurkwind, Police Station Bhikiwind, District Amritsar was shot dead by a gang of thieves while he was on patrolling duty in the month of August, 1950 ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government has awarded any family pension or has given other financial help to the family of the deceased ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether the widow of the deceased applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar for financial help ; if so, the decision arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) A proposal for the grant of extraordinary pension to the dependents has been received from the Police Department

and forwarded to the Accountant General, Punjab for report.

- (c) Yes. As stated above, the case is with the Accountant General, Punjab.

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**RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC MEETINGS, PROCESSIONS
AND USE OF LOUD SPEAKERS, ETC., IN THE STATE.**

642. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (i) the name of the cities where restrictions under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on public meetings, processions, use of the loud speakers and megaphones had been imposed during the year 1948, 1949 and 1950.
- (ii) the duration for which such restrictions continued in force in the cities referred to in part (i) above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

- (i) and (ii) A statement is laid on the table ‡

— — —

NATIONALIZATION OF MOTOR TRANSPORT IN THE STATE.

643. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to State whether the Government intend to nationalize the motor transport in the state, if so, when ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

Government have decided to postpone further nationalization of passenger transport for 3 years in view of the recommendations made by the Assembly during the last Budget Session.

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‡ Kept in the Library.

DESTRUCTION OF CROPS BY CATTLE IN THE STATE,

644. **Pandit Jiwan Lal** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that due to closing down of numerous slaughter houses in rural areas of the State, since 15th August, 1947, a large number of cattle are roaming about and destroying crops ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that old, sick and useless cattle are let off by owners to graze in the fields and the village cattle-ponds also refuse registration of such cattle ;
- (c) whether Government proposes to take some steps to avoid further loss of destruction of crops ; if so, the details thereof ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) The stoppage of slaughter must have increased the number of stray cattle.
- (b) Reports regarding stray cattle destroying crops have been received, but Government are not aware of cattle ponds refusing to receive them.
- (c) In order to combat the menace of stray cattle, a bill to amend certain sections of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871, is introduced in the current session of the Assembly. The question of enhancing the existing scale of fine for impounded cattle is also under the consideration of Government.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN THE STATE.

654. **Pandit Jiwan Lal** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area of land consolidated in acres district-wise in the State since the last Budget Session of the Assembly ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Harijans and non-Zamindars have no rights in Shamilat-land in the State and get no sites for manure pits as a result thereof ;

- (c) whether the Government have considered the claims of non-Zamindars and Harijans for allotting them sites for manure pits at the time of consolidation of holdings ;
- (d) if the reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, the names of villages together with their districts where such non-Zamindars and Harijans have been given sites for manure pits ;
- (e) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative ; the steps, Government propose to take to remove their hardship ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

(a) District.	Area consolidated in acres.
Ferozepore	921
Gurdaspur	2859
Amritsar	29.2
Jullundur	10060
Hoshiarpur	4569
Ludhiana	14420
Ambala	15773
Karnal	11658
Rohtak	} Work has recently started and consolidation operations have not yet been completed in any village of these districts.
Gurgaon	
Hissar	
Kangra	

- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) A list is attached.†
- (e) Does not arise.

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES IN THE STATE.

646. **Pandit Jiwan Lal ;** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

Kept in the library.

[Pandit Jiwan Lal]

- (a) whether the Government has completed the work of delimitation of constituencies for the coming General Elections in the State ; if so, the basis thereof :
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the electoral lists in the State were highly inflated as a result of bogus registrations and the registration of minors ; if so, does the Government propose to revise the existing electoral lists ,
- (c) whether the constituencies are to be delimited on basis of population ; if so, the steps, the Government have taken to correct doubtful methods in the census in the near future ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) No.
- (b) No. On the other hand, a revision of the rolls of the State is at present in progress in order to rid them of duplicate entries. This has been necessitated by the fact that a large number of persons mostly displaced, had been included in the rolls twice, once at the time of the preparation of the draft electoral rolls in 1948, and a second time in the supplementary rolls at the places to which they had moved as a result of allotment of land or otherwise since their first registration.
- (c) The constituencies for the first elections under the new Constitution are not to be based on census figures of population but on population as worked out from voting strength in the manner laid down in the Constitution (Determination of Population) Order, 1950. Revision of the Electoral roll has been undertaken with the object of eliminating duplicate entries, dead voters etc.

AREAS TO BE BENEFITED FROM NANGAL PROJECT

647. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has put up a model map showing areas to be benefited from Nangal Project at a stall in the International Engineering Exhibitoin going on in Delhi ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Haryana Districts have not been included within that area ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.

ELECTIONS TO LOCAL BODIES.

648. **Pandit Jiwan Lal:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the Government proposes to hold elections to Local Bodies before the coming General Elections ;
- (b) whether the Government have finally delimited the constituencies ; if not, when does the Government expect to complete this work and the principles Government proposes to follow in the matter of delimitation of constituencies ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh:

- (a) The question of fixing dates for elections to local bodies is under the consideration of Government
 - (b) For the purpose of elections to local bodies, the Assembly rolls have been adapted wholesale. When these rolls have been finally published, the constitution of each local body will be fixed and thereafter steps will be taken for the delimitation of constituencies on the following principles:—
 - (i) The seats will be reserved for Scheduled Castes in proportion to their population for a period of 10 years.
 - (ii) The constituencies will be single—member constituencies. Where reservation in favour of Scheduled Castes is necessary, plural—member constituencies will be formed.
-

CRIME in GURGAON DISTRICT.

649. **Pandit Jiwan Lal:** Will the hon Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of murders, dacoities, burglaries, and other such crimes registered in the Gurgaon District during the year 1948, 1949 and 1950 respectively ;
- (b) whether the number of such crimes was on the increase or decrease, comparatively in the year 1950 together with the reasons therefor ;
- (c) the number of such cases traced during the period mentioned in part (a) above ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) and (c) A statement is laid on the table. 1
- (b) The crime declined during the year 1950 due to vigorous patrolling and well supervised investigation of cases by the Gurgaon Police.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC ENERGY TO BALLABGARH TEHSIL.

650 **Pandit Jiwan Lal:** Will the hon Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the Government has received any representation from the inhabitants of Ballabgarh Tehsil for the supply of electric energy for irrigation purposes from the proposed power house, at Faridabad Township;
- (b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative the action, if any, taken by the Government in the matter?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) It is true that the Government has recently received representation from the inhabitants of Ballabgarh Tehsil for the supply of electrical energy for irrigation purposes from the proposed power house at Faridabad Township.

1 Kept in the Library.

- (b) The Power House at Faridabad is being installed by the Faridabad Development Board under the aegis of the Government of India. The Electricity Branch of the Punjab Government is negotiating with the Board for release of power from this Power House to the extent of 300 kws. for supply to Palwal. Ballabgarh was not previously thought of as there was no such demand from that town till recently. If power is made available by the Faridabad Board at reasonable rates, the Punjab Government will have no objection to electrifying Ballabgarh also enroute to Palwal. It may, however, be added that Ballabgarh is included in the first stage of electrification of the Nangal Power Project and supply to any extent required by the Ballabgarh Tehsil could be made available in 1953.

**PARLIAMENTARY AND PRIVATE PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARIES**

651. **Pandit Jiwan Lall** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number and names of the Parliamentary and Private Parliamentary Secretaries at the time of the last Budget Session ;
- (b) the number of the same at present ;
- (c) the reasons for increase or decrease in their number;
- (d) the amount of T. A. drawn by each one of them since their appointments ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) There was no Parliamentary or Private Parliamentary Secretary at the time of last Budget Session
- (b) 13 Parliamentary and Private Parliamentary Secretaries were appointed this time. Since then Sardar Gurbachan Singh, Parliamentary Secretary, Industries and Civil Supplies has died. So their number at present is 12.

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- (c) There is no question of increase in their members as no appointments had been made as in (a). There is a decrease of one owing to death of one Parliamentary Secretary as described in (b).

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

(d) 1.	S. Shiv Saran Singh	Rs. 18 /12/-
2.	S. Ajit Singh	Nil
3.	Thakur Beli Ram	Nil
4.	Ch. Jagdish Chander	Nil
5.	Prof Sher Singh	Nil
6.	Pt. Bhagat Ram	Nil
7.	Shri Dev Raj Sethi	Rs. 200/4/-
8.	S. Waryam Singh	Nil
9.	Late S. Gurbachan Singh	Rs. 488/-
10.	Ch. Samar Singh	Nil

PRIVATE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

1	Ch. Harbhaj Ram	Nil
2.	Ch. Matu Ram	Nil
3	S Shiv Singh	Nil

SUPPLY OF IRON AND STEEL QUOTA FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS IN GURGAON DISTRICT

652. **Pandit Jiwan Lal** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) The quota of iron and steel supplied to Gurgaon district for agricultural implements in the year 1950 ;
- (b) the names of the agents together with the quantity of iron and steel supplied to each one of them for distribution in the respective tehsils of Gurgaon district during this period ;

- (c) The names of Zamindars who received such supplies together with the quantities tehsil-wise ;
- (d) whether axle of bullock-cart wheels comes within the meaning of agricultural implements ; if so, whether iron required for the same purpose was supplied to Gurgaon district ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a) 314 tons.

(b) Iron for heavy implements was supplied to the following fabricators, —

	Tons	cwt	qurs	lbs
(i) Pandit Mills, Ballabgarh	53	2	2	4
(ii) S. R. Tyal and Co, Farrukh Nagar	21	4	2	3
(iii) Shri Des Raj Vij, Gurgaon	75	0	1	21
(iv) Surrendra Foundry Gurgaon	39	13	3	18
(v) Palwal National Co-operative, Palwal	48	16	5	27
(vi) Ranjit Steal Works, Faridabad.	16	17	3	12
(vii) Bhawani Sahai Bishamber Dyal, Rewari	4	12	0	7

(Since removed).

In addition to the above, 55 tons M. S. Squares 3/4" for phallas was supplied through the Commission Agents.

(c) Statements are enclosed in original. +

(d) (i) Yes.

(ii) the required category of iron for this implement has recently been received and is being supplied to cultivators this month.

‡kept in the Library

OPENING OF BASIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE

655. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of the basic schools opened in the State since March, 1950 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that large number of basic schools could not be opened due to shortage of trained basic teachers ; if so, the steps, if any, taken by the Government to meet this shortage ;
- (c) by what time does the Government hope to give effect to the Compulsory Primary Education Act ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) 22.
- (b) This is also one of the reasons. Government has already started two basic Training Schools, one at Jagraon and the other at Satrod. A Basic Training Class has also been attached to Jat High School, Rohtak. The Junior teachers Training Class attached to the Mission School, Moga is proposed to be converted into a Basic Training Class from 1st April, 1951. The question of converting the Junior Teachers Training Class attached to Christian High School Kharar into Basic Type is under the consideration of the Department.
- (c) The Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1919 is already in force. A new Primary Education Act is under consideration of the Government.

LEVY OF PROFESSIONAL TAX IN DISTRICT GURGAON

656. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government has received any representations from the D. B. teachers of Gurgaon District protesting against the levy of professional tax on them ; if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) No.
(b) Does not arise.

PANCHAYAT CASES IN DISTRICT GURGAON.

657. **Pandit Jiwan Lall:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of cases dealt with by village panchayats in 1950, tehsil wise, in Gurgaon District ;
(b) the number of transfer applications and revision petitions ; if any, filed during the same period, tehsil-wise;
(c) the number of panchayat decisions reversed by the law courts in the same period ?

The hon Captain Ranjit Singh:

- (a), (b) & (c).

Tehsil Gurgaon Rewari Palwal Ballabgarh Nuh Ferozpor Jhirka.

(a)	94	57	428	411	147	153
(b)	13	15	38	16	2	3
(c)	6	6	13	11	0	1

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS IN DISTRICT GURGAON

658. **Pandit Jiwan Lall:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) the mileage of new construction under major roads, minors roads and village roads respectively in the Gurgaon District under the Five Year Post War Plan ;
(b) whether the Government has received any representation from the public to expedite work on the Second Class Roads, (Ballabgarh-Tigaon, Hodal-Hassanpore and Palwal-Pinagwan); if so, the action taken thereon ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh:

- (a) The Five Year Road Development Plan is under preparation and, therefore, the mileages asked for cannot be given.
- (b) No representation has been received from the public regarding any Class II road. The roads referred to by the hon. Member are Class III Roads and only one representation has been received from the public regarding Ballabgarh Tigaon Road. The Chairman, District Board, Gurgaon, has been asked to take early steps to bring it in a proper state of repairs and a recommendation has also been made to the Government to promote this road to Class II.

— — —

DISPOSAL OF DEAD CATTLE IN RURAL AREAS.

669. **Pandit Jiwan Lall:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the disposal of the dead cattle in rural areas of the State has been causing friction between the Harijans and the Zamindars since the partition ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a large number of cattle is buried without even the skin or hide being removed;
- (c) the steps if any, Government propose to take to remedy this loss of skins and hides and to remove this cause of friction mentioned in part (a) above ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

- (a) Yes, to a certain extent in some places.
- (b) Things are now reported to have considerably improved since partition.
- (c) Government have started six centres in Rohtak District as an experimental measure where dead animals are being handled by Government experts for obtaining hides, skins,

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

bones, hoofs etc. If this scheme proves successful, it will be extended to other places in the State.

BRIDGE HEADS ON AGRA CANAL.

660. **Pandit Jiwan Lall :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that approaches to the Bridge-heads on Agra Canal in Gurgaon District are in a deplorable condition ;
- (b) whether the Government propose to take up the matter with the Uttar Pradesh Government ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) Yes, the condition of some of the ramps is not good.
- (b) Yes.

**TAKING OVER BY GOVERNMENT OF DISTRICT BOARD
HIGH SCHOOL, TIGAON, DISTRICT GURGAON.**

661. **Pandit Jiwan Lall :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether a representation from residents of Tigaon, and surrounding villages of District Gurgaon asking the Government to take over the control of D. B High School, Tigaon, has been received; if so, the action taken thereon ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

Yes. The same has been forwarded to the Inspector of Schools, Ambala for report for the consideration of Government if and when it is decided to provincialize or open new schools. It may, however, be added that due to financial stringency, Government are not considering any schools for provincialization at present.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POSTS IN AMBALA AND JULLUNDUR DIVISIONS.

662. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of areas in each district of Ambala and Jullundur Divisions, respectively, in which Additional Police Posts were quartered between the period 1st January 1943 to 14th-August 1947 ;
- (b) the amount assessed as cost of the police post in each such area for the first year ;
- (c) the total annual land revenue in each of the areas referred to in part (a) above at the time when the costs were assessed for the first year ;
- (d) the ratio in the land revenue and the cost of the police posts referred to above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

REVENUE PATWARIS.

663. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the revenue patwaris of District Amritsar who have reached the age of 55 years ;
- (b) whether they have been granted extension ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether the persons referred to in part (a) above were medically examined and found fit for service before the sanction for their extension was granted ;
- (d) whether any of these patwaris has been discharged or is proposed to be discharged after the 1st April, 1951 ?

The hon. Sadar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) A list showing the names of patwaris of this district who have attained the age of 55 years is placed on the table.†
- (b) All the patwaris mentioned in the list were recruited before the 1st January 1937, and are thus governed by paragraph 3. 55 of the Punjab Lands Record Manual as amended by correction slip No. 62 LRM dated the 1st January, 1937, so far as their retention in service after the age of 55 years is concerned. According to this paragraph such patwaris can be retained in service, as a matter of course, up to the age of 60 years, after which they can be granted extension only if they are, after a strict test of efficiency, considered fit to perform the duties of a patwari efficiently. Patwaris mentioned at serial No. 14, 19 and 20 have been granted extension up to 15-11-1951, 31-3-1951 and 23-4-1951, respectively after applying the above mentioned test.
- (c) In view of the reply given at (b) above the question for medical examination does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise at present. Each case will be decided on merits at the proper time.

— — —

T. A. DRAWN BY OFFICERS OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

664. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the places visited by each of the 1st class Magistrates of Amritsar District outside the district head-quarters during the month of January 1951 ;
- (b) the period for which each of them remained encamped at these places during the period mentioned in part (a) above ;
- (c) the travelling allowance drawn by each of them for this period ;

† Kept in the Library.

- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the Magistrates, Revenue Officer 1st grade, Senior Superintendent of Police, Additional Superintendent of Police of Amritsar district during the year 1950 ;
- (e) whether any Government owned vehicle was placed at the disposal of any of these officers during the year 1950 ; if so, (i) the kind of vehicle ; (ii) the date when it was placed at his disposal ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) to (e) The statements containing the required information are placed on the table. †

**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY HEADS OF
DEPARTMENTS IN THE STATE.**

665. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the travelling allowance drawn by each Head of Department during the year 1950 in the State ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

A statement is enclosed. †

**ADDITIONAL POLICE POSTS AT VILLAGES MAKHI KALAN
AND SUR SINGH, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

666. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the various items taken into consideration while calculating the actual cost of the additional police posts of villages Makhi Kalan and Sur Singh, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar and the actual expenditure incurred under each such item respectively ;

† Kept in the Library.

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(b) the total actual cost of each of the above-mentioned police posts to be recovered ;

(c) the names of persons exempted from the payment of the tax of each village referred to above and the reasons therefor in each case ?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a)	Makhi Kalan.	Sur Singh.
Pay of Establishment.	3343-2-0	5774-0-0
Conveyance allowance	300-0-0	358-1-0
Dearness allowance.	2266-12-0	3892-8-0
Uniform allowance (initial and annual)	650-0-0	1000-0-0
Beds and Boxes	75-0-0	150-0-0
Hutting charges.	240-0-0	120-0-0
Contingencies.	24-0-0	24-0-0
Pension contributions.	323-6-5	622-4-9
Total	<u>7222-4-5</u>	<u>11940-13-9</u>

Besides the above expenditure, the Government have actually spent money on the following items :—

1. Training of police personnel required to man the posts.
2. Supervision of superior officers.
3. Arms and ammunition supplied to the police personnel.
4. Interest on the money spent in advance for the maintenance of the posts.

(b) As at (a) above.

(c) None.

**ENQUIRY AGAINST A MEMBER OF BALLABGARH
MUNICIPALITY.**

Pandit Jiwan Lall: Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether any enquiry was instituted by the Government against a member of the Ballabgarh Municipality in the year 1949-50 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Divisional Officer, Palwal and the Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon, found the said member guilty ;
- (c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative ; the action taken by the Government in the matter.

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh;

- (a) Yes.
- (b) A final report from local officers is still awaited.
- (c) Does not arise.

EJECTION NOTICE AGAINST TENANTS ETC. In THE STATE.

668. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of ejection notices and suits filed against the tenants in the revenue courts of each district during the years 1946, 1948, 1949 and 1950, respectively ;
- (b) the number of cases in which notices of ejection were issued or decrees passed against the tenants during each of the years referred to in part (a) above ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh: The answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member as soon as information is received from district offices.

REQUISITIONING OF SHOPS AND HOUSES AT SIMLA.

* 669. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (a) (i) Whether any shops in the lower Bazar of Simla were requisitioned by the District Authorities ; if so, their list together with full description of their situation and the names of their owners ;
- (ii) the date when each of these shops was requisitioned together with the purpose for which it was requisitioned :
- (iii) the monthly rent fixed by Government after the requisition of each of these shops ;
- (b) (i) Whether any rent has so far been paid to each of the owners ; if so, the date of such payment till now ;
- (ii) whether it is a fact that there has been delay of more than six months in the payment of rent in any case ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) (i) the number of the houses and bungalows requisitioned during the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-1950 and 1950-51 respectively at Simla ;
- (ii) the annual rent fixed after the requisition of these houses and bungalows ;
- (iii) whether the arrears of rent of these houses and buildings have been cleared till now ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) and (b) The enclosed statement † gives the required information.

(c) (i). 1947-48	—	255
1948-49	--	270
1949-50	—	99
1950-51	—	20

† kept in the Library.

- (c) (ii) The annual total compensation fixed for the houses mentioned in part (c) (i) comes to Rs. 3,36,733/2 .
- (c) (iii) A sum of Rs. 2,56,602/1/- out of a total of Rs. 3,36,733/2/- has already been disbursed. A balance of Rs. 80,131/1/- is lying undisbursed as the owners concerned have not turned up to receive payment.

NEW SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS IN THE STATE.

670. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of new schools for girls and boys that have been opened by the Government during the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 ; if so, the list of such schools ;
- (b) the number of the High, Middle and Primary Schools run by Government, District Boards and Municipal Committees, respectively, during each of the years referred to in part (a) above ;
- (c) the number of the colleges run by the Government, District Boards and Municipal Committees, respectively, during each of the years referred to above ;
- (d) (i) the total amount spent by the Government for running these institutions referred to in parts (b) and (c) above during each of the years referred to in part (a) above ;
(ii) the total amount given by the Government to the District Boards, Municipal Committees and Small Town Committees during each of the years referred to above for education purposes ; (iii) the total amount spent by District Boards and Municipal Committees from their own funds to run these institutions during each of the years referred to above ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (e) the total number of students who were on the rolls of the Government, District Board and Municipal Committee educational institutions during each of the years referred to above ;
- (f) whether Government intends to bring any change in the present system of imparting education ; if so, the steps, if any, so far taken by the Government in this direction ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) }
 (b) } Statements giving the required information, as available,
 (c) } are laid on the table.*
 (d) & }
 (e) }

- (f) In pursuance of the policy of Government to introduce Basic Education in the Schools of the State, necessary steps in this direction are being taken. Two Basic Training Institutions have been started at Jagraon (Ludhiana) and Strod (Hissar). Some of the privately managed Training Institutions have been encouraged to take to the training of teachers in Basic Education. The local bodies are opening 25 Basic Primary Schools each year on a cent-per-cent grant basis from Government. Steps are also being taken to ask Local Bodies and Private Managements to convert the existing schools into the basic type. Government propose to convert one Basic Primary School in each Division as a Model School.

New syllabus, on the Basic pattern, has been prepared for schools and new books according to the new syllabus will be introduced in the I, II, V and VI (English only) classes of the schools in the State with effect from the next session, and in the remaining classes in 1952 and 1953.

INCREASE IN CATTLE WEALTH OF THE STATE

671. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

‡ Kept in the Library

- (a) the steps, if any, taken by the Government to increase the cattle wealth of the State during the last 3 years and with what results ;
- (b) whether any new Veterinary Hospitals have been opened by the Government during the period 1-4-48 to 31-12-50 ; if so, the names of such hospitals ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh:

- (a) (i) From 15-8-47 to 30-12-50 as many as 1006 pedigree bulls of the famous Hissar and Hariana breed were supplied to different Districts Boards at a concessional rate of Rs. 250/- per bull from the Government Livestock Farm Hissar, for breeding purposes in the State. The number of pedigree cow and buffalo bulls at work in the State now is 6530 and 3574 respectively apart from several privately owned buffalo and cow bulls approved by the department as fit for breeding purposes.
- (ii) The 'Murrah' is a milch breed per excellence in India. Buffaloes of this breed are exported from this State in large numbers annually to various States of the Indian Union, particularly to the big cities of Bombay and Calcutta. The private breeders, though very keen in buffalo rearing, are handicapped due to poverty and the vicious circles of famines occurring every third or fourth year and cannot maintain even the most prized buffaloes with the result that almost all the valuable buffaloes are sold out of the State. To conserve this valuable breed, a Murrah Buffalo Breeding Farm, Hissar has been started at the Government Livestock Farm, Hissar, from January, 1948, which aims at producing pedigree male and female buffaloes for breeding purposes and supply to various *bonafide* breeders in the State.
- (iii) With a view to re-establishing the famous milk producing Sahiwal breed of cows in this State a herd of this breed has also been located at the Government Livestock Farm, Hissar with the subjects mentioned under (ii) above.

[Minister for Education]

(b) Yes. The following 18 new Veterinary Hospitals and 2 Permanent Outlying Dispensaries have been opened by Government :—

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Kubaheeri | } | Ambala District. | |
| 2. Mani Majra | | | |
| 3. Kurali | | | |
| 4. Kalka | | | |
| 5. Mandaura | | District Rohtak. | |
| 6. Kairo | | District Hissar. | |
| 7. Dorangla | | District Gurdaspur. | |
| 8. Ramnagar | | District Ferozepore. | |
| 9. Sidhwanbet | | District Ludhiana. | |
| 10. Hajipur | | District Hoshiarpur | |
| 11. Chetinpura | | District Amritsar | |
| 12. Kot Khai | | District Simla | — Since merged in
Himachal Pradesh |
| 13. Loharu | | District Hissar. | |
| 14. Pataudi | | District Gurgaon. | |
| 15. Sujanpur | } | District Kangra | |
| 16. Paprola | | | |
| 17. Nadaun | | | |
| 18. Keylong | | Excluded area of Lahaul (Kangra district) | |
| 19. Gauhi | { | Permanent Outlying Dispensaries in Kangra District. | |
| 20. Jowali | | | |

Note:—Hospital No. 1 at Kubaheeri was closed down from 28.2.1950 due to the inability of the District Board, Ambala to continue the same out of their own funds.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The Legislature Secretariat has received notices of nine adjournment motions and they all relate to two or three matters. I find that in the Governor's Address all these matters have been referred to in one form or another and the hon. Members will have occasion tomorrow and on another day to discuss these matters. For this reason I disallow all these adjournment motions.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I do not want to question your ruling, but I want to have your ruling about the conventions which we shall have in this House in future.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member perhaps does not know that in the House of Commons during the whole year there are not more than 4 or 5 adjournment motions. The hon. Member is anticipating certain matters which are going to be discussed tomorrow and on another day. If in future I find that there is an adjournment motion which really requires consideration by the House, I would certainly be quite prepared to admit. But when I know that the same matter is going to be discussed in a day or two I do not find any purpose served in admitting an adjournment motion on the same subject. Further these matters which are raised by these adjournment motions can also be discussed during the general discussion of the Budget and that has been the practice for the last 15 years or more. It is only in exceptional cases that an adjournment motion is allowed to be discussed during the Budget Session.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : My submission is that if the adjournment motions are disposed of in this manner, then it will result in the violation of conventions established in this House. The proceedings are governed by rules and I would like to bring to your notice Rules 50 and 51. My submission is that the Chair may hear us and then give his ruling.

Mr. Speaker : It is not necessary. Only if there is any doubt in my mind about a particular matter, I shall call upon the hon. Member concerned to explain, otherwise it is not necessary for me to call upon him to speak.

Shri Ram Sharma : You have just referred to the convention followed by the House of Commons and said that during the whole year only 4 or 5 adjournment motions are discussed there. But here in this House they are never allowed to be discussed.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a question of privilege, Sir. I beg to draw your attention to the answer given to Starred Question No. 2701.

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

The statement made by the hon. Chief Minister in reply to a supplementary question that all activities intended to change the present Government are traitorous, is an inroad on the privileges of the members of this House which they possess by virtue of their membership. Therefore I beg permission to move the motion that the answer given by the Government has not the approval of this House.

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** No doubt that was the statement made by the hon. Leader of the House. Perhaps it should not have been made. It is for the courts to decide such matters. It is a matter of judicial opinion. That was the reason why at that time I expressed my view that it was a legal question and should not be discussed here.

As for the question of privilege, it is only a statement and if any member of this House is in any way affected, either by a certain order of the Government or otherwise, say if any member is prohibited to make any political speech or is arrested for making any speech, then there are the courts to decide the matter and to see whether he comes under the grip of the law or not. The speeches in this House are privileged and I find that the hon. Members are criticising the Government in every possible way. For these reasons I think the question of privilege does not arise at this stage. If at a later stage the Government takes any action or asks hon. Members not to say anything against the Government or the party in power, then perhaps the question of privilege might arise.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : If I may be permitted to make a statement, there is an apprehension among members of this House that they may be proceeded against on the strength of the statement made by the Government, because that statement will now go up and will be published and brought to the notice of the smaller executive. When they see that this is the view of the hon. Chief Minister who represents the Government that anybody who indulges in any activity for changing the present Government is guilty of the activity of a traitor, they may take action accordingly. Therefore, there is the apprehension that any Member of the House who seeks to change the present Government may be arrested or detained and it will be too late for you to give him any protection.

Mr Speaker : That was the point raised by the hon. Member on

this side in regard to the case of Master Tara Singh. So the hon. Member need not be afraid of such things.

Chief Minister : The original question related to political prisoners and I said that there was 'no question of any political prisoner. A prisoner is one who is convicted by a court of law and as long as one is not convicted, he is not a prisoner. I said there cannot be any political prisoner now. In my opinion there cannot be any political prisoner now in the real sense of the word who may have to fight for the freedom of the country. In that sense I may say that a man who says that now the country is not free and does any action against an established Government and the court convicts him then he is a criminal and not a political prisoner and a man who tries to overthrow the established Government by violence and by unlawful means is a traitor.

Shri Virendra : May I enquire whether the Government and the Ministry are one and the same or whether they are two different things? For, according to the Constitution, you can overthrow a Ministry but you cannot overthrow a Government established by law. The hon. Chief Minister has said that one who tries to overthrow the Government established by law is a traitor.

Mr. Speaker : Anybody who intends to overthrow the Government established by Constitution of India by certain subversive activities is a traitor. In criticising the Ministry or in trying to overthrow the Ministry, anybody can say whatever he likes so long as he does not transgress any law.

DAMAGE BY LOCUSTS.

Chief Minister: Sir, I am told that when I was away for a little time, there was a talk about the damage caused by locusts. I may say that the locust question is as important, if not more important, than the flood question. Therefore I shall try to find sometime for the discussion of the steps that the Government has taken in this connection and I shall welcome any proposals from hon. members to minimise the menace.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether the hon. Leader of the House can speak on something which is not before the House? The adjournment motion in this connection was ruled out of order.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, he can make a statement about a certain matter.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. Speaker: Under Rule 11(1) of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules, I nominate the following hon. Members as the Panel of Chairmen :—

1. Shri Ram Sharma.
2. Mehta Ranbir Singh.
3. Chaudhri Lahri Singh.
4. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa.

RESOLUTIONS

Shamlats in Rural Areas

Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban (*Hindi*):

I beg to move:—

This Assembly recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to see that common lands (Shamlats) in the rural areas in the State are not partitioned in a way which puts to great trouble and hardship the non proprietors, particularly Harijans, and the cattle of such people.

Sir, the Resolution that I have moved concerns those poor people in general who in the parlance of land revenue are termed as the Non-proprietors and the Harijans and other poor people living in the rural areas in particular whose sources of livelihood are meagre and limited. In view of the fact that these days when much is being talked of about the fundamental rights and everybody whosoever he be is out to fight for his rights, you will find, Sir, that this resolution is directly concerned with the majority of the

population of the State who want to live in peace and also want to be treated with respect. Under the circumstances, I am of the opinion that there is nothing in the resolution which may stand in the way of the Government in implementing it or in other words in issuing such instructions under the existing law as may prove detrimental to the interests of the poor non-proprietors in general and the Harijans in particular. I had given notice of this very resolution during the last session of the Assembly when it could not secure first or second position in the agenda of resolutions. However, I am given to understand that Government have on the basis of this resolution enquired from the district authorities of the State about the exact position as to how and where the partition of common lands has resulted in great trouble and hardship to the non-proprietors. Here I have no hesitation in saying that the contagion of this disease of causing hardships and troubles to these poor people has spread to a great extent in the districts of Rohtak and Hoshiarpur. In some other districts too we find such state of affairs but to some extent only, and not as much as you will find in the two districts of Rohtak and Hoshiarpur.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Because there are mischief-mongers in these two districts.

Mr. Speaker : No interruptions please.

Shri Ram Sharma : I know that there are some districts where there are very few common lands. For instance in Jullundur division where there are very few common lands, there the partition of such lands has not resulted in great trouble and hardship in a large measure. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make this point clear that we are not concerned with the extent of the area in the districts where common lands have been partitioned but what we are chiefly concerned is that the poor nonproprietors in general and our Harijan brethren in particular are not subjected to any hardship. I have come to know that the Government have received the reports about the exact position from the district authorities regarding the difficulties which the non-proprietors in general and Harijans amongst them in particular are faced with. Before I hear from the hon. Minister about the exact position I would like to point out that I am given to understand that instructions have been issued by the Government in the matter of partition of the common lands (shamlats) in the State.

[Shri Ram Sharma]

Sir, I can say with confidence that the Government do not care to see whether the instruction issued by it from time to time are strictly observed by the departments or not. I would like to enquire from the hon. Minister for Revenue whether any action has been taken by the Deputy Commissioners on the instructions that were issued by the Government in connection with the partition of the common lands in the rural areas? I hope the hon. Minister will clarify the position. It so appears that some of my hon. Friends do not attach much importance to this matter as in their opinion no hardship or trouble is caused to the non-proprietors by the partition of common lands. But I would like to inform the House that the problem is very acute in my own district and the non-proprietors are put to great trouble by the partition of the common lands. There are three types of common lands

- (i) forest lands on which land revenue is assessed;
- (ii) Joint common lands which are called 'banni, for the common use of land owners and for their cattle;
- (iii) such forest land which is surrounded by abadi on all sides and is mainly used for grazing cattle.

There is a vast area of such common lands in my district on which land revenue is assessed. I would, therefore, like to impress upon the Government that. *(At this stage Ch. udhri Badlu Ram stood up to say something)*, Sir, I will not give way to the hon. Member unless he rises on a point of order. Sir, I was saying about the division of three kinds of common land in the rural areas. These Shamlat should be partitioned in such a way that it might not put non-proprietary classes particularly the Harijans into any hardship in respect of cattle grazing. They are socially very backward and economically very poor. These people are put to great trouble when these shamlat are partitioned. I know that there is a law governing the division of such lands and that certain instructions have also been laid down for this purpose. I have witnessed the condition of such people in my own ilaqa and am in a position to say that these people suffer badly from the effects of these partitions. Such state of affairs also exist in other districts and my hon. Friends would be able to throw light in respect of their own districts. So far as the law in force in the Punjab with respect to the assessment of land revenue is concerned, I would like to make the position clear that in Section 111 of the Land Revenue Act, 1887 it is laid down that —

Any joint owner of land or any joint tenant of a tenancy in which a right of occupancy subsists, may apply to a Revenue Officer for partition of his share in the land or tenancy, as the case may be.

In the light of this provision the Government should consider that if any restriction is not imposed on the partition of these shamlats then the life of non-proprietors as well as the proprietors may become difficult. Whereas it has been provided in Section 111 of this Act that any joint owner of land may apply to a Revenue Officer for partition of his share in the land but certain restrictions and limitations have also been imposed on partition. In Section 112 of the Land Revenue Act it is laid down that—

Places of worship and burial-grounds held in common before partition shall continue to be so held after partition, unless the parties otherwise agree among themselves and record their agreement and file it with the Revenue Officer.

This means that places of worship etc., cannot be allowed to be partitioned except with the consent of the parties concerned, and in the event of their mutual agreement. If there is no agreement on this matter the partition cannot take place.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : This is absolutely a wrong interpretation.

Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Member should remain prepared to explain the correct position.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : God save us from these newly-made lawyers.

Shri Ram Sharma : I do not claim to have become a 'vakil' though I think it should be a matter of pride for everybody to advocate the cause of the poor. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I would request you to dissuade the hon. Members from interrupting me or permit me to deal with them myself. Then, Sir, it is clearly laid down that—

The partition of any of the following properties namely :—(a) any embankment, watercourse, well or tank and any land on which the supply of water to any such works may depend.

(b) any grazing ground, and

(c) any land which is occupied as the site of a town or village and is assessed to land revenue may be refused if in the opinion of the Revenue Officer the partition of such property is likely to cause inconvenience to the co-sharers etc.

[Shri RamSharma]

So, Sir, it is far from my intention to suggest that at present there is no law or regulation to govern the partition of shamlat lands. Already a provision exists that partition of such and such common properties may be refused on the ground that it would cause inconvenience to the co-sharers. But, Sir, the snag is that there have always been irregularities and difficulties in the matter of partitioning of shamlat and cases of hardship have always been occurring despite the help of lawyers to the parties concerned. Even the recourse to law courts has not often resulted in what may be called a reasonably fair and just settlement of this vexed problem. This has been admitted in the Land Administration Manual itself.

Paragraph 457 reads :

No branch of revenue work used in former days to be worse done than partition cases. Scandalous delays were allowed to occur. No proper care was taken to lay down clearly the mode of partition or to define accurately the limits of the land assigned to each shareholder or to point these out on the spot to the parties interested. Years after an elaborate partition had been made on paper it was not infrequently found that the existing facts of possession in no way agreed with the allotments shown in the file. Matters have improved of late years but much watchfulness on the part of the Revenue Assistant and Deputy Commissioner is required to prevent undue delays, and to secure that partitions are fairly carried out and given effect to fully and promptly.

Minister for Revenue : But does the hon. Member know when this Manual was written ?

Shri Ram Sharma : It is admitted in the Manual that in the past settlement of this problem had not been free from difficulties and delays and though there was some improvement, irregularities, delays and scandals still continued to be associated with it. In order to refresh Government's information about this matter, I would like to quote from Section 453 of the Manual. This will make clear the intention of the Act so that the Government may be able to see whether this legislation is being put into effect in its spirit or not.

The village site, unless in the very rare case of its being assessed to land revenue cannot be partitioned by proceedings under the Land Revenue Act. Even if it is assessed, the Assistant Collector may refuse partition, and this discretionary power may properly be held to extend to the uncultivated land round a village which is used as standing ground for cattle or occupied by enclosures for fodder and manure. Places

of worship and burial grounds cannot be partitioned unless the parties record and file an agreement assenting to their division. Any embankment, water course, well or tank, and the land by the drainage of which a tank is filled, and any grazing land may be excluded from partition.

This shows that the problem existed even then and the Government was conscious of it. It is stated further that land hunger is now so great that many of the owners may clamour to have it divided.

What I want to point out is that the instructions embodied in the manual should be faithfully carried out and in fact this is my chief aim in bringing this resolution before the House. The manual further states :—

One must think not only of the wishes of land owners' like Chaudhri Suraj Mal but also of the likelihood of the partition causing inconvenience to other residents of the village, as, for example, the menials, have been accustomed to use the common property. When any of it is excluded from partition, the Assistant Collector "may determine the extent and manner to and in which the sharers and other persons interested therein may make use thereof....."

I have read out the relevant extracts from the Manual to show the legal position of the common lands in the rural areas. It is clearly stated therein that while partitioning lands not only the interests of the proprietors are to be kept in view but the direct and indirect interests of the non-proprietors are also not to be lost sight of. As a matter of fact my intention in moving this resolution is that I should bring to the notice of the Government that the instructions contained in the Manual are not being observed. If the Government officers concerned were to adhere to only one-half or even one-third of these instructions there would have been no necessity of bringing this resolution. But unfortunately it is not so in practice and the Government should not take shelter behind this Manual saying that what I desire to be done through this resolution is already being done. Any how I have placed before the House the legal position in connection with partition of common lands and wish to point out to the Government the way in which these lands are being partitioned. So far as the actual position is concerned, I dare say that at any rate in my district, *i. e.* District Rohtak the situation has become extra-ordinarily dangerous. In about half of the villages of this district, people have applied for partition with the result that a large scale litigation has been started. These applications have given rise to serious disputes and the relations between the proprietors themselves have been very much strained. As

[Shri Ram Sharma]

for the relations of the non-proprietors and the proprietors, less said the better. The non-proprietors have not only been cut off from the proprietors but have to face serious difficulties. I submit that the Government should take all necessary steps to stop partition if and when it is found to be objectionable. But unfortunately the Government is doing just the opposite of it. There was a dispute about lands in about four or five villages and the Police reported that in order to avoid any serious disturbance the land in question should be occupied by the Government. But the Magistrate who was to decide the case held that there was no need of these disputed lands being taken over by Government.

Sir, applications have been made for partition in a number of villages, for example, in the villages of Bhaparauda and Bahmanauli in Tehsil Jhajjar and in the village of Fihar Kalan in Tehsil Sonipat. I am making a special mention of these villages lest it be said that my remarks are indefinite and vague. Here I wish to point out that when these applications are made, Commissions are appointed to affect partition and huge sums are given to the Members of the Commission, who are usually lawyers and who may not be able to earn such amounts for months.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Government has no voice in such matters.

Shri Ram Sharma : If the Government cannot help these things, people will have to think as to what kind of Government they should have and for such an act on their part nobody will be able to dub them as traitors. In such a circumstance this Government may have to suffer the fate of Governments which have been over-thrown by the people e. g., the Chiang Kai-Shek Government. The Government should not be somnolent when loot is being committed on a large scale and thousands of rupees are being grabbed by way of bribes. I may here say that my remarks should not be confined only to revenue disputes, they equally apply to the civil cases. The Government should try to find out a solution of this problem and in case it cannot solve it by itself, it should have recourse to the advice of the Central Government. And in case the Central Government is also not in a position to help, advice may even be had from the foreign Governments.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa).

If the Government and the hon. Members pay proper attention to this matter and realise the gravity of the situation, some solution

should be possible for checking this deplorable state of affairs. Already the conditions are such that in one village thousands of rupees were wasted by certain parties for getting shamlat lands partitioned. Ultimately a Board or a Commission was set up. One of the parties to that dispute was sentenced to imprisonment for one year under Section 420 of the I. P. C. but he managed to secure his release by paying about five hundred rupees as bribe to certain persons. The problem of partition of common lands is not only proving a source of hardship to poor non-proprietors but it is giving rise to difficult problems for others also. On getting up one fine morning some proprietors find that strange demarcations have been made overnight and there is no land for their passage even. This greed for land is not a new problem. It has existed since long and there is reference to it in over half a century old Land Revenue Manual also. People old have always tried to appropriate such lands but this tendency has considerably increased since the attainment of freedom. The people in the villages are so panicky these days that they do not know what the Government will do with the common lands, if any. They have therefore started partitioning these as quickly as possible. I do not mean to say that the land reform policy of the Government is responsible for this state of affairs. In the districts of Rohtak and Hoshiarpur where the lands are unirrigated, the area of common lands is much more than in other districts where the lands are canal irrigated. In the latter, maximum land is brought under cultivation and very little of shamlat is left. For these reasons the number of applications for the partition of such lands will be lesser in Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal but this problem is very acute in Rohtak. In Hariana Prant, Rohtak has always been the pioneer whether in good things or bad. I do not say that it has always occupied a leading position in good things alone. In the matter of disputes, strifes and such other undesirable things also, Rohtak has occupied the foremost place in Hariana Prant. For these reasons, I feel that because the question of partition of common lands has assumed a very acute form in Rohtak, similar conditions are likely to prevail in other districts also. The Government should not feel unconcerned about this matter simply because it is not very acute in Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal districts. When it has arisen in one district it is likely to spread to others also. The number of applications for partition of common lands is increasing, litigation is much more than before and relations between the proprietors and non-proprietors are becoming very strained. As a Congress worker, I receive reports of such happenings every day

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People are very much upset about it. I know that the Government is not completely ignorant of the situation. They have received reports about it and have already issued certain instructions to the Deputy Commissioners. The Government realises the gravity of the situation but I feel that in spite of the instructions issued by it, the problem has not yet been solved. The whole matter has taken a very serious turn. Poor Harijans, weavers and cobblers are all anxious to have some land for carrying on their trades. They are very much agitated on finding that no land is being left for them. Whenever an application is made for partition of a certain common land, parties to the case are summoned by the Board constituted by the Government. Their claims regarding the portions of land which should be given to them are heard but no attention is ever paid to the interests of non-proprietors. Has such a Board ever ascertained the views of these poor people who depend on that common land? These people are completely ignored. The proprietors are spending thousands of rupees on disputes for partition of land, and heavy bribes are being offered in the quarters concerned. This is giving rise to a very difficult situation. Poor weavers, for instance, are being left no land on which to carry on their weaving business. These people have genuine complaints in this matter. The Government should pay immediate attention to it because the desire for partition of common lands has recently increased manifold. This problem has a close bearing on the conditions of law and order in the State. The relations between proprietors and non-proprietors are becoming very strained and the Government should seriously think as to what steps it should take immediately. The prevailing conditions are harmful for the State as a whole and I shall suggest to the Government to set up some special agency for devising means to check this state of affairs. The number of applications made in Hoshiarpur district for partition of common lands will reveal the intensity of the situation. Huge amounts are being given as bribes and various other ills are resulting therefrom. This problem warrants immediate action on the part of the Government.

There is one thing more which is responsible for the evergrowing craze for the partitioning of the common lands. Sometime back, the Government started the grow more forests campaign and for this purpose it began to acquire all common lands. In itself, it is a commendable step. But it has created the impression in the minds of the zamindars that instead of giving the common jungle lands to the

Government, they should divide them among themselves. Besides, the acquiring of the land for growing trees, is creating hardship for the people who are sought to be benefitted by this resolution. The Government has acquired common jungle lands at a number of places in my district. One of such places is Murthal. The influential people of these places manage to get on lease the common lands while restrictions are imposed on the poor and helpless people. The poor people are not allowed to graze their cattle on these lands nor are they allowed to gather leaves there. In this way, the Forest Department is also creating hardship for the poor people while the rich and the influential are being benefitted. This fact increases the craze for the partitioning of the common lands among the people.

Now I want to say a few words to the Government. I mean, I have to make a few suggestions to it. Before I do that, I would like to point out that in our country, today, a great stress is being laid on the improvement of the cattle wealth. For this purpose, Central Cattle Show has, already, been organised at Hissar and the prize distribution at the Show will be done by the President of the Union. This question of improvement of the cattle wealth is also related to the problem of the partitioning of the common lands. If the common lands are partitioned, the proprietors might be able to maintain their cattle, but it would become impossible for the non-proprietors to do so.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir, I want to draw your attention to Rule 124. According to this rule, the mover cannot speak for more than half an hour, except with the permission of the Speaker.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, if I have violated any rule, I will resume my seat.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, rule 124 provides—

No speech on a resolution except with the permission of the Speaker, shall exceed fifteen minutes in duration :

Provided that the mover of a resolution when moving the same and the Minister to whose department the resolution relates, when speaking for the first time, may speak for thirty minutes.

Mr. Chairman (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : It is with the permission of the Speaker.

Shri Ram Sharma : I was saying, Sir, that this question of the partitioning of the common lands is directly related to the question of the improvement of our cattle wealth. The Government must necessarily prescribe a limit below which the jungle lands (Shamlat) will not be acquired so that the people might graze their cattle on it. It should also stop the partitioning of such lands. When the land holdings are consolidated and the Bhakra canals are constructed, the people would be better off and consequently they might stop the partitioning of the common lands. But so long as that does not happen, the Government should instruct its revenue officers to exercise their discretion in favour of the poor people and not in favour of the rich and the influential. But the trouble is that the Government officers themselves belong to the class which is well-off. They even honestly exercise their discretion against the poor people. There are two big classes in the country, namely the haves and the have-nots. So the Government should see that the officers do not belong to and favour the class of haves. I personally know that the sub-judges, more often than not, exercise their discretion in favour of the owners in cases of house rent. Similarly the revenue officers favour the rich and the influential in the cases of partitioning of the common lands. Of course, there are exceptions just as some stray Englishman had sympathies with our struggle for political independence in the past.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair)

There are very few Brahmins who have regard for the Harijans. There are very few Jats who care for the interests of the other castes. Such persons are, in fact, very few who can pull themselves up from their sectional interests and work for others. The point to be considered here is that majority of those who are entrusted with the task of running the administration of the country consists of such people as I have described above. Under such circumstances I can only appeal to such persons that they should try to exercise their discretion in favour of those who are poor and down-trodden and who really deserve every kind of help at their hands. Sir, my submission is that instructions should be issued with this end in view. I have no desire to prolong the debate unnecessarily. So after bringing one or two things more to the notice of the hon. Members I shall resume my seat. One of these is that the work of partition of the Shamlat lands should not be undertaken, if possible, at places where the area of such land is very small. A limit should be fixed below which no partition should take place. This will go a long way in helping the poor non-proprietors and the Harijans of those

villages. The Government should see that no partition takes place at such places. Another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of this House is the question of economic holdings. It is in the interests of production that early steps are taken in this direction. So far as the partition of Shamlat lands is concerned I have already stated that a limit should be fixed so that the sufferings of the poor are minimized. As a matter of fact, we are here to safeguard their interests and if we fail in that they will only curse us. The third matter which the hon. Members should take note of is that the present laws, so far as this matter goes, give a wide scope for unnecessary litigation. The Government should take steps to see that such litigation is reduced to the minimum. It is harmful both to the people concerned and the Government. The laws should be amended and clear instructions should be issued with a view to achieve this desired end. As a matter of fact such instructions should be more clear and the Government should see that they are followed by all. I have seen in the case of the tenancy problem as also in this case that such instructions, as were issued from above, were not followed by the subordinate staff. So they ceased to bear any useful results. Instructions were issued for checking ejection of tenants in the State. But we notice that during the current year the notices for ejection are far more numerous than in the preceding years. Last year there were not more than fifty or hundred cases of ejection. But this year the number of notices issued to the tenants has gone up to about two thousand. As the poet has said ?

ਮਰਜ਼ ਬੜ੍ਹਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਜੂੰ ਜੂੰ ਦਵਾ ਕੀ
ਸੰਝ ਬਫ਼ਤਾ ਗਯਾ ਜੂ ਜੂ ਦਵਾ ਕੀ।

In actual practice steps contrary to the instructions are taken by the authorities.

Mr Speaker : Please be relevant and speak to the motion.

Sri Ram Sharma: Sir, my submission is that the Government should take care to see that at least in this matter the instructions that they are reported to have issued should be followed. One matter to which more attention should be paid is that in Revenue and Civil Courts whenever any matter comes up for consideration the Judges should be instructed that unless such non-proprietors and Harijans are given an opportunity to have their say the division of Shamlat Land should not be recognised. It is very necessary that such non-proprietors are heard. It is a matter of regret that at present the officers

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do not pay any heed to what these people say. An approved list of honest and respectable persons should be kept who may be consulted in such matters so that the difficulties of these people are fully placed before the Government officials. So far as Civil Courts are concerned, what I wish to say here is that there the interests of the poor should be fully safeguarded. If need be, the Central Government may be moved in this matter. The rights of the non-proprietors and Harijans and other poor persons in the rural areas should be fully safeguarded by means of necessary legislation or otherwise by issuing instructions as may be found necessary according to the circumstances of each case. But what I wish to stress is that the Government should see that such instructions, as they issue, are followed by their subordinate officials. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved -

This Assembly recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to see that common lands (shamlats) in the rural areas in the State are not partitioned in a way which puts to great trouble and hardship the non-proprietors, particularly Harijans, and the cattle of such people.

Master Gurbanta Singh (Jullundur, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the resolution before the House which has been moved by my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma is an important one. I have stood up in order to extend my support to it. In this connection what I wish to say is that the partition of the Shamlat lands in the rural areas of our State has put the poor people especially the Harijans to a great hardship. Such non-proprietors and the Harijans have no other place where they may be able to graze their cattle and the partition of Shamlat lands is a hard blow for them to bear. There are many instances where the Harijans have been unable to bear this hardship. It is a matter of regret that now when I am going to explain these difficulties of the Harijans and other non-proprietors the hon. Minister-in-charge is not in his seat. But still I do hope that my views will be conveyed to him.

Now I would like to make a few observations in regard to the manner in which partition of the common lands is brought about and the way how it adversely affects the Harijans. One method is by consolidation of holdings. During these operations the common lands are utilised in favour of one party or the other. The other method

is that the zamindars divide the common lands in the ordinary course of their requirements. So what happens is, that no care is taken by the parties to leave any stripe of land before the abadi sites or houses of Harijans for their use. As a result of this the Harijans are put to great hardship and trouble because not only they are not completely barricaded and prevented from moving out of their houses for want of an outlet, or a passage but they are also debarred from grazing their cattle in the common lands. I would elucidate my point by citing a few examples from the district of Jullundur. There is a big village, named Bhidana, in that district. During the Second World War, the Harijans of this village helped the Government in their war effort by freely offering themselves for recruitment to the Army and this fact was duly recognized by the Military authorities. Now there are a number of Harijan families living outside the abadi. At the time of consolidation of holdings in Bhidana village, no land was allowed to be left by the authorities before the houses of these Harijans, either as an outlet for enabling them to go out and attend to their calling or for the purpose of grazing their cattle. Consequently they have been reduced to the position of prisoners in their own homes. If they move out, they run the risk of trespassing the lands of zamindaras and inviting trouble from the latter who invariably tyrannise the former. The Harijans have represented their difficulties to the Deputy Commissioner as well as to the hon. Minister for Revenue but it is a thousand pities that no action has been taken by any of the authorities to redress their grievances. The result is that half of the Harijan families in that village have been uprooted because they have been compelled to leave the village and seek their livelihood and lodging elsewhere. Their difficulties do not stop here. Since the zamindars have erected barriers on the lands before the houses of Harijans and have not left any outlet for the drainage of rain water, the whole water coming from the village during the rainy season, gets collected in the mohalla of Harijans and makes their life difficult. Last year many mud houses of the Harijans collapsed as a result of the action of the rain water. Then there are other villages like Kishengarh and Sunar Khurd in Tehsil Phillaur, where the same tyrannical treatment has been meted out to the poor Harijans. They have been totally ignored at the time of partition of Shamlat lands. In the village Sunar Khurd, the Harijans entreated the authorities carrying out division of common lands to set aside some land for them and they helped them by plying the

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'Phirni' all the time the operations for partition continued. But I regret to inform the House that at the end of the operations, they were cold shouldered by the authorities as no land was left for their use. It goes without saying that as a result of the partition of common lands, the Harijans have been subjected to great hardships by the zamindars. They are not allowed by the latter to pass through their lands. Since they have no other recourse except to trespass the lands of the zamindars situated before their houses, the zamindars maltreat them. They do not permit them to ease themselves in their lands. I request the Government to adopt effective measures to see that at the time of partition of common lands, the Harijans are given their due share of land situated before their houses for purposes of a passage to move out and for grazing their cattle. Now this harsh treatment or oppression is not restricted to the Harijans only, all the artisans who are also non-proprietors, living in the villages fare the same fate at the hands of the zamindars. Now these poor people cannot afford to quit the village and take their abode in the towns as the cost of living there is extremely high. Since they are very useful in the rural economy, I feel that they deserve a humane treatment at the hands of the zamindars. But as the latter have little feeling in this matter, I would appeal to the Government to come to the rescue of the poor non-proprietors, particularly the Harijans and issue instructions to the officers concerned that some land must be left for the use of these people at the time of partition, so that they could heave a sigh of relief. They, too, should have an opportunity to graze their cattle.

Then, we have been told by the hon. Minister for Revenue that under the existing law no such partition of common lands can take place. But the difficulty is that this law is observed more in the breach by the officers than in its maintenance. They compulsorily partition the common lands, little caring for the rights of the Harijans. In other words they ride rough shod over the laws that have been framed for prohibiting division of common lands in the rural areas. I hope the hon. Minister would see that the officers do not violate the rules in this connection. Then I may also point out that in the past those people who had left these common lands for the common good of all the inhabitants of the villages, were no fools. They had the greatest good for the greatest number at their heart. They wanted

that both the poor and the rich, all alike, should benefit from the common lands. It is therefore, essential that the Harijans who form integral part of the rural population, should be given some relief in the matter of common lands. I would request the hon. Minister for Revenue that the rules referred to by him, under which common lands cannot be divided, should be given wide publicity. The officers concerned should be asked to avoid partition of common lands in the first instance and if at all the partition becomes necessary, enough land should be set aside for the use of the Harijans. With these words, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the resolution now before the House.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*):

Sir, We find that now-a-days the partitioning of common lands in the rural areas of certain districts and particularly in the district of Rohtak, is being carried on vigorously. Now this is a function which does not fall within the purview of the Punjab Government.. This is a matter which is directly connected with the Civil Procedure Code. In other words it is the Central Government which is competent to issue any instructions or make any law or modify the Civil Procedure Code for bringing about a division of the common lands in the villages. Then, Sir, under the partitioning operations of common lands, the non-proprietors particularly the Harijans are put to a great hardship. In all the cases regarding the division of common lands, which went before the courts, the request of the Harijans or for the matter of that non-proprietors for leaving a strip of land for their use was never granted by the courts. The Sub-Judges have always pleaded their inability to help them on the ground that the law did not permit them to leave a strip of land before the houses of non-proprietors at the time of partition of common lands. They say this is possible only if the law on the subject is amended by the Government. Consequently no lands are left before the houses of non-proprietors and Harijans to enable them to move out or use the same as a grazing ground for their cattle. Thus these people are put to a great trouble. Some non-proprietors manage to purchase certain strips of lands lying before their houses, but poor Harijans cannot afford to do so on account of their impecunious condition. It is no exaggeration to say that in 90 per cent partitioning operations of common lands in the Rohtak District, no land has been left for the use of Harijans. I brought this matter to the notice of the hon. Minister Shri Prithvi Singh Azad, but he, too, has not moved his little finger in the matter to improve the hard lot of the

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Harijans. I may tell the House that when I was a Minister of the Government, I particularly stressed upon the then Premier the desirability of doing something for alleviating the distress of the Harijans in this direction. But nothing was done in this regard. I would submit that justice demands that at the time of division of common lands, the existence of Harijans should not be ignored by the authorities. That strip of common land which lies before their houses should not be partitioned in favour of the parties concerned, but should be left untouched for the use of the poor Harijans, whose utility in the economic life to the villages, cannot be denied. I would, therefore, request the Government to see that at the time of division of Shamlat lands, enough land is set aside by the officers concerned for the use of Harijans. It is common knowledge that they are being treated very harshly and are subjected to great indignities in this matter in the district of Rohtak. So it is the bounden duty of the Government to afford relief to the Harijans in this connection. It is gratifying to see that the hon. Sardar Kartar Singh is in charge of the department which is carrying out the partition of common lands in the rural areas. It goes without saying that the hon. Minister is a practical type of man. He has evinced keen interest in the matter of consolidation of holdings and has taken prompt action under the Land Alienation Act in declaring certain castes in the Government Gazette as agriculturists, thus enabling my hon. friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma to cry himself hoarse before the people to be jubilant over the magnanimity of the Government. (*Laughter*) I hope the hon. Minister will rise to the occasion and do something substantial to save the Harijans because I feel that the State is to be saved from these miseries. Under the circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister to bring in some legislative measure for exempting partition of shamlats in front of the houses of non-proprietors. If this is done, I am sure, non-proprietors in general and the Harijans in particular would be thankful to him and the Government and also the hon. Members of this House. The House will agree with me when I say that the partition of the shamlat lands is the basis of all such controversial issues existing at present in most of the rural areas of the State. Mere speeches both inside and outside this House in favour or against this proposition will, I am sure, not result in any good. Here I would like to make this point clear that I am not against the partition of common lands for I do not lose

sight of the fact that big landlords have continued their hold on such lands. As a matter of fact I am of the opinion that nothing should stand in the way of the Government in partitioning the shamat lands. But at the same time I want that the areas in front of the houses of non proprietor Harijans should be exempted from being partitioned, My hon. Friend Shri Ram Sharma has in the course of his speech referred to the partition of forest land around the villages. In this connection I am reminded of a story. Once a newly elected member of a district board was asked by a village boy as to why he had not protested in the meeting of the Board against re-fixation of the price of a post card at three pice. The newly elected member being himself as ignorant as the boy who did not know that the District Board had no hand in such matters, told him in reply that sleep had overpowered him so much in the committee room that he came to know afterwards about the decision. Similarly my hon. Friend Shri Ram Sharma has come forward with a suggestion that Government should partition forest lands around the villages and also the grazing grounds. What I mean to point out is this that Government should make some amendment in the existing law and in case it is not possible then it should approach the Central Government to issue an ordinance. I would also suggest that the Legal Remembrancer should be consulted about the exact legal position regarding this matter. Any undue delay in the matter of exempting the non-proprietor Harijans from the partition of Shamat lands in front of their houses will have very bad repercussions.

I take this opportunity of congratulating the hon. Minister for issuing instructions in the matter of partition of Shamlats. I am really surprized as to who has made complaints to him against the partition of such large tracts of shamat lands which are lying waste and barren and which could be brought under cultivation in the interests of Grow More Food Campaign. In my opinion Government should not lose any time in bringing such large tracts of shamlats under the plough. For instance in the districts of Karnal and Rohtak there are large tracts of common lands of big landlords which are lying waste and fallow. If these areas and also similar areas in other districts are brought under cultivation, I am sure, the problem of feeding the increasing population of our State would be solved to a great extent. But on the contrary I find that pressure is brought to bear upon the Government to partition small tracts of shamlats in front of the houses of non-proprietors, the forest lands around the villages and the common lands meant for graz-

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ing purposes. During the settlement operations which were held twice during the British regime, instructions were issued to the effect that in no case should the grazing grounds be partitioned and that these grounds in their respective villages should not be touched at all. What I wish to point out is that there should be no partition of grazing ground even though it may be against the wishes of the partner or even the officials. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to issue instructions to the Revenue Assistants and other officials concerned not to allow the partition of grazing grounds. I have to say with deep regret that these officials do not pay any heed to the instructions which have already been issued to them by the Government. I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Minister that these officials should be made to understand the importance of the grazing grounds. Legislation should be brought forward for exempting the grazing ground from being partitioned. If and when the Shamlat lands are partitioned, care should be taken that some land which can be utilized by both the proprietors and the non-proprietors is left for the grazing of their cattle.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I am really surprised to see the resolution now before the House, being moved by an hon. Member who is not at all directly connected with the rural population of the State. The mover of this resolution who is at present representing here an urban constituency has also been elected to the previous legislatures from the urban constituencies alone. He is always out to safeguard the interests of the urban population both inside and outside this House. As a matter of fact he strongly holds this view that people other than the urbanites should in no case touch the matters relating to them. In view of this fact that he does not want ruralites to probe into the matter of the urbanites, I really fail to understand why should he unnecessarily interfere with the matter of the ruralites and thus create disorder and confusion worse confounded, in their ranks. In fact it is with this purpose the hon. Member has moved this resolution. (Interruption) So far as my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh is concerned, it is not known what he actually wants. He has said things both for and against the resolution, now before the house (Interruption) As a matter of fact he should have a soft corner for both the urbanites and the ruralites.

It really ill-behoves my hon. Friend Shri Ram Sharma to create disorder and confusion in the rural areas and at the same time have a soft corner for the urbanites whom he represents in this House. If he thinks that the ruralites should turn into communists then he should have the same feelings about the urbanites too. But he would not be able to help the spread of Communism in the urban areas. As a matter of fact he should have devised a uniform policy with regard to the urbanites and the ruralites. Since he has failed to face the urban population whom he represents in this House, he has therefore thought it fit to probe into the matters relating to the rural people. I have no hesitation in saying that by moving this resolution he wants to ruin the interests of the people living in the rural areas. He has no other motive except this. I make bold to submit that prior to his interfering with these matters, the atmosphere in the rural areas was quite healthy. It would really have been in the fitness of things if the people belonging to the urban areas had desisted from voicing the grievances of the people living in the rural areas as they do so only with a view to grinding their own axes. But for the undue interference caused by men like the mover of this resolution, with the affairs relating to the rural population, there could have been no change for the worse in the healthy atmosphere of the rural areas. By moving this resolution it is not the intention of the hon. Member to incur the pleasure of a few Harijans. In my opinion his chief aim in doing so is to create disorder and dissensions among the people in the rural areas. I am really surprised to find my hon. Friend Shri Ram Sharma sympathising with the lot of our Harijan brethren. But I want to know as to who is responsible for creating this backward class now called by the name of the "Harijans" in our society. It is the Brahmins who have made such water-tight compartments in our society and also dubbed them as a backward class. I am of the opinion that the mere expression of lip sympathy towards the non-proprietors in general and the Harijans in particular, on the part of the hon. Member representing urban population of his constituency is nothing but a vote catching device.

Sir, this resolution relates to the partition of common lands in the rural areas. The fact is that wherever the population went on increasing, the partition of common lands was carried out. I would point out to you, Sir, that in Jullundur Division there are shamlat lands near the villages and the partition of such lands was made in feelings of brotherhood without causing any hardship to the non-proprietary

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classes. The proprietary body evinced great interest in the welfare of non-proprietors and did not give them any cause for complaint. Such condition also existed in Lahore. My hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has only in view four districts but I may assure him that such disputes do not arise in any other district. Proprietary body is generally the owner of such land in villages and it pays land revenue to the Government. This body charges a nominal sum from the non-proprietors for using this common land for grazing their cattle. If the Government grants remission of land revenue in respect of a particular land owned by any individual then everybody is equally entitled to use that land for grazing purposes. When the proprietary body pays land revenue to the Government there is no sense in grudging the payment of nominal sum by non-proprietary classes for using that land. Sometime back my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma urged the Government for abolition of 'kuri kamini' in villages and that was abolished by the Government. I am surprised to find that my hon. Friend is sometimes enthusiastic about the abolition of taxes in village and at other times he raises his voice of protest against the exclusive use of common land by the proprietary body and then again he rises to oppose the payment of charges by the non-proprietary classes for grazing their cattle. There is little force in the arguments advanced by my hon. Friend. Nobody can deny this fact that proprietary body in the villages cannot be exempted from the payment of land revenue of the common land. My hon. Friend has made a mention of Rohtak District and said that non-proprietors suffer from the effects of partition of common land in the rural areas. But I would say that such an atmosphere has been created by my hon. Friend himself to suit his needs and aspirations. He wants to enlist the support of Harijans and other non-proprietary classes by getting this resolution passed by the Assembly. There were no such disputes in Rohtak District before but I may be excused if I say that Pandit Ji is actuated by ulterior motives as he wants to exploit the non-proprietary classes for his own personal ends.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not impute motives.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I do not like to attribute any motive to the hon. Member but since he has been referring to this district I have to mention this. As the elections would now be based on adult franchise my hon. Friend is following vote-catching devices by appealing to the popular sentiments of this class of people. The Punjabi saying goes that.

ਖਾਏ ਜੱਟੀ ਤੇ ਪਰੋਸੇ ਬਾਹਮਣੀ

ਖਾਏ ਜੱਟੀ ਤੇ ਪਰੋਸੇ ਵਾਹਮਣੀ ।

This aptly applies to my Friend. It is only the people from outside who are responsible for creating such trouble in villages. I may assure my hon. Friend Chaudhari Matu Ram that we have absolutely no reason to have any quarrel with them. We earnestly desire to have happy and cordial relations with them for all times. As a matter of fact we have very close connections with them. Urbanites are generally well-to-do people and some of them are big capitalists. We have nothing in common with them. As we are nearer to Harijans we will develop more friendly relations with them in the course of a few years. By bringing forward such a resolution my hon. Friend aims at giving share of land to the Harijans and non-proprietors first and would then claim partition of land for his own class of people. Now there are no disputes over the partition of common land in villages but when this resolution is passed non-proprietors will claim the partition of such land as a matter of right which will give rise to many disputes. Now according to the law these non-proprietary classes cannot acquire land from the proprietors of the land. I would, therefore, submit that if by passing of a resolution my hon. Friend considers that he would be able to evolve a solution of problems of non-proprietary classes in the rural areas, then I should say that he is sadly mistaken.

If you want the conditions to improve you will have to persuade both the parties to come to terms with each other. If the non proprietors say that the whole of the burden should be borne by the proprietors it would be a wrong thing to suggest. On the other hand it would be equally wrong if the proprietors were to say that nobody else has a share in shamlats.

Sir, the fact of the matter is that feelings of both the parties are inflamed by interested persons who come from outside. To the proprietors they say, 'you have the law on your side.' To the non-proprietors they advise that as they have been occupying the land since very long they can then fore claim it as a matter of right. If the Government wants a peaceful solution of the problem it should stop the activities of these mischievous persons who are out to exploit the situation. To make my point clear, I give a very simple illustration. Suppose a sweeper has two sons. One of them goes to the city and finds employment in Birla's mills and the other gets a job with a local zamindar. Now if a townsman incites the feelings of the sweeper's

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son working in the mill by telling him that he is getting inadequate wages for his work he is dubbed a Communist--a traitor to the country. On the other hand if a person creates disaffection in the mind of sweeper's other son working with the Zamindar by telling him that he has equal rights with the zamindar on the land on which he is working, he is looked upon as a true nationalist. What a strange logic! What is not tolerated in the city is looked upon as a noble act if done in the village. I can say from personal knowledge that District Rohtak has a sufficient number of people having commonsense living in it. It has been producing many sensible people in the past. What is the worry then? If the activities of those who create bad blood between the two parties are stopped, there would be no need at all of passing this resolution. Sir, may I with your permission disclose the motives of the people who are supporting it? They know that provision for adult franchise has been made in the Constitution and in future there would be no purely rural and urban constituencies. So they are trying to woo the rural people through this resolution. If their motives are pure they should go to the rural areas and use their good offices to reconcile the two parties by removing the misunderstandings. Harijans are our brethren. We are prepared to accommodate them in every possible manner provided they do not fall into the trap of those who want to make capital by inciting them against us. We are co-sharers in the village life and have been neighbours since times immemorial. We should not let outsiders interfere in our affairs. Persons like Panditji are not their real well wishers. For them this resolution is just an election stunt otherwise it is absolutely absurd. I am sure the House would throw it out.

Chaudhri Matu Ram (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Hindi*): Sir, first of all I think it my duty to thank Pandit Shri Ram for bringing this resolution before the House. I have risen to support it. The partition of the *Shamlat deh* has resulted in indescribable hardship and misery for the poor Harijans. Our power of endurance has been strained to the utmost. Where should the Harijans go leaving their ancestral homes? Is there any place on the Indian soil where they might be able to build a house for themselves? After the evacuation of Muslim landowners the land which they possessed has been allotted to refugees from West Punjab. This has resulted in increasing the troubles of Harijans manifold. With the allotment of evacuees' share of shamiat to the displaced persons, thousands of Harijans are being asked by the allottees to vacate the land leaving their huts and hovels which their ancestors had built

upon it. Sir, is it not being cruel to make the people homeless and shelterless? Secondly, as a result of the partition of the shamlat land there can be no extension in Harijan abadis. If the accommodation in the old house becomes extremely insufficient for the family owing to increase in its numbers, no land is to be found for those of the members who might like to build a separate house. Are we not human beings? Why should we be denied even living space? Have we committed some unpardonable sin? Where should the poor Harijan find additional accommodation for his expanding family after the shamlat land has been partitioned? The condition of refugee Harijan is already pitiable in the extreme. He has been given neither land nor a house to live in. If Shamlat had not been divided he might have used it for building a hut and for grazing his cattle. We do not want to usurp lands but we should be given some place to live in. We are not out to disposses the proprietors. As citizens of this country we want living space only.

Sir, thanks to the efforts of Gianiji, some sections of Harijans have been declared as agriculturists. We are told that we can now purchase land and become proprietors of land on which we have built our houses. But the fact is that things remain where they were and there is no change in the condition of Harijans. Our friends appear to suggest that everything belongs to us, even though we are not permitted to touch anything! Now we don't want to be made proprietors in name only. We are not after empty prestige and status. What we want is that there should be some land in the village for the grazing of our cattle. At present the position is that if a Harijan refuses to give his entire sugar ration to a Panch, he is fined on the pretext that this cattle has strayed into some body's fields. He is not permitted to graze his cattle on the shamlat. What should he do? Where should his cattle wander and graze? Should he dispose of his cattle, he will be left with no honest means of earning his livelihood. Do you want him to take to poaching and stealing? Where from should he get his fuel requirements? If he attempts to obtain wood from the village common land he is fined and the money so realized is spent on drinking parties. How long can we put up with this state of affairs? In the end I also want to thank Chaudhri Suraj Mal for expressing his sympathy for the Harijans. But if he regards this resolution as an election stunt of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, may I ask him what he did for the Harijans after having got cent per cent Harijan votes during the long period of fifteen years his

[Ch. Matu Ram.]

party remained in power in the United Punjab ? If Panditji is out to spread disaffection what has Chaudhri Suraj Mal done for the Harijans by this methods of compromise and conciliation over which he is laying so much stress now ? This resolution aims at securing the best interests of the Harijans and all comparisons between conditions in towns and rural areas are irrelevant to the main issue. Our only fears are lest this resolution after having been passed in this House should remain un-implemented like the resolution which recommended to the Government to declare the Harijans proprietors of their abadis. To try to talk out this resolution by indulging in irrelevancies is a thing which I cannot commend.

It is true that so far as mere words are concerned, we have been given the status of zamindars. But I say: is any such thing to be found in actual practice. If a Committee is set up to go into the difficulties of the Harijans I would show to its members the great injustice that is being done to us. We cannot construct houses on the common lands. If we do, we are asked to demolish them on their partition. In case our cattle are found grazing on these lands, they are captured and we are taken to task for taking liberty with the lands. I do not know as to why after all such a treatment should be given to us. We also, like other communities, i. e. Hindus and Sikhs fought the battle of independence and sided with India.

Minister for Revenue: How are those better off who sided with Pakistan ?

Chaudhri Matu Ram: I only say that we sided with India and we being Indians and Punjabis should not be given any step motherly treatment. A resolution was passed about three years ago to enable us to become owners of our houses but that resolution has remained a dead letter and we have been given the status of zamindars only in theory. I respectfully submit that in case the Government of this State is not competent to pass measures which may be beneficial to the Harijans, it should move the Central Government to do so. I may here warn the hon. Members that in case the grievances of the poor people are not redressed this country may in the near future be heading towards a revolution.

Chaudhri Sher Singh (Jhajjar, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*):

Sir, every body knows the object with which my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has moved this resolution. So far as the contention of my hon. Friend Chaudhri Matu Ram is concerned that the resolution passed about three years ago should have been put through, I am quite at one with him. I have every sympathy with the Harijans. The Harijans should have been enabled to become owners of their houses. But unfortunately such a thing could not be done for the reason that in accordance with the Constitution of India land could not be taken away from any proprietor by the Government without paying proper compensation. This was the obstacle. But now we are pleased to learn that a Committee is being established which will suggest amendments to the Constitution. I asked my Harijan brethren of Rohtak district that they should write to Dr. Ambedkar (which they did) that such amendments should be made in the Constitution which enable the Government to acquire land from the proprietors without payment of any compensation for removing the grievances of the Harijans and other poor people. If reactionary provisions exist in the Constitution which are calculated to continue the vested interests, they should be done away with. I hope that the proposed Committee will make such recommendations which, if adopted will give the rights of ownership of the houses to my Harijan brethren.

It will be recalled that provision was made in the Consolidation of Holdings Bill which was passed some time back for leaving some land around every village where the Harijans and even the proprietors who stood in need of more living accommodation could build houses when the villages became very densely populated and could hold no more population. But this facility would only be had when the measure referred to above is enforced. Therefore till such time this measure is not enforced something should be done to accommodate the Harijans and remove their grievances. And I am sure that such a thing can be accomplished if we all put our heads together and refrain from creating mischief. I am in a position to say that these so-called disputes are being created and they have no valid source. It has been stated that disputes have arisen in District Rohtak. I know the whole situation and would again say that these disputes have been deliberately created and it is the doing of some mischief mongers as they stand to

[Chaudhri Sher Singh]

gain by it. In my District an attempt is being made to exploit the tenants and contributions are being collected. It is obvious that the exploiters will have some good time. They will set up offices, boss at any rate over chaprasis and will have rides in jeeps and cars.

Mr. Speaker : No reflections please.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : I have not named anybody, Sir. I am only saying that there are people who exploit others. I also live in District Rohtak and know everything that may be happening there. Of course a dispute cropped up in a village of Tehsil Jhajjar but that was hushed up in no time. As a matter of fact what at such junctures is needed is that we should all sit together in the form of Panchayats and make earnest attempts to settle the disputes and not create them. I think it is incumbent on all of us, who are zamindars to give as many facilities to our Harijan brethren as we can. It is no use creating rift between Harijans and proprietors, ruralites and urbanites or Jats and non-Jats as such things are detrimental to our national interests. We are in the habit of crying from the house-tops that we are not very prosperous after the achievement of our Independence but then it is due to whose fault? We ourselves are to be blamed for it as we have a bad habit of making capital out of every little thing.

We should take to real constructive work. Since the attainment of Independence we have completely forgotten constructive work and it has become a habit with us to introduce politics in every matter. If we go to the villages and bring about the settlement of all disputes between various parties we will be doing real good to the people. If parties to a dispute do not arrive at a settlement, we should offer satyagraha. This will solve most of our problems. Instead of doing this kind of useful work, my hon. Friends like to start agitations. Instead of solving problems, this complicates them. We should try to find the real solution of our difficulties. If it is considered necessary to amend certain laws, it can be done after necessary consideration, but it does not mean that the number of disputes should be increased. With these words, I beg to submit that I do not consider there is any necessity of passing the resolution before the House.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot General, Rural, (Reserved Seat) (Hindi): Sir, I am thinking whether to support this resolution or

not. I shall support it because though it has no real value, still it is in favour of Harijans. What I mean to say is that as my hon. Friend Chaudhri Matu Ram said a similar resolution passed by the House regarding proprietary rights over houses, has not yet resulted in any legislation on the subject. I gave notice of the Punjab Scheduled Castes removal of Disabilities Bill twice or thrice but for one reason or another it could not be placed on the list of business. The Government assured me that it would be passed but

Mr. speaker: Leave that aside.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: I fear lest the present resolution which I have decided to support also remains merely a resolution for ever. If the resolution giving proprietary rights over houses, passed by this house on the motion of a zamindar, has not resulted in the enactment of a law on the subject, I doubt if the present resolution moved by a bania will result in any good. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Sher Singh said that the condition of Harijans is improving steadily. I wish to point out to him that this is the age of aeroplanes and motor cars. Slow measures have no place in the present age. I agree with my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal that Harijans can do their good only themselves. Nobody does anything for the good of others. These days even real brothers wish to deprive each other of their legitimate rights. It is therefore our own fault if Harijans are suffering from certain disabilities. If we are strong, we will prosper, otherwise we will remain as we are. India has become free but it is a matter of shame that we are still denied the right to own houses in which we live. What has been done for these nine or ten crore Harijans who made every possible sacrifice for the attainment of freedom? Over one year has elapsed since the enforcement of the Constitution but nothing practical has been done to improve our lot. What can we expect during the remaining nine years for which we have been given special treatment under the Constitution. Not to say of giving rights of ownership over common lands, we are denied even the simple right of owning houses in the villages. I wish to tell the House that it never pays to suppress the right of others. We should learn a lesson from the fact that the same attitude was responsible for the creation of Pakistan. In this connection I wish to draw your attention to what our sages have said. Swami Vivekanand wrote :—

[Chadhuri Sundar Singh]

'Be of good cheer and believe that we are selected by the Lord to do great things and you will do them. Hold yourselves in readiness. Love for love's sake. Love the poor and the miserable, the down trodden and God will bless you'

I do not feel sorry if nothing has been done for Harijans. Exploitation cannot go on for ever. We should raise ourselves morally to such a level that nobody should be able to exploit us. At present we are being oppressed everywhere. During the recent bye-election in Una, I had the opportunity of going there. In the villages of that Tehsil poor Harijans complained that they had neither any land for cultivation nor any place to live in. Fifteen or twenty persons were huddled together in places not fit to accommodate more than two or three. This is the state of affairs in free India about which Mahatma Gandhi used to say that its first President should be a Harijan Girl.

I know Giani Ji has certain good ideas in his mind. But he is forced by the circumstances. If he gives correct lead fearlessly to the poor people, God will reward him. With these words, Sir, I support this resolution.

Minister for Revenue (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Punjabi*):
Sir the discussion on this resolution has been going on for a pretty long time. It has been proposed in this resolution that the Government should take steps to see that common lands (Shamlats) are not partitioned in a way which puts the non-proprietors to hardship. It is a good intention. But I would submit that there already exists ample provision for this purpose in the rules and regulations. These rules have, however, not been acted upon sometimes and that has created difficulties at some places. This problem attracted the notice of the Government even before. When this happened, the Deputy Commissioners of the districts were asked to send reports about it. On the receipt of their reports it was found that the trouble was more pronounced in two districts, namely, Rohtak and Hoshiarpur. There are a number of causes of these troubles and tensions. One of them is that the proprietors of certain villages harass the non-proprietors and deprive them of their legitimate rights. But this is only one reason; there are others also. The Opposition Member from Hissar remarked that previously the Government was not the Government by votes while

now the Government are made by votes, and everybody wants to collect maximum number of votes. For this purpose, people have started making complaints against the Jats in season and out of season, passing the limits of reason and justice. Then the hon. Member from Feroz-pore has complained that they have got nothing in free India, although they suffered for it by opting for it. I may tell him that the leader of those Harijans who were in favour of Pakistan was Shri Jogendar Nath Mandal and the treatment meted out in Pakistan to him is known to all. It is, therefore, no use harping on this note that they helped the Hindus and Sikhs. If this was done out of a sense of duty, we are grateful for it; but if it was done only to oblige the Hindus and Sikhs let this obligation be taken back. The repetition of this complaint does not favour their position; on the other hand, it prejudices it. Of course, those who don't like India are free to leave it and go to Pakistan.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Those who are unhappy here can go. We shall continue to live here.

Minister for Revenue: I have said that only to those who do not like India. As regards those who want to live here, it is their own country. I, therefore, submit that this sort of mentality is harmful to best interests of the country. It is not proper that any conflicts should be engendered now. Such things can not solve the problems of the State or better the lot of the people. It is now being said that all the oppressed, the suppressed and the depressed should get together. For what? To suppress the Jats. The conflicts are the outcome of such mentality. It is not in the interests of the State. I admit that the individual or for that matter the organisation which is more mindful of Dharma and practises it can do great miracles. But in the present democratic set up in which votes are the motive force, no single community or organisation can improve its conditions single handed. It shall have to get the support of others for this purpose, whether it is an organisation of the Sikhs or the Harijans. The community, which manages to acquire the goodwill and support of others, shall flourish in this State. I have to say all this by way of reply to a lot of irrelevant things said in the course of debate on this resolution.

This House has, already, passed a resolution for giving proprietary rights over their house sites to the Harijans. The Government supported this measure. While initiating the debate on the present resolution,

[Minister for Revenue]

The hon. Member from Rohtak remarked that man has certain fundamental rights. But I may tell him that in India, the fundamental rights of the Indians are those which have been incorporated in the Constitution. It is provided in Article 31 of the Constitution that no property can be acquired without paying full compensation for it, to the owner. I am only a Minister. I have to act according to the Constitution. In fact, we wanted that the Harijans should get the sites without payment. But we are helpless on account of the Constitutional difficulty. Under these circumstances, if they say that they are prepared to pay the full price, a legislation can be brought forward tomorrow for giving them the ownership of the sites. If they cannot do that, the legal and constitutional objections shall have to be met.

In this matter I did not rest content with the advice tendered by our own legal officers. Effort were made to consult the Government of India. The matter was sent up to the Law Department. I had to go even out of my way in order to secure this concession for the Harijans. I personally met Dr Ambedkar in this connection. He gave me a very sympathetic hearing and he was inclined to do everything possible for the benefit of Harijans. But after all law is law and it is very difficult to override the provisions of the Constitution. Further information has been sought from us by the Law Department and so the matter has been delayed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I wish to know the difficulty in the way of giving compensation in certain cases where possible.

Minister for Revenue : The house sites present a huge problem which concerns lakhs of people. It cannot be solved by dealing with ten or fifteen cases individually. It has to be solved only by bringing in a legislative measure dealing with the entire question. The Government has a desire to solve it and it has, in fact, tried to find out ways and means. But so far I am helpless in this matter. The constitutional difficulty appears to be insurmountable. Suppose a Bill is brought before the House, somebody will go to the High Court and the High Court will naturally interfere in its progress because it goes against a provision of the constitution. As far as I am concerned, it is my earnest desire that the Harijans should get this Concession and that a Bill be brought before the House for this purpose. But I am bound by the Constitution.

It is on record that efforts have been made. The hon. Members are quite welcome to go through the file. They can see for themselves what efforts the Government made in this direction. Instructions about division of Shamlats were issued by the Government in September. It requires four or five months time to see their effect. One thing which I have noticed during the course of today's debate is that the hon. Member who moved this resolution, the Harijans Members, and other hon. Members who have taken part in debate have betrayed ignorance of such rules and regulations and the instructions issued by the Government from time to time. They seem to have gathered certain facts from Government papers only yesterday. Most of the misunderstandings would have disappeared had there been a wide publicity. I admit that such a publicity has not been given. As a matter of fact, publicity should have been given so that most of the difficulties could be removed. Another thing to which I wish to refer in connection with such rules and regulations is that they are contained mostly in Land Revenue Act and Punjab Land Administration Manual. Sections 111 and 112 of the former and paragraphs 447 and 451 of the latter deal with rules etc. regarding, for example, the partition of grazing grounds. The difficulties that face us can be removed if these instructions are followed. There are two points raised by Chaudhri Lahri Singh in the course of his speech. With regard to them I wish to submit that they involve changes in the Civil Procedure Code which only the Central Parliament is authorized to make. What we can do is that if definite constructive suggestions are forthcoming, we can send them on to the Government of India with our recommendations. The question of house sites in village Abadi in the rural areas cannot be taken up by this House as I have already explained. As regards division of Shamlat land, I assure the House that instructions have been issued to take into consideration the difficulties faced by the poor and landless people in the villages and to hear complaints sympathetically. I can give a further assurance that I will ask the Financial Commissioner to tour the areas and verbally instruct the Revenue Officers concerned to take into account the difficulties of the poor in the matter of division of Shamlat lands. In view of this assurance I hope that the hon. Member will withdraw this resolution. As a matter of fact mere adoption of this resolution is not going to mend matters. It is not a concrete step in the direction of the amelioration of the condition of those persons. In view of my assurance this resolution appears to be unnecessary.

[Minister for Revenue]

I hope that my words will create a satisfaction in the minds of the hon. Members. With these words, I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram (Hissar North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have carefully listened to the speeches delivered both for and against the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, and I am simply surprised to hear the views of my Harijan Friends on the subject. My feeling is that this resolution is either the result of some conspiracy or it has been put forward under some preconceived programme. Besides, it has pained me to find that when a resolution aiming at ameliorating the lot of Harijans in the rural areas, is moved by the zamindar Members, it does not meet with the wholehearted support of the Harijan Members. But on the other hand, if a resolution is sponsored by Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, it is eulogised by them and they lose no time to condemn the zamindars. It is a matter of regret that they decry those very zamindars who on a previous occasion gave proof of the magnanimity of their heart by recommending to the Government that the Harijans in the rural areas be made owners of the sites on which they had built their houses but which belonged to the zamindars. Now if the Harijans have still failed to achieve their object in the matter of ownership of sites of their houses because of certain legal difficulties, it is no fault of the zamindars who have got a soft corner for them. I would advise them that instead of blaming the zamindars and talking ill of them, they should approach Dr. Ambedkar to amend that law in such a manner as would leave no hitch to enable them to become the owners of their sites of their houses. But it is a pity that the Harijans continue to condemn the zamindars and yet ask for a share in the common lands which do not belong to them. I think that the remarks made by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Matu Ram during the course of his speech in regard to zamindars were most ill-advised. Then my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sundar Singh indulged in tall talks that the Harijans did not stand in need of help from the zamindars. I may tell him that the Harijans can never rise or make any progress without the assistance of the zamindars. (*Hear hear*). It will serve no useful purpose to offend the zamindars unnecessarily by saying that they always harass the Harijans. None can gainsay the fact that they have given lands to the Harijans to work as their tenants and have provided them with all sorts of facilities apart from the sites for purposes of building houses. It, therefore, ill-behoves the Harijan Members to make

allegations against the zamindars. I rather feel that such meaningless talk in which the Harijan Members have indulged will harm the interests of the Harijans in general, and in fact they are doing a disservice to their own community by hurling accusations at the zamindars.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Let the hon. Member go to the villages and see how Harijans are being harassed by the zamindars.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : It is not correct to say so. But there is a likelihood of the Harijans being harassed as a result of the venomous propaganda made by my hon. Friends like Chaudhri Matu Ram. It is a strange logic of my hon. Friends that on the one hand they want a share in the lands of the zamindars and on the other they hatch conspiracy against them and malign them. They should know that common lands are a personal property of the zamindars and they pay land revenue in lieu of them. What right have the Harijans got to demand a share out of those common lands? Despite the poisonous propaganda of the Harijans against the zamindars, the latter treat the former with kindness and have permitted them to make use of the common lands and have also provided houses and house building sites to them. Can the Harijans secure such facilities in the towns? If they can, let them try to get even a 'marla' of land in the cities. It is a pity that the zamindars have no press or platform of their own, where they could counteract the false propaganda made against them. I would, however, advise the Harijan Members to desist from saying incorrect things about the zamindars for they are made of a sterner stuff and will not be stampeded into relinquishing their right to partition common lands which legitimately belong to them. I assure them that Zamindars have no mind to harass or trouble the Harijans unnecessarily as they consider them as their brothers but they should not meddle with their affairs. Then I take strong exception to the suggestion made to the hon. Minister for Revenue that he should issue instructions to the officers concerned either not to partition the common lands or to leave a share for the Harijans. May I know how can the hon. Minister do like that when the law of the land does not permit him? I hope at the time of consolidation of holdings, the hon. Minister would see that no such instructions are issued by him. In the end, I would again ask the hon. Harijan Members not to malign the zamindars but consider them as their friends who are out to help the Harijans in every possible manner.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*):
 Sir, as I was busy with some Committee work, I could not find time to hear all the speeches that have been made on the resolution under discussion. However, I have been able to listen to the speech delivered by the hon. Minister for Revenue. After hearing him, I have been reminded of a Punjabi proverb, namely.

ਜੱਟ ਜੱਟਾਂ ਦਾ ਤੇ ਬੁੱਧੂ ਕਿਹੜਾ ।
 ਜਟ ਜਟਾਂ ਦਾ ਤੇ ਬੁਧੂ ਕਿਹੜਾ ।

In other words a Jat is tool-proof and nobody can hoodwink him. I find that Jat Members are ever out to take sides with the Jats, whenever they feel that their interests are in jeopardy. So my Jat Friends in this House need not feel apprehensive at the criticism that has been made against them during the course of the speeches of some hon. Members.

Then, Sir, it has been pointed out by the hon. Minister that under the Land Revenue Manual the grazing grounds in the common lands cannot be partitioned and they remain intact everywhere. So far my experience goes, I have seldom seen any grazing grounds in the villages where non-proprietors or Harijans could graze their cattle. The zamindars snatch away grass from these people even if they bring it from outside the lands of the zamindars of a particular village. Thus they are put to great trouble by the zamindars. Despite the entreaties made by the artisans like the village carpenter, blacksmith etc., to the officers carrying out partition operations of common lands in rural areas, no land is left for their use before their houses either for purposes of a passage or a grazing ground for their cattle. If these poor people try to cross the barriers made by the zamindars, the latter maltreat them and subject them to great indignities. In fact as a result of the partition of common lands, the life for the poor Harijans and non-proprietor artisans has been made difficult. The officers to whom they represent their difficulties, take no action to alleviate their distress or redress their grievances. In this connection, I may point out that the poor non-agriculturist artisans of village Bhidri narrated their sufferings arising out of the partition of common lands to the officers concerned, but no heed was paid to their request.

Then, Sir, who talks ill of the Jats? A mere hint by an hon. Member pricks them to the quick. I think it is the desire for leadership which makes the Jat Members of the House to express their wrath against the non-jats.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should avoid this Jat and non-jat controversy. There is no such motion before the House.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Very well, Sir. I was going to submit that the non-proprietors and Harijans were tyrannised by the zamindars in the villages. If any weaver failed to accept the charges offered by zamindars for weaving rugs or cloth for them, his hand-looms are removed by the latter. In other words the zamindars would not stop short of even depriving the artisans of their livelihood. They do not allow them to ease themselves in their lands. The hon. Minister for Revenue who is the champion of the cause of zamindars and invariably pats them on the back would do well to make a lecturing tour in the villages and ask them not to put the Harijans and non-proprietors to any trouble. He should issue instructions to the officers concerned that at the time of partition of common lands they should leave enough land before the houses of the Harijans and non-proprietors. He should direct the officers of the departments under him to find out if anybody was in trouble in the rural areas as a result of the partition of the common lands. But generally what do the officers do? If they find anybody in easy circumstances, they would try to put him in trouble. (*Laughter*).

Further, the hon. Minister for Revenue has in the course of his speech pointed out that if there was any one from amongst the people of the Punjab who did not love India then he was welcome to go back to Pakistan. I would like to bring this point home to him that these poor people are not at fault. The fact of the matter is that some interested people want them to act according to their instructions. If these poor people refuse to dance to their tunes, then they are threatened with dire consequences. My hon. Friends know it full well that these poor people are subjected to a very humiliating treatment. It is crystal clear from this that the fault lies somewhere else. After all what have these poor people done and where does he want them to go. Instead of making such statements it would have been in the fitness of things if the hon. Minister had taken adequate steps to put an effective check upon such activities of the people as are detrimental to the interests of both the Government and the people.

Sant Narindar Singh: (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, my hon. Friend Shri Ram Sharma has moved this resolution for the uplift of

[Sant Narindar Singh]

our Harijan brethren. Our Harijan brethren feel in the heart of their hearts for being dubbed as Harijans. Perhaps they lose sight of the fact that by calling the schedule castes as 'Harijans,' Mahatma Gandhi meant to attach much importance to the speedy amelioration of their conditions. Instructions prohibiting the use of 'Chamars,' 'Kamins' and 'Achuts have been issued by all the State Governments in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to throw some light on the point how some misunderstanding has cropped up among different sections of population during the census operations in our State as a result of which they are being misled. Instances in this connection are not wanting. In my own border district some interested people have been instrumental in making wrong entries in the language columns of the census forms. I have to say with deep regret that some interested people covered long distances only with a view to mislead the ignorant masses and thus created confusion worse confounded. I really fail to understand the reason why we are deviating from our traditions. We are Punjabis both inside and outside this State. We should make all-out efforts to maintain our traditions. We must maintain our entity as Punjabis. As a matter of fact we should be proud of being Punjabis both inside and outside the State.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is not relevant. He should speak to the motion and refrain from touching such topics as are not under the discussion.

Sant Narindar Singh: Very well, Sir. I will not touch this topic. I have no doubt that the non-proprietors in general and the Harijan non-proprietors in particular are suffering untold hardships and this resolution, if passed will, I am sure, go a long way in ameliorating their conditions. Here I have a word for my Harijans brethren. They should not press the Government to redress all their grievances at once. It is not possible to expect such things overnight. It is really a matter of gratification that the hon. Minister has held out assurances to improve their conditions. As a matter of fact Government has been taking adequate steps to afford facilities to them and they deserve to be helped.

Shri Ram Sharma: (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*):
Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few submissions by way of reply. Many

speeches have been delivered on the motion which I moved in this House. The hon. Members have expressed themselves fully so far as this resolution is concerned. I was not present in my seat all the time while the hon. Members were speaking on the motion now before the House. But what I have heard myself in the course of the speeches made by some of the hon. Members and what I have been given to understand by some of my hon. Friends who have listened with rapt attention the speeches made on the floor of this House in my absence, I am in a position to say that none of them is opposed to the resolution now before the House. As a matter of fact Government have also subscribed to this view and have gone to the extent of holding out assurances to the effect that all-out efforts would be made to put a stop to the great troubles and hardships caused by the partition of the common lands (shamlats). But I am really constrained to remark that some of my hon. Friends should resort to personal attacks.

I really feel pained to say that whenever certain people fail to give a straight reply to cogent forceful arguments of their adversaries they try to cover those by personal attacks, senseless talks and abusive language. The adoption of such low tactics even while making public utterances is derogatory to one's public life. It is all the more regrettable that some of my hon. Friends should find it convenient to resort to personal attacks and also employ abusive language on the floor of the House. Perhaps they are under the impression that by indulging in such tactics they would be successful in espousing their cause. If it is so, I may inform them that they are sadly mistaken.

Further, I am told that an hon. Member has in the course of his speech pointed out that there is no such problem in the district of Rohtak. (*Voices from Treasury Benches*): Who has said that?) A Parliamentary Secretary has remarked in the course of his speech that there is no such problem in the Rohtak District. It really ill-behoves my hon. Friend to advance baseless arguments. It has been experienced that generally these persons can indulge in personal attacks both inside and outside the House whose circumstances have been quite uneven. As a matter of fact, it goes without saying that only those persons can indulge in personal attacks who cannot form their own opinion. It is totally wrong to say that there is no such problem in the district of Rohtak. It really ill-behoves an hon. Member to make a misstatement of facts on the floor of this House. As a matter of fact it ill becomes a responsible congressman or an M. L. A. to make baseless allegations and misstatement of facts.

[Shri Ram Sharma]

It has been said that subscriptions have been collected from the tenants. I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Member who has made this absurd allegation that the district of Rohtak is the only district in the whole of State where the tenants have formed their own unions. The occupancy tenants and the tenants-at-will have established their separate unions. These unions have brought about awakening in the people living in the rural areas about their rights etc.. I feel Government should not ignore their rights.

The people should feel ashamed of giving circulation to such false and exaggerated stories that subscriptions are collected to meet expenses of motor cars alleged to be used for making propaganda in support of this resolution. I should say that everything looks yellow to the jaundiced eye. I know full well that according to Parliamentary Procedure every Member is at liberty to give free and frank expression of opinion but at the same time I cannot help remarking that the hon. Speaker should uphold the dignity of the House and direct the Members to avoid making any personal attacks on others. I would submit, Sir, that non-proprietary classes particularly the Harijans suffer badly from the effects of partition of common land in my district. I would ask the hon. Ministers to visit that district and see things for themselves. I am sorry to say that some of the hon. Members while speaking on this resolution have obscured the real issue by making misstatement of facts. By bringing forward this resolution I have drawn the attention of the Government to this problem so that it may issue necessary instructions to the Deputy Commissioners in connection with the partition of common land. It should also amend the law if necessary, in view of the deteriorating condition in villages. It should also ascertain the position of law and order in villages from the Deputy Commissioner Rohtak and then I think it will feel convinced that urgent steps are required to be taken in this behalf to remove the strained atmosphere in villages. On making enquiry the Government will come to know that the partition of common land in the rural areas is giving rise to many disputes between the proprietors and non-proprietors. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh who represents this district will readily agree with me that such a problem is very acute in this district. I am afraid that after reading the reports of speeches that have been delivered by some of my Friends the public outside may form wrong impression and feel that there is in fact no such problem in villages

and that this resolution has been brought forward to gain personal ends. I must say it with all the emphasis at my command that the imputations that are levelled against me are baseless and unwarranted. I challenge the hon. Ministers to contradict my statement after seeing the conditions that are prevailing in my district. I gave a notice of this resolution before the commencement of the previous session but it could not come on the numbered list by ballot. I understand that the Government made enquiry from the district authorities if any trouble or hardship was caused by the non-proprietary classes by the partition of common land. It received a report that non-proprietors were the worst sufferers in Rohtak and Hoshiarpur districts.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: This is mere repetition.

Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, I am saying this on the authority of the reports of the Deputy Commissioners. Some of my hon. Friends have criticised this resolution and Chaudhri Suraj Mal has described it as a mere stunt. I would not like to make any counter-attack on my hon. Friend but say that this is not my opinion but the opinion of the Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: This is also a stunt.

Shri Ram Sharma: It is quite strange that in spite of the fact that the Government has received reports from the district authorities that there is a serious problem in Rohtak district the Parliamentary Secretary has thought it fit to oppose this resolution. In spite of this strange attitude exhibited by the Parliamentary Secretary the House will take notice of the reports of the Deputy Commissioners and judge whether such a problem exists in the Rohtak district or not. I do not know how this Government will function efficiently when its Parliamentary Secretaries show lack of responsibility in important affairs. The leader of the House has informed us that the Government have issued instructions to all the Deputy Commissioners that partition of the common land in the rural areas be made in such a way that it may not cause any trouble or hardship to the non-proprietary classes. But I would like to know if these instructions are faithfully observed by the Deputy Commissioners or not. It is most deplorable that the Members occupying Government benches should shamefacedly deny the existence of such problem in villages and make personal attack against me. I would say that this resolution is very important, according to the needs of the time and

[Shri Ram Sharna]

vitality concerns my district. To my hon. Friends who have levelled imputations against me I should say that they should exercise great care and vigilance while making speeches before the House as our every word is being judged by the public outside. We should not give expression to any uncalled for remarks that the public may point its finger of reproach at us and say that we are not fit for democracy. I would also request the hon. Speaker that he should not encourage any hon. Member to pass such remarks against others on the floor of the House. I may point out to the Government that this resolution is very important and is not such as may lower its dignity if passed.

All that this resolution recommends to the Government is that it should take such steps in the matter of partitioning of Shamlat land that the non-proprietors are not put to undue hardships—especially the Harijans. Sir, through you I would like to ask as to why the Government finds it difficult to accept this simple recommendation. How can the acceptance of this resolution affect the pre-tige of the Government adversely? After all, for what reason does the Government want it to be withdrawn, especially when no objection was taken to it in the party meeting? The leader of the party had himself assured me that there could be no possible objection to this resolution and that I should bring it in the House, regardless of what some of its opponents were saying.

Then, Sir, when the hon. Minister for Revenue himself has expressed his sympathy for the non-proprietors and realizes the hardship being caused to them as a result of partitioning of Shamlat why should he not be prepared to accept this resolution. So far as I think acceptance by the Government of any suggestion originating in this House, should be a matter of pride for it and should not be construed as derogatory to its prestige. I would request Ganiji that when he accepts the principle involved in it, he should not insist on its withdrawing. He should not only extend his support to it but show the courage of conviction by proceeding to implement it in right spirit. This act will earn the Government the gratitude and admiration of thousands of poor Harijans.

Minister for Revenue : (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Punjabi*):
Sir, this resolution moved by Pandit Shri Ram has now been under discussion for a pretty long time. It is a matter of regret that a number

of irrelevant matters have also been brought into the discussion. I wish these had been avoided. Reference to these extraneous matters has resulted in diverting attention from the main issue. I am also sorry to say that while Panditji was developing his arguments I was listening with rapt attention but he was not present when I was making my submissions. Propriety demanded that he should have been present when I was speaking. If this resolution is passed it will result in a number of complications. It recommends to the Government to take steps to see that shamlats are not partitioned in a way which puts to trouble the non-proprietors. I have already submitted that the Government is prepared to take two steps in the matter. Firstly, we intend to invite the earnest attention of the Revenue Officers to the imperative necessity of observing the instructions that we have already issued in this connection. If this is not considered sufficient, I am prepared to ask the Financial Commissioner to undertake tour of the various districts and personally impress upon them the desirability of observing the instructions in question. The instructions that have already been issued are quite explicit. I would like to read out the letter that the Government has issued in this connection.

Copy of letter No. 5540-R-50/5199 dated the 28th September, 1950 from Under Secretary to Government Punjab, Revenue Department to all Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab.

Subject : Partition of *Shamlat* lands in villages.

Attention is invited to East Punjab Government memo No. 2244-R dated the 7th July 1949, on the subject noted above, in which you were asked to submit a full report on the alleged growing tendency among the proprietary body to bring in suits for the partition of Shamlat land to the detriment of non-proprietors. After considering the replies received in response to this memorandum the following instructions of Government are being issued to tackle the problem of Shamlat land.

2. The existing policy and instructions on the subject are contained in Section 111 and those that follow it in the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, and paragraphs 447 and 453 of the Punjab Land Administration Manual which are detailed below :—

Section 111 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act.

Provisions of Land Revenue Act are applicable only to the land assessed ton land revenue. This is also clear from Section 4 of the Act. Under Section III, any joint owner of land or any joint tenant of a tenancy in which a right of occupancy subsists may apply to a revenue Officer or partitio

[Minister the for Revenue]

of this share in the land or tenancy as the case may be.

Paragraph 447 of the Punjab Land Administration Manual.

In his paragraph it has been observed *inter alia* that it is an essential feature of the village community, at least in its original form, that the proprietary body should possess part of their land in common. The village sites, the grazing land over which the cattle wandered, and sometimes the wells from which the people drew their drinking water were held in joint ownership.

Section 112 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act.

This section invests Revenue Officers with discretionary powers in matters of partition of such *Shamlat* lands such as places of worship, burial grounds, embankment, watercourse, well or tank and any land on which the supply of water to any such work may depend, any grazing ground etc, and he may refuse the partition of such land if in his opinion the partition is likely to cause inconvenience to the co-sharers or other persons directly or indirectly interested therein or diminish the utility thereof to those persons

Paragraph 453 of the Punjab Land Administration Manual.

This para enjoins upon the Revenue Officers that in deciding whether to use the discretionary powers given by Section 112 (2) of the Act they must think not only of the wishes and interests of the landowners, but also of the likelihood of the partition causing inconvenience to the residents of the village, as for example the menials, who have been accustomed to use the common property. This power may properly be held to extend to the uncultivated land round a village which is used as standing ground for cattle or occupied by enclosures for fodder and manure.

3. Since the non-proprietors are generally unaware of the procedure which should be followed by them in safeguarding their interests in respect of *Shamlat* lands which are partitioned and are thus put to hardship you are requested to issue executive directions to the Revenue Officers in your district to the effect that the afore-mentioned instructions should be adhered to by them strictly. Those instructions, if properly observed, will go a long way to solve the problem of partitioning of *Shamlat* lands. The Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars may be asked to give wide publicity to these instructions while on tour in their *halqas*.
4. As regards partition of *Abadi Leh* lands not assessed to land revenue to which provisions of Land Revenue Act are not applicable as already observed in para 2 above, the Revenue Officers have no jurisdiction. Partition of such lands can be affected only by Civil Courts who are expected to keep in view the instructions already pointed out while deciding the partition cases of such *Ahadi Deh* land.

POINT OF ORDER RE ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR NON.
OFFICIAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Shrimati Sita Devi: On a point of order Sir. In the past when a Bill had been put on the agenda along with resolutions, time had always been fixed for the discussion of resolutions but no time-limit is fixed to-day. There was an understanding between the Chief Minister and myself that as the Bill is to go to the Select Committee again and there is no necessity for making any speeches, the hon. Chief Minister would allow just ten minutes before the adjournment of the House to enable me to move to a motion for sending my Bill to the Select Committee.

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister came to me as a matter of fact in this connection. I told him that as a special case the hon. Lady Member was allowed to move her motion last time. But strictly according to rules it is not permissible. The hon. Lady Member should have approached the Office to see that one day is allotted for resolutions and another day for Bills. If resolutions and Bills are put on the same day, it may not be possible for the hon. Lady Member to proceed with her Bill because all the resolutions will have to be first disposed of. In any case, I do not like the motion before the House to be interrupted. Unless it is disposed of, the House cannot take up another motion. There cannot be two motions before the House at the same time.

So far as the hon. Chief Minister is concerned, that is an understanding between him and the hon. Lady Member. I have nothing to do with it.

Shrimati Sita Devi: I may remind the hon. Speaker that even during October last some time was set apart for this Bill on a day when resolutions were discussed.

Minister for Labour:

Sir, in the absence of the Chief Minister, my Leader, I may inform the hon. Lady Member that her Bill is not being put off by any design on the part of the Government. It so happens that the Bill cannot be taken up till this resolution has been disposed of.

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** I think the hon. Lady Member is unnecessarily stressing the point. If she was anxious that this Bill should come in this session, then she should have consulted me so that I would have asked the office to arrange. (*Interruptions*)

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : On a point of order Sir. Should not the hon. Lady Member have gone to you instead of going to the Minister? (*Laughter*).

Mr. Speaker : I think that was the proper procedure.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Sir. I protest against the words used by Shri Bhagat Chodha.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : I have not said anything improper or objectionable.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Member should withdraw his words. It does not become of him to use such words.

Mr. Speaker I think the hon. Lady Member is unnecessarily stressing the point. If she was anxious that this Bill should come in this session, then she should have consulted me so that I would have asked the office to arrange.

Shri Ram Sharma: Even if the hon. Member has not used the words with any bad motive, he should withdraw them as the hon. Lady Member has protested and the whole House has misunderstood them.

Mr. Speaker: Anyhow; may I know as to what the hon. Member meant by those words.?

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Sir, I only said that it was your job and not that of the hon. Ministers.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I very respectfully submit that in view of what has happened and in view of the laughter that has been created and taking this fact into consideration that it was none of the hon. Member's business to suggest that the hon. Lady Member should have approached you instead of the hon. Minister which has absolutely no relevancy and since the hon. Lady Member has taken offence, I request you and I ask every Member of the House to join me in that request to ask the hon. Member to kindly withdraw what he said.

Mr. Speaker: I ask the hon. Member to withdraw those words.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: As I did not say anything with any bad motive, I withdraw.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Friday, 2nd March, 1951.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates.

2nd March, 1951.

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OFFICIAL REPORT.



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 2nd March, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 10 a. m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

Mr. Speaker : It would, I think, be better if the question hour is dispensed with today to give more time to the House to discuss the Governor's Address.

Honourable Members : Yes.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Secretary : A statement showing action taken against corrupt officials in the East Punjab during the period from 1st January to 31st December, 1949, is laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I move—

That the Assembly at its rising today shall stand adjourned till 2 p. m. on Wednesday, 7th March, 1951.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned till 2 p. m. on Wednesday, the 7th March, 1951.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Point of order, Sir. My fear is that if this motion is carried, one of the days meant for Private Members' business may be taken away.

Mr. Speaker : That is no point of order. Question is—

That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned till 2 p. m. on Wednesday, the 7th March, 1951.

The motion was carried.

DISCUSSION OF GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Shri Virendra (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Multan Division, General, Rural) : I beg to move—

That the Members of this House assembled in this session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House.

Sir, I am thankful to you for providing me an opportunity to move this resolution. This will give me and many other hon. Members of this House a chance to consider and discuss the situation as it exists today in our State and the various developments that have taken place since we met last. As Members of this august House, it is our duty and responsibility not only to voice the grievances of those whom we have the honour to represent but also to suggest ways and means to the Government to redress those grievances. Unfortunately, Sir, some of us believe that the burden of governing the country falls only on those who occupy the Treasury Benches. I for one differ from this view because I feel that this responsibility is shared by every one of us. I go a step further and say that unless the Government and the people all joined their hands and heads together, efficient Government in a State is not possible. It has been said that in a free country a Government is managed by the combined wisdom and folly of the people. If that be true—and I am sure it is—then it is our responsibility and obligation to see that the Government of the day is carried on efficiently, effectively and to the best interests of the people and the State. This, Sir, can be done only if we, while criticising the actions of the Government, help the Government by suggesting the solution of the difficulties that confront us today. Some of the people, unfortunately, feel that since it is a party Government and a Congress Government, it is their right to criticise it in every way. I am not against criticism of a Government and its policy. As a matter of fact in a democratic form of Government people have got every right to criticise the actions of the Government and this right has been conceded in our Constitution.

If any group or any party feel shy on that account, I feel that they have no right to govern. Therefore, Sir, as far as criticism is concerned, the Government should in fact welcome it and should face it with courage and determination as no Government can carry on the administration of a country properly without it. As I have already submitted, we are all members of one political party—if not all a large majority of us belong to the same political party. Therefore, while we concede this right of criticism we have certain responsibilities also and one of those responsibilities is to criticise the Government in a constructive and friendly manner, and to suggest ways and means by which we can tide over the present difficulties. As I have said already that its not a foreign Government, it is a Government of the people, it is a Government of our own representatives, it is our own Government. Therefore we must suggest ways and means to get over the present difficult problems and such ways and means we must suggest in a friendly manner. It is in that spirit of friendship and helpfulness that I would like to say something regarding other points raised by His Excellency the Governor in his Address.

Sir, His Excellency has narrated some of the steps which the Government of this State has taken or intends to take to make this State stand on its feet once again. There are people who would not give any credit to the Government for what it has done during the last 3 years. I know there have been a number of difficulties. I know that the people are not satisfied with what has been done and I cannot also deny that much is yet to be done. In spite of all this if we are to compare the picture that we see today with the picture that existed 3 years ago, if we, Sir, compare the situation that exists in this State today and the situation that existed just after the partition, we will find a difference. If we recall those fateful days after the 15th August, 1947, when we had no Government worth the name in this State, there were no officials to run the administration, no police to maintain law and order, when there was no food to feed the millions who were coming across the border, that was the picture in 1947. Today the picture is quite different. Even the worst critic of the Government will not deny that we have moved forward, we are moving forward, though slowly but surely. After looking at both the pictures we cannot deny the Government the credit which is its due. Sir, the credit for this situation, which has developed today, cannot go to

[Shri Virendra]

the Government alone. We have to give credit to the people of the State also because I am convinced that whatever has happened, whatever progress has been made, it is all due, not only to the Government for what it has done, but also due to the people. I believe in a democratic system of Government and believe that in a genuine democratic system we cannot divorce the people from the Government. So I say that whatever progress we have made, whatever we have achieved, during these years the credit for that must go both to the people and the Government, to the Government because of the services it has done, to the people for the co-operation they have given to the Government.

There is another sphere in which the Government has achieved very remarkable success and that sphere is that of 'Grow More Food'. Just after the partition we had become almost paupers as far as food was concerned. All our best lands had gone to West Punjab. There was no food to feed our people, what to say of giving others, but what we see today is most encouraging and hopeful picture. His Excellency has stated in his Address that we have exported 2,32,000 tons of food-grains up to the end of January last. I say it is not a small achievement that a province which was a deficit province only three years back has become a surplus State so soon. Sir, in other States of this country we see people are yet struggling, we see that they are trying just to make both ends meet but we have become a surplus area in such a short period, it is not a small achievement. For this achievement we have to thank the Government but we must also thank the man behind the plough. The credit goes to the sturdy peasant of the State who has achieved this remarkable success. By his toil and labour the Punjab peasant has not only saved this province but millions in this country. If the Kisans had not given this food to us which we have exported to other States we would not have been able to get credit for the Government and the State would not have been able to stand on its own legs. Today we can say with confidence that the day is not far off when the Punjab which was considered a backward and a deficit State would feed not only the population living here but also the people of the entire land of this country. As I have said the credit, while it goes to the Government, should also go to the peasants—the men behind the plough—for what they have done.

Sir, during the last one year we had to face many natural calamities one after the other. We had to face many difficulties and the result is that we find ourselves in a tight corner. During the last rainy season we had floods, very heavy floods, causing incalculable loss. Now we are face to face with a greater menace in the form of locusts. The Government has tried to mobilize all its forces to fight this menace and I would like to thank the Government for whatever it has done. I also take this opportunity to publicly thank the district authorities of Jullundur for whatever they have done and especially the Deputy Commissioner and his staff who have fought this menace effectively during the last many days. I would like to submit that they have set a fine example of devotion to duty. I do not know what is the position in other districts but as far as Jullundur is concerned, they have set an example, a brilliant example of cooperation between officials and non-officials. Thousands of volunteers have come forward to fight the menace of locusts and it has been proved that if Government and people join hands all intricate problems can be solved which otherwise defy solution. If our officers in other districts emulate what the authorities in Jullundur district have done, I am sure our State will become a model for the other States to follow. (Sardar Ajit Singh : What about those officers who do not cooperate ?) That is for you to decide.

Now, Sir, I come to the most important problem that faces us today. We have heard what the Government has done to rehabilitate the refugees. Perhaps, no other problem has taxed the resources and energies of the Government so much as this, and yet we cannot say that we have succeeded in solving it. No doubt we have turned the corner in view of what has been done during the last 3 years to rehabilitate our displaced brethren but we can not deny that much more has yet to be done. During the past 3 years we have faced trials and tribulations and have gone through sufferings and privations. Three years may not be a long period in the history of a nation but it is certainly a very very long period for those who have been uprooted from their hearths and homes and have become paupers. It is not an easy talk for them to go on like that. It was not long ago when people of other provinces in India used to say that the Punjab was a stumbling block in the way of progress. People used to accuse us that we were standing in the way of India's freedom. But today we can say with

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justifiable pride that it has been due to the sufferings of the brave Punjabis, their courage and sacrifices that have no parallel in the history of any country, that freedom of India has become a living reality. (*Hear, hear*) It is more on the ashes of those martyrs of 1947 that the temple of its freedom has been built. All honour to those who fought for their motherland. They died so that India may live. They are not just displaced persons, they are martyrs for the cause of freedom of India. (*Hear, hear*) It is, therefore, the duty—the pious duty—of the Government to see that they are rehabilitated at the earliest possible moment. As I have said something has been done during the past three years for their rehabilitation but much has yet to be done especially in the field of urban rehabilitation. The other day His Excellency told us that the question of urban rehabilitation was tied up with the question of a satisfactory settlement of urban evacuee property. No doubt this is to some extent correct but I would like to sound a note of warning that if we let this problem linger on till the question of evacuee property is solved especially when we know that Pakistan has no mind to settle it, we would be courting disaster of unprecedented magnitude. This is not a minor problem. It has in it germs of mighty revolution. If you go on keeping these people dissatisfied and discontented for a long time, no power on earth can stop them from creating a revolution. We are sitting to day on the edge of a volcano—volcano of disappointment, frustration and discontent and if we do not apply ourselves to solve this difficult problem the result will be that the volcano will burst and we would land ourselves in a situation beyond our control and there will be a revolution the like of which the world has yet to see! We must realize what we are doing and what we ought to do. I submit, Sir, that this is high time that this problem was solved. Let us not wait for what Pakistan is going to do in the matter of evacuee property. If we wait, events are not going to wait for us, nor are the unfortunate uprooted people going to wait for us. Let us not forget that ours is a border State and if we go down, India will not survive and if this refugee problem is not solved, I am afraid, our fate is sealed—this State will not survive and if Punjab does not survive, India will not survive. We are the guardians of India's freedom and unless we give our State the attention that it deserves, we are doomed!

His Excellency the Governor in his address described the law and order position in the State as very satisfactory. No doubt if we compare the situation as it exists today with what it was three years back when we just started, certainly we can say that it is satisfactory. But during the last few weeks certain tragic events have taken place which paint a very gloomy picture. During the Census operations most inhuman, uncivilized and most barbarous treatment has been meted out to our Harijan brethren in some places in the State. I would not like to apportion blame on anybody or enter into any controversy. But the fact remains that the Harijans did not get the protection that was due to them. I submit, Sir, that the police did not and totally failed to give them any protection with the result that injustices and atrocities were committed on them. If the police had done their duty towards these poor Harijans, these incidents would not have occurred. I would request the Government to check up their police administration so that these things are not repeated again in our State.

We have also heard something about the construction of the new Capital. His Excellency has told us that a number of preliminarys have been settled and a number of steps have been taken and that in May—June this year plots will be laid out for sale to the public. It is my genuine belief that it is most necessary that the construction of the Capital be speeded up, because the real rehabilitation of this province depends on the construction of our Capital. There are thousands perhaps lakhs who are waiting for the day when they will have a home of their own in this Capital. I would, therefore, request the Government to speed up this construction work with the same zeal and enthusiasm which has been shown so far. The enthusiasm shown so far augurs well for us all. Some time ago there was agitation regarding the location of the Capital at the present site. The Government has resisted that agitation and for this they especially the Chief Minister deserve our thanks. Now that many hurdles have been cleared and now that the Government of India have also promised all help, not only promised but they have actually helped, I hope the Government will go full speed ahead in constructing the Capital.

There are many other points which I would like to say something but for the present I have said whatever I wanted to say. Before I

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resume my seat I would like to sum up. We have heard the steps which the Government has taken or intends to take to make this State stand on its own legs. It is not an easy task to rehabilitate millions of people to organize and consolidate the resources of a province whose economy has been shattered. This is a very gigantic task indeed, but some of us do not realize the magnitude of this task and the gravity of the situation as it exists today in this State of ours. It is very necessary for us to raise the newly born province, to raise the province whose economy has been totally shattered. In order to achieve this task and to make our State stand on its own legs it is very necessary for us all to join hands. It is very necessary for us to put our heads together so that the Punjab may march forward. Our difficulty is that for a long time that we had been thinking and working to demolish an old and rotten structure set up by a foreign power. Now that we have successfully finished this task it is time that we started thinking in terms of constructive schemes and we should start thinking in terms of new ideals. Sir, we all know that the other day our Prime Minister, the hon. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, said that the world needed a temper of peace. I say that what we in this State need is the temper of sacrifice—sacrifice for our ideals, sacrifice for our conviction, sacrifice for our State and sacrifice for our country. Unless we imbibe in us that spirit of sacrifice, unless we imbibe in us that spirit of toleration we will not be able to make any progress. Sir, this political freedom has given us certain rights but along with these rights certain responsibilities and obligations have also been cast upon us. It is an old maxim that every right implies a responsibility, every opportunity implies a duty. So, if we ask that our rights should be safeguarded, we must also know that while demanding safeguarding of our rights we have certain responsibilities and duties. We demand our rights but forget our obligations. In a democratic country it is very necessary that while demanding our rights we should remember our obligations also. We have attained freedom but it is very difficult to live on freedom alone; certain other privileges and amenities must follow. It is very essential for the Government and the people to join hands to create a society based on the four fundamental principles of the Constitution, namely; justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

It has been said that liberty lies in the hearts of common people, it lies in the hearts of men and women who live in that land. If that

liberty dies then no power, no court, no law and no constitution can save that liberty. Who can deny, Sir, that our liberty today is in danger not from any outside power, for I am convinced that no power, no enemy howsoever strong, can deprive us of our liberty but we are in danger because of our own weaknesses and shortcomings. We are in danger because while we demand our rights we forget that we have responsibilities and obligations too. When our hopes and aspirations, due to certain circumstances, are temporarily shattered and frustration and disappointment has engulfed us and because of the new and complicated problems the human fabric is strained to the breaking point, it is our duty to face the future with courage and determination. We have to learn to act—and not only to think--that we are a free nation. Let us pledge to work for the glorious destiny of this land of ours. Let us work for the Punjab where there are equal rights for all and special privileges for none. Let us work for the Punjab where there is plenty and prosperity. If we start with this courage and boldness and with a spirit of sacrifice, I am sure, our Punjab will rise again not only for her sake but also for the sake of the country as a whole. Let us work in that spirit and if necessary, let us pledge to lay down our lives for the welfare of our Punjab and for the good of our motherland. (*Loud Applause*).

Mr. Speaker : It would, I think, be better if we fix a time-limit.

Some Hon. Members : Not now, Sir.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish (Ambala Division, Landholders) :
Sir, I rise to second the motion which runs as follows : -

That the Members of the House assembled in this session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House.

It is not only a formal thing that I have stood up to second this motion but I really feel that we have reasons to be thankful to His Excellency for setting out the programme of this Government and for giving us in clear cut words the progress that has been made and the intentions of the Government in the field of legislation and its policy that will affect us all. Shri Virendra has very ably dealt with all the subjects and there is hardly anything for me to say. I will, however, take this opportunity of expressing my feelings on matters which are

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uppermost in my mind. Hailing as I do from the countryside, I feel very happy on the efforts of the Government in matters like food production, reclamation of waste lands and consolidation of holdings. It is really a matter of great pride for us all that our procurement of food this year has been 50% more than it was last year and that is not a mean achievement for the Government because the Government gave the right type of help and incentive to the cultivators. The result has been that after satisfying our own needs we have been able to export food grains to deficit areas of the country. I feel, Sir, that our food production will go up when our Government puts through its scheme of consolidation of holdings. I can imagine the happiness of a peasant when this scheme is completed. Today he has to waste his energy in looking after small bits of land scattered miles apart but when his whole energy is concentrated to one continuous tract of land, his production will go up tremendously and that will add not only to his personal prosperity but to the prosperity of the State as a whole. I visualise that that day is not far off when our State will again become the granary of India as was the case in the United Punjab. I congratulate the Government on their intention to manage and put the whole scheme through in 8 years instead of 15 or 20 years as was originally planned.

Sir, it is a matter of satisfaction that a good bit of rural rehabilitation has been completed satisfactorily. No doubt the credit for this achievement goes to the Government but, if I may say so, to a very large extent the credit goes to our beloved friend, the late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi who laid down his life for the sake of refugees. When I pass through the allotted land with green fields, I feel very happy and our happiness will be all the more when every bit of evacuee land is utilized for the prosperity of the uprooted people and for the prosperity of the State.

Sir, the joy and happiness that we felt because of the success of the 'Grow More Food' efforts has been marred a little by the natural calamities—calamities like the heavy rains and the locusts. But for these we can hardly blame the Government. I wish that God would cooperate with us a little and stop playing his pranks on us mortals.

There are other aspects no doubt which still need very hard and intensive work by the Government. Some of these are, urban rehabilitation, industrialization of the State, Bhakra and Nangal projects and the completion of other irrigation schemes. For all these, we need large finance, finance we freely need today. But strangely enough for these finances and financial strength, we do not try to improve our own resources, and have got into the habit of looking for outside help. Our plans are put back because we are unable to get money. This time I feel a little happier to see that the Government has looked at this problem from a realistic point of view. Though this is likely to be misunderstood, yet we should work hard in the direction of improving our financial condition. I refer to the speech of His Excellency the Governor where he touches on the financial aspect. At page 13 he says :

... .. situated as we are, there can be no question of any measures aiming at the reduction of our existing revenues. The problem will, in fact, be one of striving hard to make both ends meet, and this is possible only by exploring additional sources of revenue, and, at the same time, by curtailment of expenditure. Both these processes postulate tightening of the belt or in other words, sacrifice. Much as we may want rapid extension of welfare activities—and in this sphere my Government will do its best—first things will have to come first, the aim being to make our State financially self-supporting, consistently with the satisfactory discharge of its primary responsibilities towards our citizens.

It is this economic self-sufficiency that we are aiming at and His Excellency has himself said that it will need certain sacrifices. But Sir, we have been used to thinking in a different manner so far, and that thinking has been very damaging to our interests. The responsibility for the creation of that attitude of mind lies upon our political leaders in the State who have gone to the people, driving into their heads, now that the freedom has been achieved they could expect dividends without any corresponding responsibilities or duties. Sir, it is a very wrong attitude to adopt. I think I am correct, Sir, when I say that consolidation of freedom is more difficult than winning of it. To consolidate freedom, we need not only physical and moral help but financial help also, more so in the case of a State which started from a scratch. I say we started on ruins—because when this State was born half the population was in ruins. Sir, if this argument, that after

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freedom everybody should expect dividends, was to be applied to a country like Britain, then it should have been a country of lotus-eaters because there is no family which has not lost a dear one or has not a crippled relative and they would be living on rewards. That being a country of energetic people, is working very hard to export every article that they produce although they themselves have not much to eat and enough to clothe, so that they may restore the country to the glory of the old days and to restore that economic strength to the country that was a source of happiness to them.

May be, Sir, that some of us in our life-time will not be able to see the stability and happiness of the State but surely the coming generations will enjoy the fruit of our labour. If we adopt that sort of attitude and work hard and selflessly I am confident that the people of our State will rise to the occasion. They will put up with lesser amenities and bear higher taxes. But, unfortunately, Sir, the proper understanding has not been there so far. The picture is really gloomy as certain political elements go about poisoning the minds of the innocent people against the Government. They give them exaggerated accounts of the acts of omission or commission of the Government. They tell them that they are not getting this right or that benefit from the Government. Thus those political elements create such an atmosphere which tends the people to drift away from the Government instead of bringing them nearer. Lest I should be misunderstood, Sir, I do not say that there is any such thing as the last word regarding the activities of a Government. No human system is perfect and there is always scope for improvement. But whatever has been done by the Government, the progress has been satisfactory and the Government deserves every support from us. But it is really unfortunate that some of the leaders—the leaders of one of the biggest political parties in the country and State—have created a situation where the Government has been placed in a very awkward position. These political leaders have adopted most irresponsible methods in rushing to the Press and platform trying to depict the Government in black colours and giving it a bad name. If instead of running to the Press and platform, these gentlemen had come forward extending a helping hand in cooperating with the Government, things would not

have been as bad as they are now. Let us hope that sense would dawn upon them and they would lend their helping hand to the Government.

One word more and I have done. There is one man who has been responsible for all the improvements and who has given us the right guidance—a man who has been a friend, philosopher and guide to us all, a type of man about whom Shakespeare said "...man, with apt comingly of blood shed and judgement".

That man is no other than our Governor to whom we always have reason to look upon as our beloved friend. (*Hear, hear*)

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Members of this House assembled in this session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of order, Sir. It was sometime back decided in the Speakers' Conference that the scope of discussion of the Governor's address should be on a different level from that of the general discussion of the Budget. As far as I am aware, the practice in the House of Commons is that all the amendments are moved and discussed one by one. On the other hand, the practice that is followed in our Assembly, where all the amendments are discussed together, lowers down the level of discussion of the Governor's Address to that of the general discussion of the Budget.

Mr. Speaker : I know what happened in the Speaker's Conference. Still I think that it would be better if we stick to our past practice and discuss all the amendments together. Members have a right to say anything. They will have an opportunity of speaking on their own amendments as well as on those of the other hon. Members. ✓

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : If the amendments are allowed to be moved and discussed one by one, there will be scope for the Members to confine themselves to one particular policy of the Government at one time. Otherwise by making a speech from amendment to amendment at a time will bring the debate down to a general discussion on the Government's policy.

Mr. Speaker : I do not see any harm if all the amendments are moved and discussed together.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Supposing, Sir, one Member wants to oppose a particular amendment and support another while another hon. Member wants to do just the opposite, how will it be possible for them to do so if all the amendments are discussed together ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I may assure the hon. Member that all these amendments will be put to the vote of the House separately and the hon. Members will have opportunity to vote for or against a particular amendment.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, when amendments are put to vote there is hardly any time for any Member to express his views one way or the other. He can just say 'Ayes' or 'No' and he will not have any opportunity to make any contribution. If you are going to take votes at the end, Members will be deprived of their rights to have their say on any particular amendment.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Every Member has right to oppose or support any or all the amendments. If we depart from the procedure we have hitherto been following, a number of difficulties will arise. Supposing I allow the first amendment on the order paper to be moved. Members would speak for or against that amendment only and it is quite likely that the whole of the time is taken to dispose of that amendment only and no opportunity will be afforded to other hon. Members for moving their amendments. I think that our practice is a sound one where all the amendments can be discussed together.

Mehta Raobir Singh : May I know whether all the hon. Members who have given notices of amendments will be given an opportunity to speak ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** As far as possible every Member who has given notice of amendment will get an opportunity to have his say.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The Address delivered by the Governor stands on the same level as the Address delivered by the King of England in the House of Commons. The usual practice of proposing a vote of thanks to the Governor is observed with a view to giving an opportunity to the Opposition to express their views on the general policy of the Government outlined in the

address and the Opposition puts forward its amendments. But what we find here is that the Opposition in this House is being ignored and only the 'Yes-men' of the Government are given time to make their speeches.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : This is a reflection on the Chair and the hon. Member should be asked to withdraw that remark.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I withdraw it, Sir. I would, however, urge that opportunity should be given to us to have our say.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I would request you, Sir, to give an opportunity to those Members of the Opposition first who have given notices of amendments to the motion.

Mr. Speaker : I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of the House the fact that there is no formal Opposition Party in the House. I have always tried to give an opportunity to all sections of the House to have their say and in future also I shall follow that practice.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, I have to make a request to you and it is on behalf of the back-benchers. We feel that the time given to ex-ministers and the persons sitting on the front benches is somehow far more than the time given to those who are called back-benchers.

Mr. Speaker : I, as a matter of fact, suggested that some time-limit should be fixed for the speeches today, but the sense of the House was that there should be no time limit as it was expected that the number of hon. Members who would like to take part in the debate would not be very large. If the hon. Members want that time-limit should be fixed, I am quite prepared for it.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, I don't mean the time, I mean the opportunity.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, what about the amendments? Do I take it that all the amendments have been moved?

Mr. Speaker : Yes, these amendments* can be taken to have been moved. They along with the main motion will be discussed together.

1. *Mehta Ranbir Singh :

That at the end of the motion the following be added .—“but regrets that :

- (a) there is no mention even of the fast deterioration in the economic conditions of the State and
- (b) no assurance has been given to the people to provide them protection against the corruption and unconstitutional acts of the high-ups in the Government of the State”.

2. Sardar Bachan Singh :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets that .

- (a) nothing substantial has been done or proposed to be done for the land reform ;
- (b) nothing has been done or proposed to be done to better the conditions of low-paid and Subordinate Services”.

3. Sardar Sajjan Singh :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets that :

- (a) nothing has been done to proposed to be done or clear the administration of inefficiency and corruption ;
- (b) nothing has done or proposed to be done to upkeep the secular character of the State Government and to win confidence of the minority communities”.

4. Shri Amar Nath, Vidyalankar :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets that

- (i) it raises certain false hopes, that, judging from the past experience of the working of the Government machinery, and in view of the general conditions prevailing in the State, do not seem likely to be realised ;
- (ii) it fails to give any assurance to the oppressed workers in the Province, in general, and those working in the Government offices, and other departments, specially at Bhakhra, Nangal and Central Workshop, Amritsar in particular, that their most legitimate outstanding demands will be fulfilled ;
- (iii) it fails to inspire any enthusiasm and self-confidence in the hearts of the people in the Punjab, in order to enlist their active co-operation for the speedy reconstruction of this State ;

- (iv) It fails to appreciate the serious grievances of the Urban Refugee Land holders, who have suffered a great deal on account of the Government's step-motherly treatment meted out to them and also fails to urge even a word of consolation.
- (v) It utterly fails to give an over-all picture of the State Government's planning for the all round progress and development of the State, and in reality seems to have failed even to recognise the necessity of such planning.

5. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets that no departure from the past practice of India's slavery days has been made, by delivering the Address in Hindi or in Punjabi.”

6. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets that the Address should contain no reference to the urgent necessity of fighting corruption in administration, which is threatening the very fabric of the State.”

7. Shri Prabodh Chandra :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets that no mention has been made regarding the progress of education, medical, health and other Public utility services in the Province as also no mention has been made about the short and long term development plans in the State.”

8. Sardar Ajit Singh :

9. Sardar Kabul Singh :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets that no immediate steps were taken to destroy the Locusts in the District of Hoshiarpur specially”.

10. Thakur Dalip Singh :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets that waste land operations in the State have not been satisfactorily carried out.”

11. Shrimati Sita Devi :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets that no mention has been made in the Address relating to the welfare of women in the State.”

12. Sardar Rattan Singh :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—“but regrets to note that nothing has been said in the Address about the unwisely action of the Government in arresting Master Tara Singh and other workers of Shromani Akali Dal with which action of the Government the Sikhs living in the State have started feeling sense of insecurity against their rights to live in free India”.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I could not hear the whole speech of my hon. Friend Shri Virendra, although I did hear a part of it. Of course, I listened with rapt attention to the discourse of my hon. Friend Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish in full. I offer to these young Friends of mine hearty felicitations for making such nice speeches. They have expressed appreciation of certain things in the Address which they consider to be in the best interests of the people of the State. Besides, they have offered certain useful suggestions for which they deserve the gratitude of all hon. Members of the House. The suggestions are such that if they are not acted upon in a spirit in which they have been made or if they are not put into practice with the fullest cooperation and unstinted support of all sections of the House, the work of the State is bound to suffer. My hon. Friend Shri Durga Chand Kaushish has in the course of his speech pointed out that day by day we are alienating ourselves from the public. What I want to know is this : who is responsible for creating differences between the people and the Government ? After all why has this difference been created ? His Excellency the Governor has pointed out on page 14 of his Address - “Substantial progress all round in our State... ..” I have no doubt and I quite agree that different departments have made such progress in their work. As a matter of fact it is on the basis of the progress made by the different departments that we can feel satisfied. But I would like to point out that the progress of our State cannot be determined by mere schemes in connection with the River Valley Projects. It cannot be determined by the number of houses which it has constructed, nor by the quantity of food grains that it has produced and nor even by the net-work of the roads which it has constructed. The main thing that we have to see is that the administration of our free State is carried on democratic lines. As a matter of fact it is the primary duty of the State to maintain its democracy and run the administration according to the democratic principles.

As has already been stated by my hon. Friends who just preceded me, I am also of the opinion that we have to make Punjab a prosperous State. We have to make it one of the most progressive States in our country so that people may live in peace and plenty. Here I cannot do without saying that a Punjabi is second to none in possessing a very high intellect and a stout heart. A Punjabi is not lacking in courage and fortitude. As a matter of fact a Punjabi is not found wanting in any of the good qualities and virtues that go to make a person perfect in all the spheres of activities. If we take stock of the conditions of our State, we shall have to regret for the state of affairs obtaining at present in the Punjab. As I have already stated that I quite agree with my hon. Friend who just preceded me and who has pointed out that we have to make our Punjab a prosperous State. But it is the men who are at the helm of affairs who help in making the State a progressive and prosperous one; it is not the procurement system or the machinery of controls and such other things that go to make a State prosperous. Mr. Speaker, if you closely study the functions of a Government you will find that Government is responsible to a great extent for maintaining our standard of living. I think my hon. Friends will also agree with me, when I say, that so long as our State does not make all round progress we cannot be satisfied, with the work of the Government.

The other point towards which I would like to draw your attention is about the eradication of corruption in the State. I have to accept this position with deep regret that we are very backward in this direction. Sir, if you happen to go to any corner of our State, you will find that corruption is the order of the day. You are fully aware of the fact, Sir, that I am one of those Members of this House who has a word of appreciation for the services of the State. I am of the opinion that if we want that our State should progress then our services should naturally prove worthy of the confidence that we repose in them. The organization of services is such that without their co-operation it would not be possible to make any material progress. As a matter of fact it is through the services and services alone that the material progress of the State can be achieved. But today I have to say with deep regret that the personnel of the services have failed to work as the servants of the State. I assure you, Sir, that if you pay a visit to any office whether any local body or any other Government office, you will

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find majority of such Government servants with whom people are not satisfied ; they are not fulfilling their duties as public servants. What is the result of all this ? Who is responsible for it ? People hold our Government responsible for it. The fact of the matter is that they have drawn this conclusion that the fault lies with the Government which has failed to eradicate corruption from the services. They have gone even to the extent of saying that our Government has miserably failed to check corruption in the services. Under the circumstances I would like to bring this point to your notice that we do not find any reference, in the Address, about the corruption prevalent in the services, nor do we find any reference as to how it has to be eradicated. I would like to draw your attention to page 4 of the Address where His Excellency the Governor has pointed out to the invasion of locusts —

It is accordingly incumbent upon all of us to maintain unremitting vigilance and to be alert all the time, whether during day or during night. In this task none of us, least of all the officers of Government, must fail or falter. Apart from the damage already caused to crops, the potential danger is very grave. This calamity is a test of the strength and devotion to duty of our permanent services. It is also a test of the spirit of our people, and my Government is confident of the determination of all of us fully to measure up to our responsibility in waging a relentless fight against this scourge, regarding it as a work of topmost priority, and leaving, if necessary, all other work aside until the honours of the battle are on our side.....

If in these sentences that I have read out to you, Sir, the reference was to fight corruption, then we would have felt that the Government is alive to the need of fighting the evil of corruption which is so common in the services. In my opinion I do not regard any work more important and essential for the material progress of the State than the eradication of corruption from the services. It is therefore essential that all-out efforts should be made to fight against this evil.

I am greatly pained to see that our standing crops have been destroyed by the large scale invasion of locusts. This calamity that has descended upon us has added to our difficulties. But at the same time I am glad to say that realizing the gravity of the national crisis the people of the State cheerfully offered their cooperation to the Government to

fight this menace. The locusts have caused incalculable harm to our crops and have imperilled our very life especially when we are already faced with food shortage. I feel that this difficulty can be overcome by importing wheat even if it may be at higher cost from the foreign countries. We may also succeed in due course of time in killing locusts by adopting effective methods. But I am sorry to say that our Government has not been able to exterminate corruption which is the full fledged locust threatening our national life and is causing incalculable harm to our new democracy. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the House to the beautiful wording of the leading article of the Tribune of yesterday. It says that—

acquiescence is the egg, narrow group self interest the hopper and corruption the full-fledged locust which threatens the promising crop of our young manhood and complete extermination of locusts, hopper and egg, alone will ensure survival.

I think that the present situation in the State cannot be described in more beautiful words than these. His Excellency the Governor has remarked in his Address that "my Government is confident of the determination of all of us fully to measure up to our responsibility in waging a relentless fight against this scourge regarding it as a work of top—most priority, and leaving, if necessary, all other work aside until the honours of the battle are on our side." It would have been much better if His Excellency the Governor had made a mention of his determination of waging a relentless fight against the evils of corruption, nepotism and black-marketing that are flourishing in our State. These evils have shaken the very foundation of the State. There is a general cry among the public that corruption, nepotism and black-marketing are the order of the day. Without making any comments myself, I would only draw the attention of the Government to this leading article of the Tribune of 1st March which has truly voiced the public opinion. I would say that the responsibility of this state of affairs surely falls upon the authorities at the top *i. e.* the Ministers. I am of the view, and can say it without any fear of contradiction, that if the Government is really anxious and earnest in its efforts to eradicate corruption it can succeed in its drive. But we will have to change our angle of vision for achieving this objective. Again I would like to quote a passage from this very leading article of the Tribune. It says—

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To the man at the receiving end of the administration the year has passed with his expectations unfulfilled and his lot unbettered. The promised development of amenities in towns remains a promise perhaps a forgotten one. Local bodies have been caught up in the vortex of political wranglings which has come down to them from the very top. The smallest office of public service has come to be regarded as a position of political vantage. Political moves which once bypassed the administration now pass through it in strong disturbing current and cross-current. Selflessness and integrity are being driven out of circulation by narrow self interest and lack of scruple.

Sir, this leading paper is giving us a warning and holds us responsible being the chosen representatives of the public, for this increased corruption in the Government departments. (*Voices*: you are as much responsible). No doubt we are all responsible and I do not deny this fact.

Besides this, His Excellency the Governor has referred to the general elections which under the new Constitution will take place sometime towards the end of this year. He has asked us to assist the Government to make our electorate realize the value of their vote so that they may exercise it with a sense of responsibility. But I think if we have to approach the public with this poor record of achievements then I can easily foresee the result of general elections even now. Moreover, I should say that the Government should even suspend the execution of certain schemes without which it can easily do. For example, we can do away with the Grow More Food Scheme. A reckless expansion of this scheme involving huge expenditure is hardly desirable. To watch the Grow-More-Food activities a Cabinet Sub-Committee has been formed. Besides the appointment of additional Financial Commissioner a number of Naib Tehsildars have been appointed to supervise the work of Grow-More-Food Scheme. These Naib Tehsildars, I understand, have absolutely no knowledge and experience about the agricultural work. I get the information about the inefficiency of these officers when I happen to go to villages. The Government only needs to provide facilities to the peasants who are sturdy and resourceful. The Agriculture Department can perform all these functions and this duplication of process in this sphere of work would not serve any useful purpose. Moreover, His Excellency the Governor has remarked during the course of his Address that there should be no question of any measures aiming at the reduction of our

existing revenues. I would in this connection refer to the revenues realized from the Sales Tax during the year which amounted to Rs. 1½ crores although estimated income of Rs. 60 lakhs was anticipated. In spite of this huge income derived from the Sales Tax the Government has not accepted the demand of the public for the reduction of the Sales Tax. There is a great agitation among the public over this matter. The Government should have accepted this reasonable demand of the public but it continues to work in an old and orthodox way.

Sir, my submission is that even very small irregularities and deviations from the path of justice have their effect on the administration. You are yourself well aware of the Ludhiana District Board affair. You must have read in the papers about the Ambala Municipal Committee affair. I am referring to the unseating of the person who was elected as Vice Chairman. Since the person elected was not to their liking and nothing else could be done to remove him from this position it was decided to abolish that seat.

Mr. Speaker : I think this case is *sub judice*. So the hon. Member should better not refer to it.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I am just stating what decision this Government has made in the matter. If it were possible to deprive him of his 'portfolio' only the Government would certainly have done it but in this case it was not possible, because the member concerned would still have the right to vote and so it was decided to get him unseated. Now, Sir, you can well imagine the ill effects of such action on the part of the Government, not only on the administration but the public in general. Again people ask if one Minister can hold six or seven or for that matter eight portfolios what is the need of having more than one Minister. It stands to reason that if the work of rehabilitation can be carried on without a Minister for such a long time why have a Minister for this work at all. And when a proposal is made to retrench a number of surplus Assistants as a measure of economy one hears a low whisper as to what is the necessity of having thirteen Parliamentary Secretaries. Surely what reply can be given to this pertinent query. And now that they have been forbidden to go on tour it can well be imagined how they will be able to pull on in Simla in three hundred or three hundred and fifty rupees since they are

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not permitted to draw any travelling allowance. Is it not playing a joke with them to ask them to stay all the time at Simla, while the Ministers continue to draw rupees three thousand per mensem as travelling allowance? And how do they make this money? If today a Minister proceeds to a place named 'A', after a few days of his coming back to Simla he will again go on tour to the same place and so on. When the Ministers go on tours unnecessarily will not the officers have the tendency to imitate them in this matter? After all, one must know what the Ministers have in mind when they visit the same place again and again within a few days of each visit. These small things do have their effect on the administration.

Now, Sir, I would like to give another instance of the anti-popular character of this Government. This relates to Ludhiana and I think you have already got sufficient knowledge of it. Sometime back the whole of the Cabinet was present at Ludhiana. A large number of people wanted to see the Ministers—their chosen representatives on a matter of public importance and relate to them their difficulties in a frank and heart-to-heart talk. Instead of realizing that they should themselves proceed to the town to give them audience and thus save two or three thousand people from the trouble of going to the Rest House, what they did was to ban the entry of any person in the Civil Lines area so that nobody should be able to approach them with his grievances. My hon. Friend Shri Amar Nath was complaining about the ban on the processions and meetings under Section 144. He forgets that the Government has in its armoury even stronger weapons such as Section 14 of Punjab Public Safety Act to impose such like bans, though I am not aware under what Section restriction was imposed on the movement of one of the Ministers outside Kalka.

Minister for Labour : No such restriction was imposed on me.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I wonder how the Government expects the people to refrain from criticising it. Who does not know the part it played in the bye-election from Una constituency? Had it not been for the ceaseless efforts of selfless workers who moved day in and day out, among the people assuring them of the good intentions of the Congress towards them and raising their hopes, the election would

have been lost. How I wish His Excellency had in his Address referred to the corruption rampant in the State of which the people are so sick.

How I wish that His Excellency the Governor had given at any rate some attention to important things like the anti-corruption drive, anti-black-market drive or anti-nepotism drive.

Sir, you must be aware of what has been happening in your own town of Ludhiana. In this town of Ludhiana thousands of unarmed and peaceful citizens who had absolutely no intention of breaking the peace were subjected to lathi-charges. Nobody ever expected that our own Government will treat its people in such a ruthless and merciless manner by inflicting lathi-charges on them.

Mr. Speaker : I think this matter is *sub judice*.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, the lathi-charge cannot be *sub-judice*. Can you, Sir, tolerate even for a single moment that our sisters and daughters should be maltreated and abused by the police officers? Unfortunately all this has been taking place in your own town. It was here that under the administration of this Government respectable citizens were slapped on their faces and subjected to all sorts of indignities. It may be asked as to what was after all the cause of all these happenings. The cause of these happenings was a maternity hospital. In pre-partition days this hospital was run by Dr. Kapur at Lahore, who like all other displaced persons had to come away to this side of this country. I have all praise for Dr. Kapur as he has been rendering very useful service to our society. But despite the fact that the Dr. Sahib was a very efficient and a hard working surgeon, he unfortunately could not set up a building of his own at Lahore and had to carry on his hospital in rented premises. After he evacuated from Lahore, of course, with all his talent for medicine, he wanted to start a hospital at Ludhiana. As he happened to wield a good deal of influence with highly placed people including the Chief Minister and a host of well-known journalists, he succeeded in making property which he could not make at Lahore. He was given by this Government 12½ acres of land in Naulakha Bagh for setting up his hospital. This grant of lease of 12½ acres of land has a little of history behind and I think I should say something about it for the benefit of this House. I am told by my hon. Friend Lt. Col. Sardar Jogindar Singh

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Mann that the question of giving land to Dr. Kapur also came up when I was at the head of this Government but Sardar Jogindar Singh then decided that a vast expanse of land comprising $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres or 65 bighas costing twenty-five lakhs of rupees could not be given away to Dr. Sahib at a nominal price. But unfortunately Sardar Jogindar Singh was taken ill soon after and had to proceed to England for reasons of health. This matter kept hanging fire and when our Government was thrown out, the new Government agreed to do every thing what we had refused. The House will be surprized to learn that this Government gave away these $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land costing twenty-five lakhs of rupees not for lakhs or thousands but only for a paltry sum of Rs. 100 a month. It may be pointed out that part of this land, which has been given for the maternity hospital, was utilized by the people of Ludhiana for Dussehra and Ramlila celebrations and a part had been made over to the refugees by the late Dr. Lehna Singh himself.

Sardar Bachan Singh : A part was also used for the Roshni fair.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I have purposely avoided reference to the Roshni fair and the Muslim tomb on this land lest I should be dubbed a well-wisher of Pakistan. My opponents are already making a propaganda against me saying that I am weighted on the side of Pakistan. But leaving the fair etc. aside, I may submit that if for no other reason, at any rate for purposes of Dussehra and Ramlila this land should have been reserved. The residents of Ludhiana assert and quite rightly that now when the Hindu population had so much increased after the partition more land was required for the Dussehra celebrations than before. But no regard has been shown for their sentiments and orders have been passed that the Dussehra grounds should be transferred to Dr. Kapur for his hospital. As for the part of land which had been given to the refugees, the refugees say that the order transferring land to them has become extinct with the death of Dr. Lehna Singh.

Sir, I wish to invite your attention to the mamoth meeting that was held at Ludhiana on the 25th February. I have already written to the Government in this behalf but it is very unfortunate that the Government has not thought it fit even to acknowledge my letter.

Any how I wish to bring to the notice of the Government as also of this House that a very huge and a very largely attended meeting was held at Ludhiana on the 25th. It was attended alike by countless males, females and children. I am told that perhaps with the exception of the meeting held there in 1949 in honour of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nahru such a meeting has never been held at that place before. All these people of Ludhiana had assembled to protest against the order that granted the lease of the Dussehra grounds for the construction of the maternity hospital.

Sir, in this very connection I may add that the administrative machinery of this Government is being badly misused. One feels exasperated when one thinks of such a serious misuse. Is it not a matter of shame that contributions should be collected by the Deputy Commissioner, the Magistrates, the Police officers and even by the Civil Supplies Department for the purposes of the maternity hospital. This is a most improper thing that a Government can do. Why should the black marketers fear anybody in these circumstances? They know that if some honest officer dares to do any thing against them, they would get him transferred. When we are told these things by the people, we have to hang our heads in shame. It is said that the black marketers of Amritsar collected sixty thousands rupees for such purpose. This story is on the lips of everybody, whether young or old. What can be expected of our administration when the conditions are such? Can they complete the Bhakra scheme? Yesterday, H. E. the Governor remarked in his Address that Bhakra Control Board had been set up of which he was the Chairman in his individual capacity, with the blessings of his Government. I beg to submit, Sir, that the Central Government has only to give loan for this scheme. They have not to give us charity. If they do not like to advance loan for this scheme they might refuse it. Why should the Central Government interfere with the execution of this project? Ours is a border State. It has to produce youngmen who might some day have to face Pakistan. We are entitled to ask for loan from the Government of India. We did not ask for alms. It is a matter of shame that we quietly admitted our inability to discharge our responsibilities. Work in connection with Bhakra Scheme has been entrusted to others. It is highly improper that the entire responsibility for Bhakra project should be thrown on the Constitutional Head of the

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State. I had the opportunity of working with His Excellency and I know his capabilities. He is a very able man and guides his Ministers on several occasions. He has more experience of administration than most of us and has numerous qualities of head and heart. But how can we tolerate that the rights of the Ministry should be exercised by the Constitutional Head. If the Government of India thinks that for the proper execution of this project, it is necessary to have a certain gentleman as Chairman of the Bhakra Control Board, this office should not be held by the same person who is the Governor of the State. Primarily it is the responsibility of the Government to execute this project. When I learnt about the setting up of this Board, I was greatly shocked. Why should not the hon. Chief Minister be the Chairman of this Board? It is the money of our people which has to be spent on it. I do not understand what has happened to our administration. What progress can the State make when this is the state of affairs?

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to you for providing me an opportunity of voicing the feelings of the people. I have to go from place to place as a public worker and my files are full of things which people tell me at different places. A certain gentleman wrote to me—

Perhaps you will remember that I met you when you came to such and such place on such and such date. I told you that some person had snatched away my ass and the Assistant Sub Inspector had failed to get it restored to me in spite of my repeated requests. I was asked to produce the receipt for the price paid by me to the seller of that ass. I did so but with no result. I narrated my tale to the President of the State Congress but he too did nothing in the matter. In the end I was lucky in having met you. Somebody told you that I had been paid ninety rupees but that was not correct. I am glad to inform you that due to fear of you my ass has been returned to me. I am highly obliged to you for your help.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to avoid quoting from such letters on the floor of the House.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I wanted to show the state of affairs in the villages. An assistant Sub Inspector or some other Government officer will help that aggrieved person only who can approach some influential person. Nobody cares to discharge his duty because

he relies on his relationship with some superior officer. The administration in the State has been reduced to a very deplorable condition. I am not pointing out these things for my personal gain.

Then, Sir, I again repeat my longstanding challenge to the hon. Chief Minister to hold an enquiry into charges of corruption. If he is prepared for that, he should set up a judicial tribunal. A police agency should be set up first to hear complaints of the public. What good can be expected from an administration against whom so many charges of corruption stand unrefuted? As some of my hon. Friends said, we have already been greatly ruined. The feelings of the public can be assessed from the fact that huge public meetings are held by them for voicing their grievances against the administration. If His Excellency had laid emphasis on the removal of corruption, it would have served as a warning for the Ministry. They would have then thought it their duty to put an end to corruption and black marketing. If these two evils are removed, it will do great good to the State. The main cause of tension, which prevails among the services these days, is the injustice done to them. It would have been very good indeed if the Government had stated that they would ensure justice to everybody and would not tolerate corruption anywhere. With these words I resume my seat.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have tabled an amendment to the motion of thanks of Shri Virendra to the effect, "that this House regrets that nothing substantial has been done or proposed to be done for the land reform and that nothing has been proposed to be done to better the conditions of low paid and subordinate Services."

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann: On a point of order, Sir. Is it not fair that some time-limit should be fixed?

Mr. Speaker: I put this question to the House in the beginning of the debate today. At that time, the sense of the House was that no time limit should be fixed. I cannot do it now.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: Sir, in view of the fact that a number of hon. Members have expressed their desire to speak, some time limit should be fixed.

Mr. Speaker: I ascertained the sense of the House earlier today on this point. Probably the hon. Member was not in his seat then.

Sardar Bachan Singh: This State of ours is faced with a big problem today. This problem is whether the people shall have to live just as they lived before the advent of freedom in our country or even the meanest among them shall be able to live better than before. Two years back the Revenue Minister of the State announced the constitution of a Land Reforms Committee. This committee was actually constituted and it did its work. The Government accepted the recommendations of this Committee. His Excellency, the Governor has also remarked at page 14 of his Address as follows:—

My Government has had under active consideration proposals for the liquidation of occupancy tenancies in the State, and if these are finalised in time, it is my Government's intention to introduce, during the current session, the necessary legislation on the subject for your consideration

When I was reading this sentence, I was reminded of the occasion when last year, the hon. Chief Minister announced with a flourish that his Government would declare Harijans as agriculturists. At that time, my learned Friend Master Gurbanta Singh was so much impressed that he rose to thank the hon. Chief Minister but being moved could not find words to express his feelings. But we find today that that was only a clever ruse played on the people of this State. The Government and the Cabinet of this State knew that with the coming into force of the new Republican Constitution in India, it would not be possible to carry on the Land Alienation Act over here. This Government has itself declared today on the advice of the Attorney General of India and the Law Ministry of the Government of India that the Land Alienation Act in its present form is *ultra vires* of the Constitution. Knowing all these facts, our Government thought of a plan to play a joke with the people. They were asked to send deputations to the Government for the purpose of declaring them agriculturists. First of all, Ramgarhias came. They were declared agriculturists. Then came Gaur Brahmans. They sent lengthy memoranda to the Government and to us, and they were made agriculturists. Then water-carriers, potters and barbers

were declared agriculturists in quick succession. In short, this series of declarations became a proverbial Satan's limb. Ultimately it turned out to be a ball of rags which contained nothing. What did the people gain actually by having been declared agriculturists? They say that they are made Rai Sahibs without any real benefits. This Rai Sahibship is only an empty and useless thing. Even Master Gurbanta Singh and Shri Matu Ram, the representatives of the Harijans, have, now, been disillusioned. One Harijan named Lal Singh of my own district, belonging to Rahon purchased unluckily two bighas of land. The Tehsildar refused to make the mutation entry of that alienation. He went to the village and asked the Zamindars if they were prepared to make that Harijan a Chaudhri like themselves. The hon. Member belonging to this ilaqa wrote to the Tehsildar to make the mutation entry in view of the fact that the man had been declared an agriculturist. But nothing was done. I ask the whole of the Cabinet to tell as to how many persons who have been recently declared agriculturists, have actually acquired the lands which have been entered in their names in the mutation registers. The Punjabi proverb that the pudding of words need not be short of sugar.

ਗਲਾਂ ਦਾ ਕੜਾਹ ਚਾਸੀਂ ਮੁਕੱਖਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਹਿਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ।

ਗੱਲਾਂ ਦਾ ਕੜਾਹ ਚਾਸੀਂ ਭੁੱਖਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਹਿਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ।

This is what the Government has done in regard to the land reforms.

There is one thing more regarding which the House has repeatedly protested to the Government. It is the ejection of tenants. The number of notices of ejection served this year beat all previous records in the history of the State. People know that the Government is not prepared to do any thing even for tenants-at-will. The fact is that there is functioning in our State a big alliance. That is the alliance of the big Zamindars and the capitalists. This alliance is functioning as an unholy alliance to keep the lakhs of unfortunate people of this State as slaves. It is being tried that the drawers of water and the sweepers are kept in bondage even in this era of freedom. But I would like to warn that if the people, who were till yesterday themselves slaves, would like to keep others sweepers and water carriers, they would not be able to do so. The mover of this motion of thanks has said that the freedom of the country is in danger.

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This danger is not from any outside power but from the forces within the country.

On the one hand, there are certain persons who sleep on velvet, while on the other hand there are persons who cannot find even a cot and they have to sleep on the ground. There are persons who starve. But there are the rich who lead a life of luxury and comfort. Such are the conditions in our country but they cannot last long. There is an urgent need for bringing in legislation with a view to carrying out land reforms in the State. It has been stated that :—

It is my Government's intention to introduce, during the current session the necessary legislation on the subject for your consideration.

Mere intentions are not going to help us. Such an attitude on the part of the Government is deplorable. There is another matter in the Governor's Address to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members. On page 13 of the Address His Excellency has attacked this august House in a regrettable manner. He has stated :

I regret to have to bring to the notice of the House that the progress of legislation in the past has been rather slow, as a result of which the pending legislative work continue to swell.

The criticism levelled by the Governor against this House is quite unjustified. Mere pious intentions of the Government cannot lead to any appreciable progress of legislation. In this context I wish to narrate some past history in order to make myself more clear. In the last October session Municipal (Amendment) Bill was brought forward by the Government. It passed through first and second stages in the House rapidly. But then it was dropped by the Government before the third and final stage simply because the Government had fears that if it became an Act they would have to prepare voters lists on Adult Franchise basis and to hold elections. This clearly shows what difference there is between the intentions of the Government and actual practical steps. The largest English Daily of our State—The Tribune—has made an apt comment on the Address of His Excellency the Governor. I wish to quote what it says :

It is almost as if the Government were reduced to the mood of making peace with confusion.

The opinions of the hon. Members will be expressed in a day or two but these are the words with which a leading paper of the State has greeted the Address. It has stated that the policy of the present Government is that of 'making peace with confusion'. Instead of exposing and denouncing corruption and exhorting people to give a fight to it, those in power today are making peace with it. In the presence of such an attitude of mind, how can Shri Bhim Sen Sachar expect that the present Government can root out corruption? As a matter of fact, we should not expect anything from those who now hold the reins of government in our State. The state of affairs is fast deteriorating. The Treasury Benches say that it is a Congress Government, but on the other hand the President of the Punjab State Congress, Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, says that it is not a Congress Government in the true sense. What can we expect from such a Government when the President of the party organization himself is disappointed with its working? We can well imagine the plight of a wife whose husband disowns her. To expect land reforms from such a Government, 90 per cent of whose officials are corrupt according to Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, is nothing but a fond hope. My submission is that for the last three years and a half, the Government which the Congress has given to the people of this State has not been able to control even its own officials what to say of serving the people. It is a fraud perpetrated upon the people of our State. As a matter of fact, it is not the services that are wholly to blame. Those at the helm of affairs do not realise their responsibility. Corruption always springs out of bad administration of affairs at the top. When the President of the Congress himself condemns the Government, how can we have any confidence in it? We cannot entertain any hopes in respect of any good coming out of the present state of affairs. When the President of an organization has blamed the Government of that organization, how can we say that the Government is capable of fulfilling its intentions as stated in the address of His Excellency? There are no indications to show that the Government will do what it professes. In my opinion, which is based upon the experience gathered during the last three years, the present Government has done no good to the people of the State. It has only given us a corrupt administration. It has always ignored the legitimate demands of the low-paid employees and treated them in a bad manner. The Government of

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this State has always looked to the interests of high-salaried persons. I am surprised to learn that the hon. Ministers are getting Simla allowance also. They do not get compensatory allowance which the Members are getting and so they take it in the novel form of Hill Allowance. On the other hand, poor employees are asked to pull on with paltry sums of rupees fifty or sixty only. How can they make their both ends meet? They can only utter with Kabir:

ਮੁੱਖਯਾਂ ਮਗਰੀ ਨਾ ਹੋਏ ਏਹ ਮਾਲਾ ਅਪਣੀ ਲੀਜੇ

ਭੁਖਿਆਂ ਭਗਤਿ ਨਾ ਹੋਇ, ਇਹ ਮਾਲਾ ਅਪਣੀ ਲੀਜੇ ।

Even saints like Kabir refused to worship with empty stomachs. How can poor employees carry on their public duties, ill-fed and ill-clothed. I can only say that the present Government has not been able to discharge its moral duty towards the low-paid employees in the State.

Well, Sir, during the last Assembly Session while making a speech, I pointed out that under the British regime a rule existed according to which Government servants drawing pay over Rs. 150/- and their families were entitled to free medical treatment. But all those Government servants who received salaries less than Rs. 150/- were denied free medical treatment. If, unfortunately, any member of their family or they themselves fell ill, Government would not come to their aid because they were not in the enjoyment of high salaries. They had to pay for their own medical treatment. Obviously, this was a clear case of injustice to the low-paid Government servants. Those who could ill-afford to provide medical relief for themselves were denied free medical treatment while on the other hand those officials who could well afford to pay for their medical treatment were helped by the Government in the form of free medical treatment. I brought this irregularity to the notice of the Government, but so far nothing has been done to mend matters. The 'haves' continue to get more and the 'have-nots' continue to suffer. The fat-salaried officials are still enjoying the privilege of free medical treatment for

themselves and their families but the low-paid officials have not been granted this concession so far. May I ask whether this Government of ours, which takes pride in calling itself a popular Government, is primarily meant for the high officials or whether it has also at heart the welfare of the poorly-paid Government servants? May I also know whether the high-salaried officers stand more in need of free medical help or the low-paid small officials, who find it hard to make their both ends meet with the meagre salaries they get? I strongly feel that the ends of justice can be met only if this concession of free medical treatment is extended to the low-paid Government servants also. It is a thousand pities that the Government has failed to take any effective steps in this direction to ameliorate their condition.

Then, Sir, I would like to mention the economic conditions prevailing in the country. I would quote figures which were adduced by the Finance Minister of the Union Government. Shri Deshmukh, the Central Finance Minister, while presenting the Budget in the Parliament a few days ago, remarked that if the year 1939 were to be taken as the basic year and 100 as the price index, then the present price index stood at 415. In other words, the prices of necessities of life, as they stand at present, are four times the prices prevailing during 1939. So, on the basis of the present price index if the Government had increased the salaries of the low-paid Government servants in the same proportion, then perhaps I could understand why Government could not afford to extend the concession of free medical treatment to them. But the fact remains that the Government has done nothing to help them and has completely ignored the difficulties experienced by them on account of the peak prices prevailing at present. In this connection, I am reminded of a Punjabi proverb which is to the effect :

ਅੰਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵੰਡੇ ਸ਼ੀਰਨੀ ਮੁੜ ਮੁੜ ਅਪਨਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੇ ।

अन्नां वंढे शीरनी मुड़ मुड़ अपनेयां नूँ दे ।

It aptly applies to this Government. It has distributed some of the favours amongst the landlords, some amongst the capitalists, some amongst the high officers and the remainder amongst its favourites.

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While this state of affairs continues, it is complained that corruption is rampant in the administration and every effort should be made to root it out. I say, the system of administration is such that corruption is bound to flourish. I have nothing to say about the high-salaried officers. I will take the case of peons, constables, patwaries and school teachers, who are seriously thinking whether it would be possible for them to carry on with these meagre salaries and lead an honest life. A few days ago, a poor peon related to me his woeful tale. He told me that he could not pull on with the meagre salary of Rs. 65/- p. m. It was well-nigh impossible for him to provide even half a seer of milk to his family consisting of four members only. He said that he could not afford to procure medical aid or arrange for the education of his children or get necessities of life like sugar etc. sufficiently. He further remarked that if he asked for a tip of a rupee or so, as he was compelled to ask for it being unable to make his both ends meet with his meagre salary, then he ran the risk of being dubbed as a corrupt fellow. In short, he stated that life had become very difficult for him, and he sometimes preferred death to the present employment. My object in relating this incident is that if the Government is imbued with the feeling of improving the hard lot of the poor or if it is desirous of building the character of the people, particularly the low-paid Government servants, then it would become incumbent upon it to satisfy its subordinate services by granting them a living wage. But this would be possible only if their salaries are increased and the salaries of the high officers reduced. Since the Government is not in a position to do so, its subordinate services will remain disgruntled. In this connection, I may point out that while perusing the budgets of other States, I found that their economic position had reached such a stage as did not permit of any further taxation. There was no room for imposing more taxes on the people for raising further funds required to meet increasing expenditure. In other words, their revenues have become inelastic. What I want to drive at is that if such be the financial position of the States, then it is not possible for the Governments to procure more funds for raising the salaries of the low-paid Government servants. But satisfaction of subordinate services is most essential if the evil of corruption is to be extirpated. So the only course left is to reduce the

salaries of the highly-paid officers and make a proportionate increase in the salaries of the subordinate services. But the difficulty is that this Government has no guts to bring about reduction in the salaries of the high officers. What to talk of Government servants, this Government has signally failed to do anything for the betterment of the tillers of the soil. It has not introduced any land reforms in the State. The pity is that the complexion of this Government is such that it cannot do anything substantial for the good of the poor.

Then, Sir, when I was listening to the speeches made by my hon. Friends, Shri Virendra and Pandit Durga Chand, I felt as if the white-faced Britisher had been replaced by a dark-complexioned Britisher. Previously, we used to hear speeches in English language from the former and now we hear in the same language from the latter. But there is a difference between these two types of Britishers. The white Britisher systematically fleeced India because he knew that since he had to mulkt the Indian milch cow, he tried to look after it well. Besides, he had no relations here nor any favourites amongst whom he could freely distribute the favours. But the dark-complexioned Britisher is differently-placed. He has his relations, friends and favourites all here. So instead of looking after the milch cow well, and drinking its milk in a planned manner, he tries to devour it by cutting its flesh into pieces and distributing the same amongst his relations and favourites. The result is that the public is stricken with deep frustration at the doings of the dark-complexioned Britisher.

Then, Sir, since the Government has failed to ameliorate the lot of the people, they have become sick of it and evince little interest even in the proceedings of this Assembly. This is evident from the vacant galleries of the Assembly Chamber. There was a time when the people were eager to hear their representatives in the State Legislature and the galleries would be packed to their capacity. But now they are lying almost vacant.

Minister for Revenue : It is because of the lack of any eloquent speakers.

Sardar Bachan Singh : No, it is because the people feel disappointed at the tall talk of the hon. Ministers. Then, Sir, my regret at the Governor's Address is due to the fact that it lacks in definiteness. It has not been categorically stated as to which Bills will be definitely passed during this session of the Assembly ; nothing has been indicated to this effect.

Minister for Revenue : We want to keep something up our sleeves, which we would reveal during the reply to the debate.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If that is the thing, then do I take it that the hon. Revenue Minister would make a short shrift of the problem of occupancy tenants and would put such legislation on the Statute Book as would confer ownership of land on them. But I have very little hope whether this Government will be able to do anything for the occupancy tenants. I had to break away from the Government party, because I was disillusioned at their professions which belied their actions. But since the hon. Minister for Revenue has recently formed an alliance with the Government, he has not to say anything against it. From the figures of the Government, it is abundantly clear that there are about 5,00,000 persons who are working as occupancy tenants. It has been said that there is no tenancy problem in the State. I do not subscribe to this view. I would like to bring this point to your notice that the problem of the occupancy tenants in the State is very acute. The conditions under which the occupancy tenants are living at present are horrible and beyond one's imagination. About 1/5th of the entire population of the State has fallen a prey to the tyrannies of the rapacious landlords. The former are trying their level best to ameliorate their conditions. The position of the Government is that it is performing jugglery so far as the preparation of various figures is concerned. I have no hesitation in saying that in 1947, after the Partition, the Government has juggled with the figures and has thus turned a deficit State into a surplus one. The fact of the matter is that our Government is a pastmaster in the art of jugglery. Instances in this connection are not wanting. It was given out by the Government that the population of our State in 1947 was 1,47,00,000. I may assure you, Sir, that these figures are inflated figures. At that time the population figures of Muslims who migrated to Pakistan and also of Hindus and

Sikhs who were in West Punjab were also taken into account. No pains were taken to estimate the total number of Muslims who migrated to Pakistan and the Hindus and Sikhs from West Punjab who crossed the Indian border. According to these population figures, Government showed a deficit of 35,000 tons of foodgrains. After sometime, the total population was shown as 1,36,00,000 on account of the revised census.

It is maintained by the Government that there has been an appreciable increase in the procurement of foodgrains during the last year. But I am of the opinion that the credit for this enhanced procurement does not in any way go to the Government. As a matter of fact, that increased food production which resulted in enhanced procurement was mainly due to the bumper harvest and not due to any herculean efforts on the part of the Government. It goes without saying that procurement is dependent upon the increase in the food production. The more the production of foodgrains the more its procurement. It is crystal clear from this that if the harvest is good, naturally there will be a corresponding increase in the percentage of procurement. However, it has been experienced that whenever any calamity befalls our province resulting in a huge loss to the people, the Government does not hesitate in crying from house-tops that some political elements in the State were spreading discontentment among the masses. At the time of any calamity, people want the Government to come to their rescue and when it fails to rise to the occasion it does not hesitate to apportion the blame on others. Such is the state of affairs prevailing at present in our State. Government also goes to the extent of saying that we instigate the tenants to rise against it. Perhaps the Government in general and the hon. Minister for Revenue in particular have lost sight of the fact that they employed all possible underhand means in declaring 'Gaur Brahmins' as agriculturists. They did this simply because they wanted to purchase their land for their own kith and kin.

Minister for Revenue : But I have no son.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I was submitting, Sir, that the Gaur Brahmins were declared as agriculturists and the idea underlying

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this policy was to enable them to dispose of their land. (*Interruptions*). Sir, I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Minister that I am already in possession of all the facts which have led to the declaration of Gaur Brahmins as 'First Class' agriculturists. I know how telegrams after telegrams were sent to expedite this matter. I have no intention to enter into any further details so far as this matter is concerned.

Minister for Revenue : Let the hon. Member give expression to whatever he likes to say.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Now I would like to say a few words about the land reforms in the State. I would like to bring this point to the notice of the Government in general and the hon. Minister for Revenue in particular that the question of the introduction of land reforms in the State should not be treated as an ordinary question. Perhaps they are under the impression that the refugee problem is a very acute problem and that it should be treated at top priority level. I hope I will not be misunderstood here. I have every sympathy with my refugee brethren. My hon. Friends know it for themselves that I have contributed my mite towards the betterment of my refugee brethren. But I strongly feel that the tenancy problem is more acute than the refugee problem and the sooner the former is solved the better it would be, both for the Government and the State. About 70% of the total population reside in the rural areas ; out of this total population the number of those refugees rehabilitated in the rural areas who own more than 100 acres of land is 3228 and of those owning 250 acres is 2721. From the figures which the Government has received from the Punjab (Pakistan) Government, it is clear that the people in the rural areas on this side of the Punjab owned very little land in comparison to those who owned comparatively larger tracts of land in West Punjab and who are now rehabilitated on lands in this State. Under the circumstances, those people who own less than 5 acres of land are forced by circumstances to work as tenants. What I wish to point out is that if it is the intention of the Government that they should continue to live in servitude then the problem of the tenants is sure to be much more complicated than the refugee problem which the Government is already faced with. (*Interruptions*). Sometimes, it gives me a great pleasure to hear the hon. Minister for Revenue

and at times I cannot but laugh at his strange utterances. Sometimes he blows hot and cold in one and the same breath. Yesterday, he was pleased to remark in the course of his speech that Government would not tolerate any agitation sponsored by the tenants. Then again he remarked that if there was anyone who did not like to live in this country he was welcome to go back to Pakistan. These are the utterances of the hon. Minister who claims himself to be a representative of the ruralites and also claims to possess a soft corner for them. If there had been any feeling for the ruralites in his heart, then there is no reason why some reference should not have been made by His Excellency the Governor in the course of his Address to the effect that adequate steps would be taken to ameliorate the hard lot of the poor people in the rural areas and that they would no more continue to live as serfs. Only yesterday, when my hon. Friend Shri Ram Sharma was ventilating the grievances of the poor tenants, certain hon. Members got enraged and started getting their notes of protests recorded against the utterances of the hon. Member. This shows that those hon. Members who are the 'yes men' of the Government and who are in the habit of saying ditto to everything that is placed before them are sadly mistaken and that all that the Government says about the conditions in the State is not right. However, I submit that at present the people in the rural areas are restless and discontented and their agitation is bound to assume at any time an alarming and a dangerous shape. Our State is not an industrial State, nor is our country an industrial country. My hon. Friends know it full well that the main source of livelihood of the majority of the people in our country in general and our State in particular is agriculture. It is really a pity that a very step-motherly treatment is being meted out to those who are agriculturists by profession. Now that India has attained independence, these people expect that they would also be afforded a chance to live like free citizens in this free country. But I have to say with great regret that no steps have so far been taken by the Government to improve their lot. It is time the Government took some decision in this direction with a view to ameliorating their conditions. Any delay in this direction would prove detrimental to their interests. As a matter of fact, they have realized that Government is causing undue delay in bringing forward some legislative measure to this effect. They go even to the extent of saying that the hon.

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Minister for Revenue had cried from house-tops and had also held out assurances to the effect that Jagirdari and Zamindari system would be done away with.

The States of Bihar and Orissa have made the task easy for the Government by passing such a legislation. I understand that the Chairman of the Land Reforms Committee made certain proposals which were accepted by the Government. I fail to understand why the Government did not care to implement these proposals when these were accepted by the Government in the month of December.

Minister for Revenue : I do not know how the hon. Member has got the information that the recommendations of the Land Reforms Committee were accepted by the Government.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I have said this on the basis of the reports of newspapers. The Tribune reported sometime back that the Government had accepted the recommendations of the Land Reforms Committee. Besides this, His Excellency the Governor has remarked in his Address that "my Government has had under active consideration proposals for the liquidation of occupancy tenancies in the State and if these are finalised in time, it is my Government's intention to introduce during the current session the necessary legislation on the subject for your consideration." I would say that the Government has accepted the principle underlying the recommendations of the Land Reforms Committee. If it were not so, it would not have been mentioned in His Excellency the Governor's Address. When the Government has accepted the principle, then may I know what is the hitch in introducing such land reforms in the State? I think there must be certain obstacles against the proposals being finalised to which our pointed attention has been drawn in the Governor's Address. When a landlord Member stood up to support the Governor's Address, I at once realized that the tenant class should not expect anything from the Government. It is quite strange that whereas the Government professes great sympathy for the tenant class, the Members sitting on the Government Benches should say that tenant problem does not at all exist in our State. Yesterday, when the resolution given notice of by Shri Ram Sharma was being discussed on the floor of the House, some of the Members sitting on the Government Benches had remarked that the resolution had been moved to gain selfish

ends as the tenant problem did not exist in Rohtak district. In face of these absurd remarks, I am constrained to remark that everything looks yellow to the jaundiced eye. Government should seriously consider the fulfilment of those promises which it had made to the tenant class before coming into power. Similarly it must better the lot of services and accept their demands unconditionally. If by burying its head under the sand the Government hopes that the danger would somehow blow over it is sadly mistaken. This policy of 'wait and see' would not do. It is unreasonable to expect that by marking time the services would become loyal, devoted and honest. The Government must fulfil promises it had made to the services. It would be very difficult to purify the administration unless deterrent action is taken against the big ones in the administration who practice corruption. We must stop rot at the top and they must be weaned away from corrupt practices. If we can mend the big ones it will be easier to banish corruption from the lower ranks of the Government employees. Services follow the way to which the Government may carry them. You know, Sir, that the services proved loyal and devoted to their masters during the British regime and fired bullets on Congressmen and the same services put behind the bars R. S. S. men and the Communists when the Congress has come into power. It shows that the services are always at the beck and call of the Government of the day. Sir, you would have also read the speech of Sardar Partap Singh Kairon President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, which he made while presiding over the Punjab Cloth Retailers Association's meeting recently held at Ludhiana. He stated that ninety per cent of the Government officials are corrupt and dishonest. I do not agree with the above assertion of Sardar Partap Singh and feel that much fault lies with the men at the top. The services would easily mould themselves to the shape to which the Government may like them to be. It is really deplorable that such a statement should have come from a responsible person like the President of the State Congress when the Congress Government is in the saddle. As the verse goes—

इस घर को आग लग गई घर के चिराग से

ਇਸ ਘਰ ਕੇ ਆਗ ਲਗ ਗਈ ਘਰ ਕੇ ਚਿਰਾਗ ਸੇ ।

I would say that if the Congress Chief truly believes that such is the state of affairs in the State he should either oppose the

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Government openly or come out of the Congress. Then, I would impress upon the Government that it should place before it a high ideal of service and should come to the rescue of labourers, small peasants and low-paid Government employees. I think that so long as big officers continue to hold their sway in Government administration, we cannot eradicate the evils of corruption and black-marketing and thus cannot march forward on the road to progress.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by Shri Ram Sharma, a member of the Panel of Chairman).

If you really want to eradicate corruption from this State and to make it reputed for the purity of its administration you will have to give a fair deal to low-paid employees who constitute the backbone of the administrative machinery. And by doing so, you will be able to increase its efficiency to undreamt-of heights. There is yet time. You can turn these two sections of people—the peasants and the low-paid employees—into pillars of strength. If they are estranged, woe betide this State. It is no use crying over spilt milk. If something is to be done for them it must be done now,

Chaudhri Matu Ram (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Hindi*): Sir, the object of the Governor's Address always is to outline the future policies of the Government and to review its past achievements. I have gone through the Hindi translation of the Governor's Address very carefully but have not found anything mentioned therein pertaining to the welfare of Harijans—that considerable section of the people who always think of the good of their country and this State. It is very regrettable indeed that in spite of the fact that His Excellency had personally heard the complaints of the Harijans during his tours and received representations from them, he did not think it fit to say a single word about their sorry plight in his Address.

Sir, yesterday I had stated that the Harijans of the Punjab who had served their country selflessly in the cause of its independence were suffering great hardships even after its achievement. In reply, the

hon. Sardar Kartar Singh was pleased to remark that if the Harijans were having a difficult time in India, they should migrate to Pakistan.

Minister for Revenue : I never said that.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Well, Sir, we are the people who love India and are proud to be its citizens. We are not of the type who would migrate to Pakistan. We are true patriots. On page 12 of the the Address, a mention has been made of the communal tension engendered in connection with the entry in the language column during the census operations. I want to tell the House one of the causes of this tension. Administration was as much responsible for it as anybody else. (*Voices:* How, how?) There was a conspiracy. (*An hon. Member:* Was any Minister a party to it?) I am just coming to it. Some of our communal-minded Friends here who are anxious to have a Punjabi-speaking province or to carve out a new State called Khalistan had also a hand in the matter. When we came to know that they had engaged agents to carry on propaganda for exhorting the people to declare Punjabi as their mother tongue, we smelt some fishy business. We told our people to declare Hindi as their mother tongue in order to nip the demand for a new province in the bud. So it is due to the fault of these friends who want to make another partition of the Punjab that communal controversy arose during the census operations. As for us, we are true nationalists and would not let our province be vivisected any further. We gave a proof of our nationalism when we refused to be bought by the Muslim League before the partition of the country and we shall not be true to ourselves if we do not oppose any demand for another partition. I know the atrocities that have been perpetrated on the Harijans to force them to declare Punjabi as their mother tongue in the course of the census operations. Sir, if somebody comes along with me, I can show him the people who have been the victims of this oppression.

Then, Sir, reference was made by His excellency to the calamity brought about by locusts. I shall not hesitate to say that the visitation of this calamity is the direct outcome of the bemoaning and groaning of the oppressed Harijans. Our ancient religious books also affirm that calamities such as plague and famine visit the lands where evil increases.

Minister for Revenue : On a point of information, Sir. Does the hon. Member think that the mass-scale murders and abductions following in the wake of the partition were also committed due to the curses uttered by the Harijans ?

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Why dig up the past? Surely, what happened during the partition upheaval was the direct result of the doings of communalists like Gyani Ji. I repeat, the locust menace is the result of the tortures and high handed actions of the zamidars and co-workers of Gyani Ji on poor God-forsaken Harijans of Doaba.

Sir, while speaking at Patna, our President Dr. Rajindra Prasad also expressed the view that evil in this country had increased. I say, Sir, that this is particularly true of the Punjab. So it stands to reason why I am attributing the calamities that have visited this province to the increase in the sum-total of evil. God does punish people for their evil deeds.

Pandit Jiwan Lall : (South-West Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, no mention has been made in the Governor's Address of the eradiction of the evil of corruption. I was really surprised that this evil should be so much on the increase and His Excellency should not make any mention of it. Well, I don't mean to confine myself to generalities only. I would like to illustrate my view point by giving specific instances. About a year and a half back, 'taccavi' loans were distributed in District Gurgaon. I know for certain that in Tehsils Nuh and Ferozepur, most of the Meos receiving the loan had to pay a bribe of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 for a single bullock. I had myself made a complaint about it to the authorities. Enquiry in this case continued for a year and a half. The Tehsildars of Ferozepur and Nuh have left no stone unturned to ensure that nobody should give evidence against the guilty officials. It has now been established that the wasil-baqi-navises of both the tehsils were corrupt. But even then the Tehsildars and Naib-Tehsildars have given evidence in their favour and are trying to shield them. If the Government accepts the findings of the inquiry committee, there is no reason why it should not take action against those who are trying to shield the corrupt officials. This clearly shows that the Tehsildar and the Naib-Tehsildar were also in league with the corrupt officials and they themselves were dishonest. What I mean to stress is that it is not an easy job

these days to prove a case of corruption. If a case is started against an official the whole of the staff of the department comes to his rescue and makes efforts to prevent any evidence being produced against him. On the other hand, efforts are made to instigate people to make false allegations against the complainant.

Sir, it is very difficult to prove the taking or acceptance of a bribe as the Government officials and their departments do their best to see that no evidence comes forth. In another case, a head constable took bribe and this was proved by an enquiry conducted by D.S. Police and I also happened to be with him. But even then the head constable was challaned after so many months. No quick action was taken against him and I was put off with one excuse or other. Perhaps the police people have been under the impression that I might soon die and then there would be no evidence against the accused. But I am not a man to give up such a case.

Sir, there was another case in which a head constable took Rs. 1140 by way of bribe and the Deputy Superintendent of Police concerned admitted that it was so, but when the case was sent to the Railway Police for investigation, I was not at all heard and the case was dismissed with the remarks that all this was an election stunt of Pandit Jiwan Lall. This does not end here. The Railway Police with the help of local Police decided to take steps against those four persons who had appeared as witnesses in the case. I brought all these facts to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, the Superintendent of Police as also the Chief Minister but nobody paid any heed to it and these four persons were challaned on unjust grounds.

Sir, I know of so many cases of corruption and bribery that it is not possible for me to mention all of them. A short time ago, one Shri Gulzar Singh Patwari abducted a Harijan girl and was also guilty of having taken a bribe. He was posted at village Malai. I apprised the Chief Minister of all these things when he visited Gurgaon last time. I told him that corruption was rampant in almost every department e. g., the police, the Civil Supplies Department and other departments. He inquired of me as to whether I had any fresh complaint. I had at that time in my pocket a complaint against a Sub-Inspector for having taken Rs. 400 as bribe and the same was handed over to Chief Minister. He promised to take action but I haven't heard anything about it till now. This is obviously not a

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satisfactory state of affairs. If corruption is allowed to continue and is not checked the public is bound to lose faith in the Government with results which can more be imagined than described. We should not allow the low-paid officials to indulge in loot on the plea that they are not paid decent salaries. Nor we should allow the fat-salaried officers to take undue advantage of their position. In my opinion, a programme of anti-corruption drive should have found a prominent place in the Address of His Excellency the Governor. It is strange that he has not thought it fit to make any mention of it. If bribery, corruption, blackmarketing and other anti-social activities are not done away with, this Government is sure to get a bad name and may be it may not be able to keep itself in the saddle. In the present regime what is happening is just the opposite of what should be desired. Those who tried to end corruption are being victimised by the Police and other Government Departments. The Police of my ilaqa is bent on involving me in some false self-created plot as I am always out to expose their follies. But I am not afraid of them. I do not mind if I am made to suffer for my honest attempts at checking corruption. With these words Sir, I resume my seat.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair).

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar (Non-Union Labour) (*Hindi*): Sir, when I was listening to the speech of my hon. Friend Shri Virendra I was wondering as to what might have brought about such a radical change in his views regarding the present administration, because his last speech is still ringing into my ears, when he was extremely critical about the present Government. Either there has come about some sudden change in the views of my Friend, or may be the Government has improved. But even a child in the street knows, every Puniabi knows to his misfortune, that the administration has not improved in the least. However, my Friend Shri Virendra like a good lawyer, has pleaded Government's case most ably and efficiently, and I give him credit and congratulate him. He has kindled life into the most lifeless and dull Address of His Excellency, and painted much brighter picture of the present state of affairs than the Government has through His Excellency's Address. From that point of view he as

an advocate claims much more than his client does.

ਸੁਦੰ ਚੁਸਤ ਗਵਾਹ ਸੁਸਤ
ਮੁਦਈ ਸੁਸਤ ਗਵਾਅ ਚੁਸਤ ।

The witness is much more eloquent than the client himself.

He appears to have seen so much good in the Address of His Excellency which even His Excellency himself might not have seen. Anyhow, I do not agree with him. I for one do not find even a single ray of hope in the Address. It is devoid of anything which can be called constructive and the whole bright rosy picture presented before this House in him is merely a self deception. Yet, he has played the part of an able and clever lawyer, but I am sorry to say that his eloquent advocacy cannot make up the deficiency of those material things which should have been in the Address and are conspicuous by their absence. I fail to find out anywhere the material basis of such speeches as these. Every hon. Member in his heart of hearts feels that this Government is not efficient and is not on its way to progress. It lacks planning and policy, it is indecisive, and we do not know where it wants our State to lead to. The Address which His Excellency has placed before us is not the type of Address which was needed. He should have taken stock of the whole administrative system in the State and should have suggested ways and means of surmounting the difficulties, that lay ahead of us, by the joint efforts of the Government and the people. The Address should have presented before the people of this State such ideals, hopes and aspirations that would have raised morale of the people and inspired confidence and had set in psychological conditions of enthusiasm for national reconstruction in the public mind. But unfortunately not a trace of such things is to be found in it, on the contrary it will leave people cold and dull. My hon. Friend Shri Virendra was pleased to remark that the Government and the people should cooperate and walk hand in hand on to the road of progress, but I ask what attempt has been made in this Address to seek and receive such cooperation.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Chaudhri Lahri Singh).

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Mr. Chairman, may I know if the necessary quorum in the House exists?

Mr. Chairman : Yes, the quorum is ten only.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : My hon. Friend Shri Virendra said that the Government share the wisdom and the follies of the people. May I know if our present sufferings are due to any of the follies of the people? No, the people are suffering on account of the follies of the Government and it would be the greatest injustice to accuse people for their existing sufferings. The main problem today is to raise the morale of the services and the public. Who is responsible for this lowering of public morale? It is the duty of the Government to produce the spirit of service in the minds of the public. All the available means including the Publicity Department should be used for this purpose. Does the Government think that its Publicity Department is raising the morale of the people by putting up huge portraits of leaders on roadsides with a few sentences written under from their speeches? I do not oppose putting up the portraits of national leaders but at the same time I would suggest that pictures of others should also be displayed as is done in China. The picture of the peasant who produces maximum crop per acre of land in a certain district or in the State should be displayed at such conspicuous places. Similarly the pictures of labourers who show superior results in increasing the output of nation's industrial production should be displayed everywhere. Why should not the picture of those who give greatest help in fighting locusts or floods be also displayed in public places? This will in fact raise the morale of the people. It is, however, a pity that our Government lacks imagination. Our Ministers consider it enough to go through weighty files. This is why we are weak. If the people of a certain place wish to hold a public meeting, the Government gets panicky and enforces Section 144, as was recently done in Simla and Ludhiana. It is the duty of the Government to meet the people and hear their grievances. It should not be afraid of facing them. I admit that the Government is faced with several difficulties, but it should place those difficulties before the public. In the Address delivered by His Excellency, there was no reference to any plan of work which the Government propose to follow. The Government should have stated all their difficulties and also mentioned the steps which they proposed to take to overcome them. The state of affairs here is quite different. The Assembly meets for hardly

sixty days in a year. The Government does not take even the Members of the Assembly into confidence and tell them its difficulties. They might be able to help the Government in its work. When the Government is not prepared to seek the co-operation of even the Members, how can we expect it to seek public co-operation? It is said that everybody has the right to criticise the Government. What is the value of that right when Section 144 is enforced at different places? As my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar also said our Government becomes panicky on the slightest happenings. Formerly we were ruled by the foreigners. Their nervousness could be understood, but why should our Government lack confidence in its own people? As soon as there is some agitation, the Government take recourse to Section 144 Cr. P. C. or the Public Safety Act. Is it not a matter of shame? If some labourers write to the Government for redress of their grievances, no heed is paid to their request for six months or so. After that they send ten or twelve reminders and ultimately give a legal notice that if their grievances are not redressed within the specified period they would go on strike. On receipt of that notice, the Government at once enforces Section 144 in order to prevent the labourers from holding meetings. The same treatment is being meted out to Government servants. They have been prevented in Simla, by enforcement of Section 144, from taking out a peaceful procession even. Is this the manner in which liberty of speech is being maintained? Instead of suppressing them by use of force, the Government should have contacted the aggrieved Government servants and heard their grievances. It could then have placed its difficulties before them. Suppression of people's voice wherever it is raised can not be termed seeking public co-operation. If a few workers gather at a certain place, the police goes there at once and puts them under arrest. They are kept under detention for days together but our Government does not care to order its Magistracy that nobody should be detained without proper trial. If these things continue for long, our condition will also be the same as recently described in a public meeting by an American Professor. Professor Turner of Yale University, who recently toured the South East Asian countries, said in the course of his speech at Delhi, that there was no immediate likelihood of rapid economic growth in South East Asia, nor was there any prospect of American capital flowing to these countries.

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He gave an analysis of the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in those countries which have recently obtained their independence. Further on, Professor Turner says that there are two alternatives before the Governments. First is to increase the police force to carry out repressive measures against the discontented people. The second alternative is to execute a programme of reforms to satisfy the basic needs of the people and to redress their grievances. These are the only two alternatives before these Governments. Now the Governments appear to have adopted the former course, being easier of the two. Their tendency is to follow the course of repressive measures. Further on, the Professor says that the progress in these countries has been at snail's pace. Talking about the people he says—

“If you consider the amount of work they do, and the kind of implements they use, you will certainly give them credit.” He says that the people are capable of progress, but the trouble is that the Governments are not cooperating with them. Their needs are not being met. Only the other day, the Governor of West Bengal, Dr. Katju gave this advice to the Governments, in a broadcast talk :

We must take care that in the name of preservation of State and stopping of subversive activities we may not stifle democracy itself.

What he means is that the Governments should not crush democracy itself under the pretext of preserving law and order and suppressing of unlawful activities. Further on, he says, “It is the essence of democracy that there should be the utmost liberty for expression and also propaganda of every kind of opinion. If the people were assured of this right then democracy shall always continue to function and be an active force in the governance of the country.” But actually we find that the Government is trying to suppress all criticism against it by fair or foul means. Further on Dr. Katju says: “I sometimes think that these difficulties are aggravated by our thinking in old grooves according to old conceptions and not making sufficient allowance for the revolutionary changes”. Our Government is also thinking in old grooves. It is following the reactionary traditions of the British Government and the Unionist Ministry of the old Punjab. If the Government wants to become a

really democratic Government, it shall have to give up the old traditions and follow new ways. If this is done, the criticism that is voiced by the hon. Members on the floor of the House during every session of the Assembly, would become less loud and strong. Shri Virendra, in his speech, said that the people should not be divorced from the administration. But pity is that the element of public support at present is sadly lacking from the activities of the Government. Our State has a number of problems today. There is the problem of food. If the agriculturists, with their own efforts and with the rain falling in time, produce more food, it does no credit to the Government. The Government gets the credit only if it can claim that it helped the peasants by advancing loans to them and by giving them other facilities in certain districts and consequently there was increase in the food production. But this is not the case. The condition of the people is deplorable; they are not helped by the Government. There is the example of England before us. It is not an agricultural country. Even then its Government has been able to effect an increase of 20 per cent in its food production with the help of the people within a span of two years. On the other hand, we have been shouting from house tops for increasing our food production for the last four years and the results are before us.

As regards law and order position, it is said in the Address that the subversive elements are still there. But we find that for the last four years, people have been detained without trial, inhuman treatment has been meted out to them in the gaols and Section 144 has been clamped in all the districts. In spite of all these repressive measures, the subversive activities have not been checked the Government, like wise men, should change its methods and adopt some other course. That course is to satisfy the needs of the people. I would warn the Government that Punjab is much bigger than this House of 70 or 80 members and the Government shall have to be answerable before the people very soon. It shall have to explain to them what it did and achieved in the past three or four years, which were critical in the history of the State. I would like to know as to what has been our contribution in these years. I, for one, am not satisfied with our contribution. Will it be said in the history of our period when it comes to be written, that we gave a correct lead to the

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people at a time when they were struggling for their political independence, but when the time for their deliverance from their age old social and economic slavery came, we miserably betrayed them? We should emulate the example of other countries, as my Friend Shri Virendra has said, but the example of other countries should serve also as a warning to us if we fail the people at the time of their dire need.

My learned Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has dealt with the condition of the peasants in our State. The Congress has before it the programme of improving the lot of the peasants. In its Nasik Session, it adopted a resolution for the immediate abolition of Zamindari and the giving of land to the actual tillers of the soil. In this resolution, Congress Governments were asked to pass legislations for the above-mentioned purpose without any more delay. The resolution is here with me and I can quote that resolution. But I hope that the hon. Members must have read it. If they have not read it, they should do so. The immediate programme of the Congress is embodied in that resolution. However, when it is brought before the Government of our State in the form of a private resolution, some of its members begin to agree that it is impracticable. But did they raise no objections when this programme was adopted by the All India Congress Committee or when the Congress High Command had sent it to this Government for necessary action. I know some of the hon. Ministers and members are members of the All India Congress Committee that passed the above resolution. The copies of the Immediate Programme of the Congress were distributed among the hon. Members during the last Session. It was stated in that programme that the peasants should be protected and their rights safeguarded. Did our Government write to the All India Congress Committee that this was not possible and offer any amendments to that programme? Again and again, in the Congress Manifestos, promises have been held out that landlordism will be abolished. No doubt, other States like Assam, U. P., Rajasthan and even Pepsu have introduced and are introducing radical agrarian reforms. But here it is said that there is no scope for any reform in this State. Various excuses are put forward such as the problem of refugees and the unsettled conditions obtaining

here. In Hyderabad too, the conditions have been unsettled, but they have made use of them by abolishing Jagirs and by giving lands to the tillers. On the other hand, our Government is perpetuating landlordism under the pretext of unsettled conditions. We should introduce agrarian reforms in our State. This is the need of the day. The legislation that was brought before the House during the last session did not very much impress people, and it was not enough to satisfy the people. The changing conditions of the country need some radical change in our ways of thinking also. Sardar Bachan Singh has just stated that the number of notices for ejection this year has far exceeded the figures for the past years. The conditions are going from bad to worse. If we look towards other States of India we shall see that in this respect they are ahead of us. Those who are responsible for running the administration in this State do not seem to study the facts of the problem, otherwise they must realize that we are left behind by other States of India in this matter. The conditions of agriculture prevailing in other countries of the world should be an eye-opener for us. The reforms that are being achieved in other States of India, and which were accomplished so early as 1920 in other countries of the world, are considered too radical to be adopted in our State. There is lack of imagination and planning here. The principle of 'land to the tiller' was recognised all over the world as far back as 1920. But here it is strange, that it still remains a matter of controversy among our administrators. They consider it as a revolutionary step forward. As a matter of fact, they are still living in a bygone age, these Rip van Vinkles of Punjab do not appear to be moving with the times. They don't realize that they have long moved out of the 18th century when agricultural reforms have gone ahead with rapid strides in all the countries of the world. I would appeal to the Government to move with the times and undertake planning in all the spheres of life of the State. Not only Agriculture but Industry and other spheres of activity also require planning and radical change of outlook. But I am constrained to remark that at present I feel that nothing is being done in this direction. What we find is that at present our State is without any planning and there are no schemes of progress at all. We don't know where we stand, what we require and with what speed we should move in order to catch other advanced countries of the world. In fact we are far from being the masters of our destiny. Waves come and carry us wherever they

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like. We cannot control our own course of action. At present the condition of our State is such that like a small boat it drifts at the mercy of a stormy and raging sea. On the other side there are countries of the world that control their courses of action with imagination and foresight. Take the example of China. Within one year it has introduced agricultural reforms in a portion of its territory which is inhabited by as many as fourteen crores of people. In one year's time the land has been distributed there among those who are the actual tillers of the soil. They have accomplished this marvellous feat simply because they had the desire to do so. In the spheres of the administration of Justice also they have made a rapid progress. When a question was asked from a young Judge in China, hardly 25 years old, as to how he dispensed Justice without any experience and legal training, he replied that he knew and relied on common sense law and that the real test was that Justice is administered and not as to how it is done. "In this country", he said, "there is Justice without Law, while in other countries there are laws and laws without Justice." There is much truth in his reply. These are the things which make a difference between progressive and other people. The thing to be achieved is justice and not the brilliant wordy wariates between the opposing vakils. As a matter of fact, vakils are always instrumental in confusing the real issues before the courts of justice in a country. They paint rosy pictures before the Judges just as one of my friends has done here and as a result of this the actual issues get confounded. It is our duty as the representatives of these people to find out new and better ways for alleviating the sufferings of those from whom we get power. We should think out new ways for solving problems that crop up every now and then. Our thoughts should move in new and radical directions.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar has drawn the attention of the Government towards corruption that is prevelant every-where in our national life these days. He has rightly pointed out that no other progress is possible without first rooting out corruption. In this matter the Government of Pakistan has taken more courage than our Government. They have laid it down as a condition for entering the services that the entrant should first declare his immovable and movable

property so that the Government might know afterwards that he does not amass huge amounts by corrupt practices. They have even asked the working employees to declare their property. This is a bold step but it is necessary to take it in the interest of the public at large. I wish our Government should also have taken it, I would even say that not only the Government servants but the hon. Ministers should also declare their properties, so that the public might see that they are not corrupt. This is very important in removing the suspicions of the people. It can create a healthy atmosphere and the administration of affairs can improve in no time. What is required is that the public tone should be improved. If a leader does not succeed in improving the tone of the public he does not deserve to occupy any seat of authority in public affairs. If our leaders take courage and root out corruption by means of stern actions they can even today win back the best confidence of the public and they can create an atmosphere in the State wherein no person would indulge in any corrupt practices. But the first essential in this matter is that the Ministers themselves should place examples of stern morality before the public. They should be above suspicion. Their conduct should be absolutely above reproach. The morality of the services depends to a large extent on the example set by those who control the affairs of the State. What is the reason that now-a-days corruption is prevalent everywhere and recommendations count a lot? Why those who are punished for corruption are allowed to go without their names being proclaimed and published at important public places and in the newspapers of the State? Why is it that the names of those who are dismissed for corruption and such other causes are not widely publicised? If we publicise the names of Black-Marketers and others on public notice boards and other places, we can create an atmosphere in the country in which such offenders themselves will stand condemned before the bar of public opinion with the result that such offences will be reduced. Such a step will have a wholesome effect on the general atmosphere in the country. The Leaders can by their own example help in the creation of such an atmosphere. The failure of our leadership lies in the fact that it has proved incapable of bringing about such a happy change in the atmosphere of the country. Sir, I do not wish to say anything more on this point as I feel that I have said enough. Moreover, the time for stressing this point

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will arrive when I speak on the budget debate. Here I only wish to submit that the Address of the Governor should have contained a general review of the progress of the State and the effort being made to achieve our object. It ought to have been a true picture of our strivings, our hopes and aspirations. It should have told us how the Government expected to plan for the future progress of the State. It should have stated the spheres of activities in which the Government had sought and still needed the active cooperation of the public. Instead of doing this the Address of the Governor has indulged in blaming this honourable House for lack of speed in the disposal of legislative business. May I know Sir, who is responsible for this slow progress in legislation? Our Government calls us for two brief sessions during the whole of the year. It is not their fault that the hon. Members are allowed to remain idle for most of the time during the year. They have never refused to come. It is the business of the Government to call them for work. As a matter of fact, His Excellency the Governor has been most unfair to this House when he accused this hon. House for the slow progress of the work. He ought to have gone into the facts. My submission is that the Government itself does not desire to give opportunity to this House to hold its sessions for longer duration. It is wrong to say that we do not want to work. In my opinion these remarks should not have come in the Address of His Excellency the Governor. Well, Sir, I have yet another grouse against the Address and that is this. I have already given a notice of an amendment to the motion under discussion on this point. I note it with regret that no departure from the past practice of India's slavery days has been made, by delivering the Address in Hindi or in Punjabi. I fail to understand why Address by the Governor of the State is delivered in the English language, when the President of the Indian Union finds no difficulty in delivering his Address to the Parliament in Hindi. Why do not the Government shed off the old slavish practices reminiscent of the British rule? As a matter of fact when I make a psychological analysis of the present Ministry, what I find most prominent in it, is that it is highly unprogressive and undecisive. The Ministers are suffering from such a retrograde mentality, that neither they themselves embark on progressive policies nor do they allow the State to make any advancement. However, I

hope that the hon Ministers will try to see the criticism, that has been made on the floor of the House on the Address of the Governor, in a correct frame of mind. They will endeavour to derive benefit from it by effecting improvement in the administration of the State.

Master Gurbanta Singh : (Jullundur, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to make a few observations in regard to certain matters which do not find any place in the Address of the Governor. The foremost thing upon which the Address is silent, is the lack of any relief granted to the rural people who have been subjected to all sorts of taxes, namely, the Sales Tax, Professional Tax, Haisiat Tax, Cycle Tax etc. Now the clever people who have got some approach to the higher authorities, manage to escape the payment of such taxes but the poor people continue to be crushed under the weight. I would quote figures in support of my point to show how revenues from these taxes have mounted gradually from year to year. These figures have been supplied to me by the Government in regard to villages of Jullundur District. At first, a few years back, the amount realized from these taxes stood at Rs. 11,000. After two years it rose to Rs. 22,000. Then in the subsequent year, it went up gradually to Rs. 34,000 and Rs. 46,000. You will see, Sir, with what astonishing rapidity the revenues from these taxes have increased.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : It has risen like the increase in population. (*Laughter*).

Master Gurbanta Singh : That is a wrong notion. The increase in population has not been as rapid as in the case of revenues from these taxes. I am constrained to remark that our Government is extremely undependable in the matter of legislation regarding taxation. One day it legislates one measure prescribing a certain limit of income which could be taxed and on the next it amends the same law reducing the limit of income with a view to imposing tax on a greater number of poor people. The result is that on account of the shifting of ground by the Government, the confidence of the people in it, is shaken. And the lack of faith in the Government by the people is really a very regrettable state of affairs. I feel that

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Government ought to have indicated the relief from taxes which the rural people would be getting. But it is a pity that His Excellency the Governor omitted to make any mention of this important matter.

Then, Sir, a reference has been made in the Address with regard to the allotment of evacuee houses to the refugees in the rural areas. It has, however, been admitted that a certain amount of dissatisfaction exists among the Harijans and other non-allottees of land who are so far without a shelter in the villages. This is a fact that these people have been provided no accommodation and they are experiencing great hardships. It pains me to find that Government have taken no steps to provide any shelter to these poor people. In this connection I may also point out that the late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi had issued an order for the allotment of evacuee houses of non-agriculturists to the non-allottees of land but so far that order has not been enforced and the non-agriculturist refugees continue to suffer for want of any accommodation. Besides this, there is yet another difficulty experienced by the poor Harijans and other non-agriculturists residing in the villages. The Harijans who have been in possession of certain evacuee houses and have been keeping them in good repairs for the last few years, have been asked under orders of the authorities to vacate the same. Then if one officer passes orders for the allotment of a certain house to a certain non-agriculturist, be he a Harijan or an artisan, the other officer, at the request of the rival party, issues orders for the cancellation of that allotment. The Harijans are particularly put to a great trouble. They are dispossessed of the house legitimately occupied by them. I may bring a concrete case to the notice of the Government and that is this. Two Harijans, named Massa and Bhuja of village Khambra have been deprived of their houses of which they have been in possession for a long time. When they represented their case to the Revenue Assistant, he gave his verdict in their favour but the rival party, namely, the agriculturist allottees got this order reversed by another officer. Then in another village a certain person is already in possession of six houses. He has been allotted two more houses at the cost of Harijans who have been ousted from them. We used to

hear of such an arbitrary and despotic rule in the States of pre-independence days. But it is deplorable that we are witnessing the same state of affairs obtaining in this State of free India.

Then, Sir, much has been said about the corruption rampant in the administration of this State. Only the other day the Provincial Congress Chief declared that 90 per cent of the officials of the administration were corrupt. It would not have been a surprise to me if it had been stated that there was hundred per cent corruption in the services. I believe in the saying that if the King tastes the fruit of a tree, his army will devour not only the leaves but also the very roots of that tree. Now when our Ministers are corrupt, it is no wonder if the services under them follow in the footsteps of their Chiefs. In this connection I may point out that I along with other few hon. Members had lodged a complaint with the Government that a certain Minister was corrupt, and that enquiries be held into the matter. So far no action has been taken in this regard by the Government. My submission is that Government ought to have instituted enquiries into the allegations made by us and if they had been proved to be baseless, then we should have been hauled up for making a false report. I am of the opinion that the failure of the Government to move in the matter, convinces me that the Government itself is corrupt to the core. And as I have already said, if the Ministers are corrupt, the officials are also bound to be corrupt. I fail to understand why these Ministers who draw fat salaries, large amounts of travelling and Simla Hill allowances and are provided with luxuriously furnished bungalows, should still indulge in corruption. My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh, during the course of his speech, related the sad tale of a chaprasi, who with a meagre salary of Rs. 65/- p. m. could not afford to provide milk to his children. I say what to talk of that poor chaprasi, it is not possible even for us to provide milk to our children. This luxury is now reserved for the children of the rich or the high officials only. The present set up of Government requires to be replaced by those persons who can feel for the poor. This replacement will be possible only after the next elections when the true representatives of the people will form the Government. It is generally said that the foremost function of the Government is to strive for the welfare of the people, but our Government is unmindful of this dictum. It rather sets one class of

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people against another and brings about estrangement among them with a view ultimately to keep the people under their thumb. In this connection I am reminded of an interesting story. Once a Mirasi girl dreamt that she had given birth to a son who unfortunately breathed his last there and then. When she got up early in the morning, she began to cry bemoaning that Buta had died. On hearing the bewailings of the girl, the Mirasi brotherhood assembled to offer condolence to the girl and her parents. One of them was a little sagacious person. He enquired from the father of the girl as to who Buta was and when and where was he born. The father of the girl expressed his ignorance about it and asked his daughter to answer the queries. She replied that she had dreamt during the night that a son was born to her and he had died. (*Laughter*). This is exactly the position of a certain hon. Minister of ours. He heard the news that in the Jullundur District the Harijans were being baptised in large numbers for embracing the Sikh religion. Without caring to find out the authenticity of the news, he rushed to Jullundur and began to utter slogans that the existence of Harijans was in danger because of the Amrit Prachar conducted by the Sikhs. He tried to imitate the Muslim League tactics who used to indulge in communal activities under the cloak of 'Islam in danger'. I may tell the House that the Harijans of Doaba are strong enough to withstand the overtures of either Hindus or Sikhs. Their religion is 'Ad Dharm' and they are not so weak in their own Faith as to fall an easy prey to the proselytising activities of missioneries of Hindus or Sikhs. So if a Minister thinks that the Harijans of Doaba, who strongly believe in 'Ad Dharm,' can ever allow themselves to be drawn up for conversion, he is entirely mistaken. But the result of the wrong propaganda, carried out by the Hindu and Sikh press, was that the relations of different communities inhabiting this State were sorely estranged. When I enquired from Hindus and Sikhs of Jullundur as to how many Harijans had embraced Sikhism, I was told that none had been converted. Yet the hon. Minister carried on the propaganda that the existance of Harijans was in jeopardy. In this connection I am reminded of yet another interesting tradition prevailing in the rural areas. In villages if the husband of a Mirasi girl dies, the zamindars offer him a certain amount of food-grains by way of help at the time

of condolence. In this way a sufficient amount of food grains are collected. Similarly, I think, the bogey of 'Harijans in danger' was raised by the interested parties with a view to make collection for their own use. Possibly some Arya-samaj workers who were in need of money, came out in the field as saviours of Harijans and for this purpose raised funds from different places in the State.

Mr. Chairman: No personal attacks please.'

Master Gurbanta Singh: No Sir, I would be the last person to do so. I have not mentioned the name of anybody. What I wish to point out is that no pains are spared to make a vehement propaganda in villages against those poor Harijans who happen to live there. They are harassed without any rhyme or reason. As a matter of fact there is no limit to the atrocities perpetrated by people on these poor Harijans. In the villages where Sikhs are in majority, Harijans have been compelled by force to record their particulars of language etc., in the columns of the stereo-typed census forms according to their instructions. They have not spared any pains in bringing every pressure upon them to dance to their tunes. The houses of these poor people have been barricaded and they are not allowed to move about. As a matter of fact they are virtually segregated from the people of their respective villages. Neither food nor fodder is made available to them. I am really constrained to remark that our leaders are busy preaching communalism in every nook and corner of the State. I have just received a letter from a certain friend and he writes to say that the Harijans of some of the villages in the district of Jullundur have been barricaded as a result of which they find it impossible to move about. I would like to read out the names of the villages where atrocities have been perpetrated on the poor Harijans, as mentioned by my friend in his letter. The villages are, Ladar, Daduwal, Sumrai, Sirhali, Sargondi, Sumrari, Padijagir, Landia, Bahadursingh Pura, Nurpur Sarhal, Surhal Qazian, Beram, Chima, Sindhwan, Baroli, Jassomazara, Nadhali, Milhi, Landra, Nasi, Nagra, Bajra, Nangal Salara Rajab, Bias Pind, Sagwal, Kishengarh, Kukar Pind, Dharala, Jajha, Bhagora, Nagar, Dhesansang, Dhani Pind, Patar Kalan. My friend writes to say that the poor Harijans residing in these villages have been denied all the facilities which they were entitled to as humans beings. Their

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main grievance against them is that they did not fill in the particulars in the census forms particularly in the language column, according to their dictates. He also writes to say that they are threatened with dire consequences in case they did not revise their decisions and thus record particulars in the census columns as desired by them. He has further pointed out in his letter that people have been harassing them without any rhyme or reason; so much so that they keep waiting close to their doors with kirpans and other weapons, with the result that they find it impossible to move out to attend to the call of nature or to store their cowdung. This is not all. They cannot look after their fields where they have sown seeds and toiled hard. Food and fodder are not made available to them from the depots.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : On the one hand the hon. Member has stated that they are not allowed to move about freely and that their houses are barricaded, while on the other hand he has stated that foodgrains and fodder are not made available to them at the depots. He is contradicting his own statement.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Sir, what I wish to point out is that the poor Harijans are not allowed to move about and are, therefore, forced to attend to the call of nature on their roofs and also store their cowdung there. My friend also writes to say that if such state of affairs continues for 2 or 3 days more, then the conditions would take a very serious turn. The license-holders of arms in these villages threaten the poor Harijans with dire consequences in case they refuse to act according to their behests. In this letter reference has been made to village Ludran, Tehsil Phillaur where a Harijan family was attacked by the people on 27th February 1951. The members of this family including an old woman, for fear of losing their lives, tried to run away. The old woman who could not keep pace with the other members of her family, who made good their escape, was ultimately killed by the people. Mr. Chairman, it is abundantly clear from this that the poor Harijans are being oppressed and tyrannized for no fault of theirs. It is really a pity that the conditions under which our Harijan brethren are living at present in the villages

in the State in general, and in the Jullundur District in particular, which are apt to move even a stone-hearted person to tears, have not moved the Government at all.

His Excellency the Governor has in his Address pointed out :—

It is a matter of deep regret to my Government that the census operations in our State should have been the subject of a communal controversy about the record in the language column.....

It seems that the Government has not so far taken any steps to put an end to this 'communal controversy'. It will not be out of place to mention here that the conditions in the district of Hoshiarpur are worsening day by day. I have no hesitation in saying that the conditions obtaining at present in most of the villages of this State are worse than those created in West Punjab, by the resignation of Sir Khizar Hayat Khan in March 1947.

Harijans of the Gurdaspur District are also subjected to the same humiliating treatment at the hands of the people. The atrocities perpetrated on them are also very acute. It is really a matter of deep regret that we do not find any reference about such a matter in the Address of His Excellency the Governor. What more injustice can there be than this that no importance is being attached by the Government to the miseries and hardships of the poor Harijans. These poor people are really cursing the Government for its having failed to save them from the tyrannies and atrocities perpetrated by the people. Under the circumstances, if in a free country it is not possible to record one's language in the language column freely, how on earth can it be possible to cast one's vote during the general elections freely. I venture to say, Sir, that instead of enjoying the fruits of freedom we have been reduced to mere servitude. In fact, such atrocities were not committed even during the British regime when census operations and elections used to be held.

Harijans are not subjected to a humiliating treatment in those villages only where Sikhs are in majority but they are put to untold hardships in those villages too where Hindus are also in majority. The property and honour of the poor Harijans in those villages, where Hindus are in majority, are in great danger. Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring this point home to the Government that the census

[Master Gurbanta Singh]

operations in this State have resulted in grave injustices to poor Harijans. If the situation is not brought under control by taking timely action, I am afraid conditions would become worse than those which were created by partition in 1947.

Our Ministers are responsible for creating this communal tension. They have been making propaganda in villages at public expense. The Government should not allow people to carry on such communal propaganda in the villages. It should create such atmosphere in villages that the poor people may be able to live there in peace. Now things have come to such a pass that we cannot face public opinion in villages. We should realize that after the attainment of independence we are now one nation and should, therefore, live like brothers. If we had realized this fact there would not have been strained atmosphere in the villages. Such propagandists claim to be the representatives of the poor but it is far from their intention to evince genuine interest for their welfare. They only pose themselves to be the friends of the poor in order to promote their selfish ends, and to maintain their political leadership. If by such tactics they have to win the general elections I think they are sadly mistaken. People in villages have now become much enlightened and they will not be easily roped in by their show of lip sympathy towards them. With these words, Sir, I will appeal to the Government to take such steps which may lessen the tension and promote good-will and understanding between the people.

Minister for labour : (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : Sir, I want to give a personal explanation. My hon. Friend Master Gurbanta Singh has made certain allegations against me. In this connection I only want to say that he has said these things against me not because there is any truth in them but because of the frustration that has been caused to him and his friends in not having been successful in getting a Ministerial gaddi and.....

Mr. Chairman : No personal remarks please.

Minister for labour : You have permitted an hon. Member to make all sorts of allegations against me. I must be allowed to refute those allegations and have my say.

Mr. Chairman : If one hon. Member has made a mistake others should not repeat that mistake. The dignity of the House requires that personal remarks against other hon. Members should not be made and I will request the hon. Minister to cooperate.

Minister for labour : Sir, I do not propose to make such irresponsible remarks as have been made and I do not wish to say anything which is in any way against the dignity of the House. The hon. Friend who has just before me made a speech has narrated a story about a Mirasi girl, the story if it applies to any one in this House, applies to the narrator himself

Mr. Chairman : I remind the hon. Minister that he should not go to that extent. He can explain his position without making personal remarks.

Minister for labour : Sir, how can I explain my position until I say something against him.

Mr. Chairman : It is for you to see how you can do that. You should not make personal remarks against an hon. Member of the House. This is my ruling.

Shri Amarnath Vidyalkar : Sir, cannot he give a personal explanation ?

Mr. Chairman : He can give a personal explanation no doubt but he cannot make personal remarks.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Can any hon. Member during the course of his personal explanation give reply to all the allegations made against him or he can only make his position clear ?

Mr. Chairman : He can only make his position clear.

Minister for Labour : Sir, I bow before your ruling and would submit that some of my hon. Friends who are obsessed with the idea of becoming Minister have been striving hard to dislodge me from my present position. They have used all means in their power to defame me in the public. They sometime back forged a letter and sent it to

[Minister for Labour]

the Congress President in which they made allegations against me that I had accepted Rs. 2,000 as bribe from a wine contractor of Gurdaspur.

Sardar Gubanta Singh : On a point of order, Sir. I did not refer to that allegation in my speech.

Mr. Chairman : That is not a point of order.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Can any hon. Member refer in his personal explanation to anything which has not been said in this House ?

Minister for Labour : Without taking much time of the House I would say that they have tried to malign me in order to promote their selfish ends. These allegations are based on party factions and are entirely unfounded. I have submitted my personal explanation to the Congress High Command and unless the matter is decided by it I am not in a position to say anything with regard to these allegations. I am prepared to stand an independent enquiry by any court of law.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Wednesday, 7th March, 1951.

✓ 1

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

7th MARCH 1951

Vol. III — No. 4.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 7th March, 1951.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 2 p. m. of
the clock.*

*The Secretary having informed the Assembly under Rule 11 (3) of the
Rules of Procedure that Mr. Speaker was un-avoidably absent, Mr. Deputy
Speaker (Thakur Pancham Chand) took the Chair.*

QUESTION HOUR.

Chief Minister : If the House so desires, the question hour may be dispensed with so that Members will have more time for discussion of the Governor's Address.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I beg to submit that the question hour is the only hour when a Member can know the views of the Government with regard to the grievances of the electorate. If as on the 2nd of March the question hour is dispensed with every day, I think we will not be able to do any justice to the electors who have sent us here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Is it the pleasure of the House to dispense with the question hour ?

Hon. Members : Yes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The question hour is dispensed with.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RETIREMENT OF PEONS IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

672 **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Tehsil peons in the District of Amritsar were allowed to retire after having completed the scheduled period of service during the second quarter of 1950 ; if so, their names ;
- (b) whether the persons referred to in part (a) above were granted pension ; if so, the amount of pension granted per mensem in each case ;
- (c) (i) the dates on which the papers relating to pensions were sent by the Tehsil office to the District Office in each case ;
(ii) the dates on which the papers referred to in (c) (i) above were received in the office of the Accountant General, Punjab, for approval ;
(iii) the date or dates on which these papers were returned by the office of the Accountant General to the District Office after approval ;
(iv) the date or dates, on which the pensioners concerned were informed of the final sanction about pensions and about the places from where they could draw their pensions ;
- (d) whether any of the persons referred to in part (a) above has received his first pension up to 15-2-51 ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

- (a) Yes, Shri Khushi Ram Kharkey.
- (b) Ist Part. . . No.
2nd Part Does not arise.
- (c) (i)—(iv) Does not arise.
- (d) No pension has so far been granted to Shri Khushi Ram as his pension papers are still incomplete for want of verification of his service rendered in Pakistan. He has, however, been asked to submit collateral evidence in support of that period of service, supported by the affidavits of contemporary Government servants. Further action on his pension case will be taken on receipt of the requisite contemporary evidence from him.

**SCALE OF PAY OF REVENUE AND CANAL PATWARIS
IN THE STATE.**

673. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the cases relating to the fixation of salaries of Patwaris referred to in my unstarred question No. 601 have been finally approved ; if so, the date when the approval was given ; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the arrears of pay have been paid to the Patwaris; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh:

- (a) The cases relating to the fixation of salaries of Patwaris referred to in unstarred Assembly Question No. 601 have not finally been approved by the Accountant-General, Punjab, for want of service books of Patwaris. Efforts are, however, being made to complete fresh service books of Patwaris after obtaining blank service books from the Government Printing Press.
- (b) Arrears will be paid when service books of Patwaris are

[Minister for Revenue]

prepared afresh and after their pays are fixed with the approval of Accountant-General, Punjab.

BUILDING OF ROADS

674. Shri Buja Ram Bhagai : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether according to priority determined already there is likelihood of the following roads being built in the near future (1) from Loharu to Bhawani ; (2) from Babu to Jharii and (3) from Pataudi to Nahwan ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : There is likelihood of the road from Loharu to Bhawani being built in the near future.

PERMITS FOR THE RESTORATION OF PROPERTIES.

675. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the three displaced persons to whom the permits for the restoration of properties were issued vide reply to my unstarred Question No. 587 put on 5-10-50, have been restored their lands and houses ; if not the reasons therefor ;
- (b) the dates when the permits were issued and delivered to the persons concerned respectively;
- (c) the dates when the lands belonging to them were allotted to the refugees and when they were put into possession ;
- (d) whether the lands were allotted to the refugees after the delivery of the restoration permits ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

- (a) Permits were issued to Mangal S/O Bhopa and Dulla son of Naina. Mangal has since taken possession of his land. Dulla, in spite of the orders having been issued, has not

turned up to take possession. They own no houses. Umaid son of Sarupa to whom permit had also been issued could neither take possession of his property nor takes delivery of the permit because he had migrated to Pakistan. Consequently his permit was cancelled on 22-6-1950.

- (b) Permits were issued to all the three persons on 11-4-1950. These were delivered to Mangal on 4-5-50 and Dulla on 19-5-50, while Umaid having migrated to Pakistan could not take delivery thereof.
- (c) Lands were allotted to the displaced persons in village Dhunela on 24.8.49 and possession delivered on 11.4.50, 19.4.50, 20.4.50 and 11.6.50.
- (d) No Lands were allotted to the displaced persons in August, 1949 whereas restoration chits were issued in April, 1950.

**REPRESENTATION FROM SHRI RAM SARUP, REFUGEE, OF
SAMARGOPAL PUR, DISTRICT ROHTAK.**

676. Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the representation of one Ram Sarup, refugee of Samargopalpur, District Rohtak, requesting the Government to give him barani land fit for tube-well irrigation in exchange for his canal-irrigated land, was forwarded to the Director-General, Rehabilitation;
- (b) whether the same was sent to the district authorities for report and no report has so far been received by the Director-General, Rehabilitation;
- (c) whether the said representation has been filed by the district authorities?

The hon Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes. As no area was available in village Puthi, Kahni and Nagar of Gohana Tehsil, land could not be allotted in these

Minister for Rehabilitation].

villages. Since he had abandoned land in Jhang District, he was not entitled to an allotment in Sonapat Tehsil because it was out of his allocation.

REFUND OF FINES.

677 **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the fines of the following congress workers have so far been refunded :—

Beri (District Rohtak).

Shri Banarsi Dass;

Shri Bhagwant Sarup;

Shri Ramshawar Dass;

Shri Chhotu Ram;

Shri Rattan Lal;

Khatiwās (Jhajjar Tehsil)

Shri Mangli Ram Vaid;

Jagsi (Gohana Tehsil)

Shri Maam Chand;

Ambala City...

Shri Arya Nand;

Nandi (District Karnal).

Shri Mangi Ram;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor, and the steps which the Government proposes to take in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

Shri Banarsi Dass;

Shri Bhagwant Sarup;

Shri Ramshawar Dass;

Shri Chhotu Ram;

Shri Rattan Lal;

Shri Arya Nand

Shri Mangli Ram Vaid.

Shri Maam Chand.

Shri Mangi Ram.

No. Their cases have been referred to the Ad-hoc Committee for verification and report.

Yes. Orders for the refund of fine have been issued.

No. He has been requested to give full particulars of his claim.

No. His application has not been received.

**GRANT OF PENSION TO THE WIDOW OF KISHNA GOLDSMITH
ASSAUDHA, DISTRICT ROHTAK**

678. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the widow and dependents of Kishna Goldsmith, Village Assaudha, District Rohtak who was murdered by absconder Banwari, when he was helping the police to get the absconder arrested have been granted any pension;
- (b) if so, what pension and on what terms the pension has been granted; if not, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) A pension of Rs. 6/- P. M. each for the widow of Kishna Goldsmith and his mother payable from the date following his death have been sanctioned. The pension sanctioned are tenable for life or till re-marriage whichever occurs earlier.

**TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON
THURSDAY, 8TH MARCH 1951.**

Chief Minister (the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): I beg to move:—

That Rule 23 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government Business be transacted on Thursday, the 8th March, 1951.

Sir, as we have to pass the Budget by the Scheduled date *i. e.*, the 30th March and it is not possible for us to utilize the 31st of March, that day being a holiday, I think it would be better if the House very kindly agrees to this Thursday, *i. e.* the 8th March being taken over for transacting Government work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That Rule 23 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government Business be transacted on Thursday, the 8th March 1951.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*). Sir, I wish to oppose this motion which has been moved by the Leader of the House. The hon. Leader of the House wishes to utilize a non-official day as the 31st of March is a holiday. I don't think he has put forth any sound argument for this proposal. In the first place it is not essential that we must finish the session on the 30th of March. And even if it is, I request that we should not curtail a non-official day but utilize some Saturdays and Sundays. In the second place I very humbly submit that there is very important and urgent work which is to be transacted on the non-official days and it will not be wise to postpone that work. A very large number of resolutions and a very important Bill of my hon. Sister Shrimati Sita Devi have to be considered on this non-official day which is sought to be eliminated. It is only on such a day as this that the hon. Members are in a position to put forth useful suggestions and opinions and if I am not wrong so far useful work has been transacted only on non-official days and, therefore, their importance should in no case be undermined. The House will recall that very useful resolutions concerning the consolidation of holdings and compulsory education for children in the State were considered on the non-official days though it is a different matter whether the Government took any action on them or not. So if we bear the utility of these non-official days in mind we cannot agree to their being utilized for Government business. I am quite sure that we have enough work for these non-official days. I have myself given notice of two or three very important resolutions. One of these resolutions proposes that the rates of the Sales Tax should be reduced as the economic condition of the State is so poor and the purchasing power of its citizens has become so low that the existing rates of the Sales Tax cannot be paid by the people. It is a very important matter and I think it is incumbent on the Government to ascertain the views of the House in this behalf. Similarly another resolution which has been given notice of by me deals with ending the curse of the controls. We should discuss this problem in the House and if need be set up a committee which should suggest ways and means of putting a stop to this evil.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur-General-Rural) (*Hindustani*):
Sir, I have no desire to waste the valuable time of the

House but only wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister that there being very few non-official days he should not utilize them for Government work. It is only on these non-official days that the hon. Members can express themselves freely and frankly. In my opinion any attempt at eliminating these days would be regarded as a deprivation of the rights of the hon. Members. It is a pity that the question hour has already been dispensed with to-day. This clearly means that under such circumstances the hon. Members will not be able to justify their existence in this august House. We have to impress upon our people that we are giving serious consideration to their problems and their difficulties. But how can we achieve this end if we are not able to discuss things which we wish to discuss. Unfortunately the public has already lost faith in us. The public thinks that we keep busy only in making and breaking ministeries and don't do anything constructive. They are right to a very great extent and we have to make an honest effort to prove that we are capable of doing things better than we have been doing heretofore. Of course, I am not in a position to vote against this motion and shall have to follow the wishes of the hon. Leader of the House but I must suggest that in order to enable us to have our say on important things this non official day should not be utilized for Government work and this motion may very kindly be withdrawn.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh; Rural) (*Punjab*): Sir, I want to oppose this resolution because it amounts to an invasion on our valuable rights. If we look at the work transacted during the last session of the Assembly, it would be noticed that on many occasions, sessions were adjourned while there was a large volume of pending work. For this action of the Government the non-official days have to be foregone. If the proceedings of the previous sessions are looked into, it would be found that during the three and a half years from the 15th August, 1947 to 31 October, 1950, only 91 sittings of the Assembly were held. During every session, the Government brought forward motions for transacting Government business on non-official days. This is a great injustice with the general public. May I enquire if it is not possible to transact the work for which 8th March is proposed to be used, on Saturday or Sunday?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The hon. Member has nothing else to do.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If there is more work to be done, it can be transacted on some other days. As I have pointed out, our Assembly has not held even thirty sittings in a year on the average. Extra sittings of the Assembly can be held on Saturday and Sunday if there is some urgent work to be transacted. In the case of Budget its urgency could be understood, but in the present case there is no valid reason for the present motion which is an encroachment on the rights of private Members. For these reasons we should not support this resolution.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, through you I wish to make a request to the Leader of the House. Whereas it is our duty to obey him as Leader, it is also our duty as Members of this House to request him not to deprive us of our very valuable right. In the last session of the Assembly also, which was held in October, 1950, private Members' days were used for official business. Several voices have always been raised against this procedure but no heed has been paid to these. The Budget session is a very important session of the Assembly. Why should it consist of only twenty or twenty two meetings? In other States, Budget sessions are pretty long. By holding longer sessions, not only all the Government work can be finished in time but non-official work can also be properly transacted. At present there appears to be no emergency which might call for official work being transacted on non-official days. I wish to tell the hon. Chief Minister that we are not fond of holidays. Let there be no Holi holidays. If necessary we are prepared to sit even on gazetted holidays if the work demands it. It would, however, be highly unjust if we are deprived of non-official days. No physician has prescribed that the current session should end on the 31st March. Can it not be prolonged up to the 5th or 6th of April?

A Voice : An astrologer has asked them to finish it by the 31st March.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I made the same request during the last session also and would now again request the hon. Chief Minister not to deprive the Members of this House of their valuable right. I hope that he will give due consideration to my request.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) *Hindi* :
Sir, I was surprised to hear the present resolution being moved by the hon. Chief Minister. What is happening here? No meeting of the Assembly was held on Monday which was otherwise a working day. In order to allow the hon. Members one more holiday a non-official day is now being taken away for official work. It pains me to find that the days on which we should work are treated as off days and we are deprived of non-official days. I was sorry to hear His Excellency the Governor states in his Address that legislative work had not been done as speedily as it should have been. Does the Government expect every hon. Member to saying "yes" to every proposal brought forward by it? Whereas it is our duty to pass the Budget and to give proper attention to legislative work, it is also our duty to give expression to the difficulties of the public. This can only be done through resolutions or questions. While no opportunity is provided to us for moving resolutions, we are repeatedly asked to dispense with question hour too. These are the only means by which the activities of the executive can be exposed.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : The country is independent now.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If this is the meaning of freedom, it will only mean freedom from the necessity of legislation. It will be noticed that Budget sessions in other States are fairly long. These commence in January or in the first week of February. The Uttar Pradesh State Legislature devoted considerable time to the consideration of Zamindari Abolition Bill. Why should our Government be afraid of giving us sufficient time for considering and discussing legislative business? The Government neither gives us sufficient time for discussing official measures nor does it let us avail of non-official days. As the Government does not bring forward some very urgent measures it should not deprive us of the opportunity of introducing those. If the Government is bent upon dispensing with non-official days during every session, why are we not asked to assemble and put our signatures in approbation of all Government measures? In that case what is the necessity of putting up all this show? Our State is faced with some very serious problems and it is our duty to pay proper attention to these. I have recently come from my district and one of very urgent problems agitating my mind was the

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

ugly situation created during the recent census operations. The relations between different communities have become very estranged and for Harijans particularly the situation has become very difficult. It demands our immediate attention. I wanted to move a resolution or an adjournment motion with regard to it but no time is being given to enable me to do so. The Government proposes to bring forward some tenancy legislation, but it would do so only if the same can be finalised in time. I wanted to move a resolution that the Government must legislate on this important subject during the current session. It is the right of hon. Members of this House to be given time to express their views on such subjects.

Now, Sir, it is said that the non-official Member's business should be dispensed with tomorrow to dispose of Government business. Such excuses would be put forward even in the case of other non-official Members' days as well. Next week it would be said that non-official Members' day should be devoted to the discussing and passing of the Budget. Then the same thing would happen even later on in view of the fact that the session is not to last longer than the 31st March, 1951. In this way, very important resolutions which can be brought before the House on non-official Members' days, will remain undiscussed. When we go down to our constituents, they ask us as to what we do here except sitting here like dummies. But we are helpless in view of such motions for dispensing with non-official Members' business. Under these circumstances, when the Government has to face the electorates the next year, it should give more time for the non-official Members' business and for legislation in the House so that the people might not get an opportunity to blame the hon. Members for not doing anything here. Whenever there is a working day in between two holidays, the working day is also declared a holiday as for school boys. I, therefore, submit that the non-official Members' business should not be dispensed with tomorrow as also on other such days. If, in spite of our opposition this motion is carried, it will be the fault of these hon. Members who support the Government.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir I want to submit only this that the hon. Members who profess to do so much for the people are responsible for the waste of an hour and a half on discussion of such a small matter. This is the regard

they have for public time. Yet they say that they work for the good of the people.

Chief Minister (The hon. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*): Sir, I want to say a few words by way of reply to the objections raised by the hon. Members who have opposed this motion. It has been said that the Session will not go beyond the 31st March, 1951. I have never said that. All I said in the beginning was that the Budget is to be passed before the 30th March. Consequently, the whole of the month with the exception of two three days, which will be utilized for enacting the ordinances will be taken up for the discussion of the Budget. Then it has been said that the resolution on Sales Tax was to be taken up tomorrow. That only shows the ignorance of rules under which the resolutions which can not be taken up on a day, have to be allotted anew for being taken up on the next non-official Members' day. How has this been presumed that the Sales tax resolution would be taken up tomorrow? When we find that any resolution is important we readily agree to give time for it even on the days meant for Government business, as was done during the last Session. Now according to the rules, ten resolutions can be allotted for a single day, But for the last non-official Members' day, there were only four resolutions. That shows the amount of interest that the hon. Members take in the resolutions. We know when there is work and we do first things first. All the world over, the party in power decides which work should be taken up first and which later. During the days of discussion on the Budget, it is given preference over all other business. We have not done anything new. I had been a member and also the leader of Opposition for a pretty long time in the United Punjab Legislative Assembly. It is my experience that official business is always given preference over non-official business. This is the practice everywhere.

Again, it has been complained why 5th March was declared an off-day. This was done on the request of the House, so that the hon. Members might come here on the 7th March after keeping away for three days. As regards the hour of questions, I am to say that it was suspended on the second March at the decision of the House. I am personally, prepared for giving replies even to day. I requested to day that the question hour be suspended. You, Sir,

[Chief Minister]

got the sense of the House on it and it was decided that the question hour should be suspended today. We want to make the right use of the public time and public money. It was under these circumstances that I made the request for the suspension of non-official Members' business tomorrow.

Sardar Bachan Singh: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, The hon. Chief Minister said that no meeting was held on the 5th March, 1951, on account of the request of the House. I, for one, did not make any such request.

Chief Minister : House means the majority.

Sardar Bachan Singh : So far as I know this question was not put before the House.

Pandit Faqir Chand : May I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether a day will be set apart for non-official business in lieu of the day taken today, after the 31st March, 1951 ?

Chief Minister : House will decide that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Rule 23 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government Business be transacted on Thursday, the 8th March 1951.

The motion was carried.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE.

ORDINANCES.

Chief Minister (the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I beg to lay upon the table of the House Ordinances Nos. 14 to 16 of 1950 and Nos. 1 to 5 of 1951 promulgated since the prorogation of the last session of the Assembly as required by clause (2) (a) of Article 213 of the Constitution.

**ADDITION TO SCHEDULE 'B' TO REGULATION 5 (G) OF THE
PUNJAB AND N. W. F. P. JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION REGULATIONS.**

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I beg to lay upon the table of the House.

A supplementary order of the Governor in regard to the addition made by him to schedule 'B' to Regulation 5 (G) of the late Punjab and N. W. F. P. Joint Public Service Commission (Limitation of Functions) Regulations, as required by clause (5) of Article 320 of the Constitution.

ENTERTAINMENT DUTY.

Chief Minister : I beg to lay upon the table of the House a Draft Order proposed to be issued in regard to the increase in the existing rates of entertainments duty levied under the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1950, as required by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the said Act.

DISCUSSION OF GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The House will now resume discussion of His Excellency the Governor's Address.

Sarjar Ujjal Singh (Ex-Member, West Punjab Legislative Assembly representing Westren Towns, Sikh, Urban) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I am of the opinion that only such criticism should be levelled against a Government which is not destructive in its tendency. As a matter of fact, criticism should always be constructive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : May I know if the House wants any time limit ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Yes, it should be done at the very beginning.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : There should be time limit, Sir, to enable all those hon. Members who have given notices of amendments to take part in the debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : What is the sense of the House ?

Hon. Members : No time limit should be fixed now, Sir.

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Sir, I was saying that criticism should always be constructive. On the other hand, those who are responsible for administrative affairs of the State should face such criticism boldly without attributing motives. They should take it in a sportsman's spirit. With these preliminary remarks, I wish to place certain constructive suggestions before the Government. But before I do so I should congratulate the Government on the successful campaign which it has launched against the locusts. Sometimes back as the House is well aware, a swarm of locusts invaded certain districts in our State. The Government took prompt measures to meet the menace and to save the country from its damaging effects. Here I wish to refer to the fine example set by the young Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur District of zeal and hard work, to save the people from this calamity. The example set by him should, in fact, be emulated by other Deputy Commissioners of the State and they should always try to win the co-operation of the people at large.

Shri Virendra : Those who are young are active everywhere.

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Yes I also expect the young Members of this House to be active. Sir, I was submitting that the Government of our State has been quite alert in this matter. It issued an Ordinance with a view to conscript the services of as many persons as required to fight the menace. It was a step in the right direction. But there is one thing which the Government did not do. Public opinion in the rural areas was not educated in respect of the various methods by which the invasion of the locusts could be most effectively checked. The people in the villages did not know how to meet the menace and to save themselves from ruin. It would have been better if the services of the staff of the Co-operative Department, the Agriculture Department and of the Department of Education had been co-ordinated in order to educate the people on such matters. This

should be done in other districts of the State so that it and when any such calamity befalls them they may be prepared for meeting it themselves.

Sir, in the Address of His Excellency the Governor a reference has been made to the unfortunate tension that prevailed in the State during the census operations in connection with the enteries in the language column. It is a matter of extreme regret that such a state of affairs existed. Here, Sir, I don't wish to enter into any controversy on this point because the conditions are such that even if one says anything with honest intentions he is likely to be misunderstood and misrepresented. Moreover the effect, which controversies on such matters are likely to leave, is generally not happy. I can only say here that the whole of this affair is sad and regrettable. As far as the Government is concerned it is to blame in that it failed to put into effect the solution of the problem which was arrived at sometime back. About one and a half year back a language formula was evolved by our Government and was accepted and blessed by Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Patel. It is a matter of regret that in spite of the fact that one and half years have elapsed no steps have been taken to give it a practical shape. Had it been put into effect, immediately, it was accepted, the present conditions would not have prevailed. My submission is that the present happenings are the outcome of the policy of drift which is being followed by those who control the destiny of our State. A policy of drift is always the cause of such unpleasant conditions. Such a policy provides an opportunity to those elements in the national life of a State who are always inclined to play with the sentiments of the masses and to take advantage of the situation for their personal ends. In such circumstances the public is apt to be led into the direction which is harmful to the best interests of the nation as a whole. In my opinion the interest of the State would have been better served, had the Government cared to put the accepted formula into practice. There are one or two things more which I would like to mention here, because they have a bearing upon the country as a whole, and wherein our State can play an important part. The most important matter before the country is that of food which is being imported from outside. The best interests of the country can be served by increasing the production of foodgrain so that we may not have to depend upon others for

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this necessity of life. In order to remove the shortage of food it is but necessary that efforts in this direction are redoubled. It is only by constant hard work that we can remove shortage, unemployment and poverty. Although it is a matter of joy for us in this State that it is ahead of others in the matter of foodgrain production yet for that we should not relax our efforts. We are, of course, proud of the fact that our State has enough of foodgrains and to spare. But this does not justify any relaxation in this direction. The conditions of agricultural production are, by their very nature, such that any amount of overconfidence might lead to a decrease in production at any time. So we should be vigilant. It is our duty to produce more and more so that India may become self sufficient in the matter of food-grain as soon as possible and we may be able to remove the burden of foreign import from our exchequer. It is a matter which does not need any stressing because the more we produce the more money will be made available, to be utilized in the country for the benefit of the people.

In this connection I may point out that as a result of the deficiency of food-grains in the country, the Central Government will have to import about forty lakh tons of food-grains in 1951-52 with a view to avoid starvation of the people. Now, Sir, it is estimated that even if the purchase of the food grains is secured at the cheapest possible rates, the cost per maund which the Government will have to bear will come to Rs. 17/8/-. Since the Government has to supply the food-grains at the rate of Rs 15/8/- per maund it means that the Central Government must subsidize the State Governments at the rate of Rs. 2/- per maund to enable them to distribute the food-grains among the people at the present price. It is estimated that this subsidy will cost the Central Government to the tune of rupees thirty crores. From this it can well be imagined what a colossal sum amounting to crores of rupees will be drained away from India as a price for the import of food grains from foreign countries and what an immense burden will this subsidy, granted to the State Governments by way of selling the food grains to the public at reduced rates, prove to the Central Government. Under the circumstances, it becomes incumbent upon the Government to see that the production of food grains and industrial raw materials is stepped up. Besides, I feel that the salvation of this State

lies in the completion of the Bhakra Dam. It is common knowledge that the Government of India is fully satisfied that sooner the accomplishment of the Bhakra Scheme is brought about, the better will it be for the general good of the country. But the execution of this scheme requires lot of time and lot of money, too. I, therefore, avail of this opportunity to appeal to the Government of India to give priority to this scheme in the matter of allotment of funds. Besides, the early completion of Bhakra Scheme is all the more essential in view of the uncertain international situation, which has made the import of foodgrains as well as other essential requirements of the country well-nigh impossible. The international situation has compelled us to attain self-sufficiency in food grains as soon as possible. But as you are aware, Sir, the supply of water is the pre-requisite for the increased production of food grains and other raw materials. So by the time the Bhakra Dam Scheme is completed, Government would do well to carry out small schemes for providing water to the Zamindars. For instance tube-wells be sunk. Small canals not involving heavy expenditure be excavated as new big canals will require more time and lot of money. This is necessary because I am convinced that if a zamindar gets a tube well sunk in his land, he can raise his production three-fold. In this connection I may suggest that during monsoon season when the water is available in abundance in the canals, the extra water be given to the zamindars at concession rates for growing crops like "Paddy". This time the zamindars had bumper crops of "Paddy", because a liberal supply of water was made available to them. I would ask the Government to liberalise their policy in the matter of giving irrigation facilities in general and the supply of water during monsoon season in particular to the zamindars, so that they may be able to produce more and enable the Government to export surplus food grains for the alleviation of distress of people in deficit areas. But in this connection I have to make yet another useful suggestion. It is the grant of taccavi loans to the zamindars for purposes of sinking percolation or tube-wells, where electricity is available. I submit that if the Government will advance liberal taccavi loans, I am sure, the zamindar will not only be able to return the entire amount at the harvest time, but also he will be able to increase his income two or three times, and indirectly he will thus be serving his country. Then supply of good seeds and that, too, on the basis of taccavi, should be made to the zamindars at the proper time. This is the crying need of the hour, because even the

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biggest zamindar coming from the West Pakistan, cannot afford to spare money and purchase good seeds. As a matter of fact the feeling in the minds of the refugee zamindars is as if they are going to colonize the waste land over again. I, therefore, submit that the Government should either encourage the zamindars to produce good seeds themselves or supply them on taccavi basis at the proper time. I am constrained to remark that this year the seeds were not supplied in time to the zamindars as a result of which the yield is not expected to be so good as it would have been if the seeds had been made available at the proper moment of the sowing season. It is common knowledge that the crops sown late, yield less. The Government will be well advised to issue instructions to the officers concerned to see that the supply of seeds is made to the zamindars well in time.

Then, Sir, I must felicitate the Government for their commendable efforts to bring all the lands under the plough. But I want them to put in still more endeavours in this direction. Not an inch of land should be allowed to lie fallow. It must be harnessed to yield the maximum produce. Now I find that large tracts of land of allottees have not been brought under active cultivation for want of irrigation or taccavi facilities. They should be afforded the same and asked to intensively cultivate the lands. If they fail to do so, the same may be given on long lease to others who can muster energy for bringing about increased production. Again, the Government should take quick action in this respect because if it fails to lease out lands this month, the rabi crops will not be very encouraging.

It goes without saying that our country lags far behind the other countries in the matter of yield per acre. In Egypt the yield of cotton crops is six times that of ours here. Even in China the people there have stolen a march over us. Their yield per acre is greater than that of ours. The main cause for this reduced production per acre in our country, is the non-availability of water in sufficient quantity to the zamindars. And the other reason is that our zamindars do not make use of the fertilizers which help greatly

in increasing the yield per acre. The indigenous manure is enough. The Government should make arrangements for the supply of fertilizers to the zamindars at cheap and reasonable rates. Now-a-days fertilizers are being made available at the rate of Rs. 14/8/- per maund. One acre of land requires the use of two or three maunds of fertilizers costing Rs. 4 /-. A zamindar with an ordinary small holding cannot afford to purchase it. So the pressing need in this respect at this moment is that the price of the fertilizers should be reduced so as to come within the reach of the zamindars. Secondly it should be given to zamindars on taccavi basis, at the time of the sowing crops. I am of the opinion that if the Government can provide fertilizers to the zamindars on taccavi basis, it can by all means recover the cost of fertilizer at the harvesting of the crop. The yield will be so much that after the payment of the price of the fertilizers, the zamindars will have left ample produce with them still much more than what he could have expected the yield to be without the use of the fertilizers. I commend the efforts of the Government for making 'compost' available to the zamindars. But that alone is not enough. The supply of fertilizers is most essential if we want to step up production. I can assure the Government that the zamindars of progressive view will be right glad to avail of the opportunity if the fertilizers are supplied to them. The Government will witness that the production has increased manifold. The supply of improved agricultural implements to the zamindars is yet another pressing need.

Zamindars from West Punjab have been advanced loans amounting to Rs. 500/- each for purchasing bullocks. This amount is quite insufficient as it cannot cover the cost of even one bullock. For instance a zamindar owning hardly five acres or less whom the Government cannot advance more than Rs. 500/- cannot afford to purchase a pair of bullocks. I am not at the same time oblivious of the fact that our Government is hard-pressed for money. But keeping our present needs in view it is necessary for the Government to make adequate arrangements to advance as much taccavi loans to these zamindars as would be sufficient to cover the cost of a pair of bullocks. If our Government wants to step up food production in the country then adequate facilities shall have to be afforded to the agriculturists. As a matter of fact adequate sums are required to meet their immediate needs.

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It is really absurd to say that agriculture can be carried on without the help of any capital. It is an open secret that rural credit societies have no capital to advance adequate sums on credit basis to zamindars. Therefore, it is in the fitness of things that our Government should make arrangements for making sufficient sums available to them. The Reserve Bank has already made it clear in unequivocal terms that rural banking schemes should be embarked upon in the rural areas with a view to renovating the rural economy. So long as Government does not make arrangements for providing credit facilities to zamindars, agriculture in our State cannot make any headway.

Now a word about the evacuee property. I think the rehabilitation of our zamindar brethren from Pakistan has more or less been completed. In spite of certain difficulties which the people have had to suffer, the work in this connection has been generally satisfactory. But I am really constrained to remark that nothing substantial has been done in connection with urban rehabilitation. His Excellency the Governor is quite justified in saying that the urban rehabilitation is in many ways tied up with the problem of evacuee property. My hon. Friends will subscribe to my view when I say that people in the urban areas have no houses to live in and no factories to start. They have neither the funds nor are they afforded any credit facilities with a view to rehabilitating themselves. It is really a matter of deep regret that no satisfactory efforts, whatsoever, have been made to solve the problem of urban rehabilitation. Perhaps they are banking upon this hope that they would be getting something from Pakistan in lieu of the property left by us there. If it is so, then I may tell them that they are labouring under a wrong impression. People know full well how things are happening there. Instances in this connection are not wanting here. Pakistan Government have put in claim of Rs 8 lakhs against the Kashmir Transport Service. As a matter of fact our people know how false claims are being prepared in Pakistan against the private concerns of our State. We do not know whether or not the matters regarding our property left by us in Pakistan would be settled. I know it is not in the hands of our Government to decide these matters. But I am of the opinion that unless and

until the Government of this State do not lay great stress on the early and immediate settlement of this problem, the urban rehabilitation of our State cannot be possible in a satisfactory manner. It is said that urban rehabilitation is to a great extent dependent upon the settlement of our claims regarding the property left by us in Pakistan. About $3\frac{1}{2}$ years have passed since we migrated to India. The allotment of land has been completed and the people in the rural areas have been rehabilitated to a great extent. But nothing substantial has been done for the urban rehabilitation. I am really constrained to remark that the progress of the assessment of our claims is very slow. So far only 100 claims officers have been entrusted with the work of assessments of claims. The position at present is that a claims officer does not deal with more than 120 claims applications a month. If 200 claims officers are appointed and they are able to dispose of 200 applications a month each, then in that case only 4 lakh claims applications would be dealt with by them in a year. There are about 10 lakh claims in all. It will not be possible for the 100 claims officers to complete these claims within any reasonable period. I would, therefore, suggest that at least 400 claims officers should be appointed with instructions for each one to deal with at least 200 claims monthly. If this is done, I am sure, it will not take more than 1 year to complete the assessment of the total number of claims. After the assessment of these claims and the working out of the relevant figures it will be known as to how much amount is due to the people who have put in their claims. The speed of the work in this direction is very slow and if this work is done with such a speed then it will take a very long time to finish. People feel frustrated. The Government and the people of this State should press the Government of India for the speedy settlement of the claims of the displaced persons.

Now about the administration of our State. So long as our Government do not strengthen the tone of the administration, it will be well-nigh impossible for them to win over the confidence of the people, and thus they would not be in a position to do any constructive work for the welfare of the State, as a whole. Let me clearly state that I have no mind to make any insinuations

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against anybody. As a matter of fact I feel in the heart of my hearts that our administration is not free from the evils of corruption and inefficiency. I admit, it is not an easy task to eradicate corruption. At the same time I also admit that it is very easy to make allegation of corruption but it is very difficult to prove them. In fact every person whosoever, he may be, will not deny this fact that corruption is rampant both among the officials and non-officials. I have no doubt that corruption can only be eradicated if we are all determined to curb this evil with a revolutionary spirit and a missionary zeal. Who does not know that the Government of China headed by Chiang-Ki-Shek was a corrupt Government. In spite of the repeated pressure which the United States of America brought upon the Government of China to uproot corruption in the interests of its stability, they miserably failed to curb this evil. But afterwards when Peoples' Government came into power, they succeeded in putting an end to this evil within a short period of one year. As a result of the eradication of corruption both in the administration and in the general public, the prices came down to appreciable levels. Now we do not find the evils of corruption in that State. It is not my intention to make any insinuation against anybody. But I want to impress upon the Government and my hon. Friends that we should not tolerate the existence of corruption in our State. We should not give any quarter to those who resort to corruption. We should not sympathise with those who are corrupt and dishonest. If we work with a missionary zeal in this direction, I am sure, we shall succeed in eradicating it root and branch.

Further, I am of the opinion that inefficiency has crept in our day-to-day administration. Instances in this connection are not wanting. Files and applications remain pending for months together. I do not wish to give out the names of the officials who have been causing undue delay in dealing with the applications. It is not possible even to trace out some applications submitted to the Government. I have myself experienced that it was not possible for me to trace out an application, what to speak of even receiving some infor-

mation about the decision made on that application. On contacting the officials at the top about the fate of an application I was told that it had not reached them at all. This is how inefficiency has crept in the services. Here I would suggest to the Government that if they want to remove inefficiency from the services, they should themselves set an example by disposing of the files and other papers in within a week's time at the most. Officials also should do the same thing in respect of the papers placed before them for their disposal. Explanations should be called from those officials who keep the papers meant for their disposal with them for more than a week.

We should all make earnest efforts to eradicate corruption root and branch from this State but the trouble is that the whole Government's machinery from top to bottom is defective. Therefore, what is required is that we should utilize anti-corruption methods with fullest vigour and zeal. I would appeal to the House that we should all co-operate with the Government in its efforts to purify the administration so that we may be able to march forward on the road to progress.

Sardar Kabul Singh (Jullundur, East Sikh, Rural : *(Punjabi)*)

Sir, I quite agree with my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh that we should make constructive suggestions to the Government instead of harping on its lapses. I would submit, Sir, that at present we are face to face with a calamity that has descended upon us in the form of locusts. It has done incalculable harm to our standing crops. It will not be an exaggeration to say that locusts are enemy No. 1 of the peasants of the State. They cause famine in the State by destroying our crops. I must appreciate the efforts made by the Deputy Commissioner Jullundur to exterminate locusts in his district but the district authorities in Hoshiarpur were not awakened to their sense of responsibility to fight this menace. It will be recalled that locusts swarms visited the district of Hoshiarpur on the 28th January but the district authorities did not budge an inch to take anti-locust measures up till 15th February. It is most disheartening to note that in spite of the fact that H. E. was in the district those days, even he did not move the district authorities to take prompt action and so H. E. was also guilty of being inactive in this respect. The

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responsibility for this belated action falls upon the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur and also upon the Commissioner, Jullundur Division. Then afterwards in spite of the efforts made by the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur no recourse was adopted to locate and destroy the eggs and to spray such hoppers as had hatched. I must say that it is a great slur on the district authorities of Hoshiarpur that they only realized the gravity of the situation so late as 13th February when the locusts swarms had visited their district on the 28th January. Unless the eggs and hoppers are destroyed in Hoshiarpur district all efforts made by the Jullundur authorities will go waste.

Secondly, the census operations in our State have been the subject of a communal controversy about the record in the language column and have created strained atmosphere in villages. This language controversy has been going on for the last 2½ years, but unhappily the very uniting factor was made the subject of dis-unity. Communalism is flourishing in the State but the Government has not taken any steps to nip this evil in the bud. It is a matter of shame that every movement is carried on in the State on the basis of religion or *Bradri* or personalities though India is a secular State. Every political party confines its activities to communal considerations. I feel that such a mentality is detrimental to the national progress. I have never heard of such a tendency being shown by any political party in any other part of the world. When Members sitting on the Government benches are influenced by such considerations and begin to make discriminations between Jat and Harijan and Panthic and others then I should say that God alone can save this State from the harmful effects of communalism. A Persian poet has remarked :—

ਚੂੰ ਕੁਫਰ ਅਜ ਕਾਬਾ ਬਰ ਖਜੇਦ ਕੁਜਾਂ ਮਾਨਦ ਸੁਖਤਮਾਨੀ ।

ਚੂੰ ਕੁਫਰ ਅਜ ਕਾਬਾ ਬਰਖੇਜਦ ਕੁਜਾਂ ਮਾਨਦ ਮੁਸਲਮਾਨੀ ।

In this connection, I may point out that even the Secretary, State Congress found this communal fire and did not take the trouble of knowing the version of the other side. Such attitude has created communal discord and ill-will between different communities.

Then, Sir, a school was opened in Jullundur district for imparting training in 'murabbabandi' but this school was short-lived and was closed after two months. The boys who had joined this school to receive training are again sitting idle in their homes. The retracing of such steps show lack of proper planning by the Government. His Excellency the Governor has remarked in his Address that the law and order situation in the State is satisfactory. I cannot subscribe to this view as Section 144 is in force in almost every district throughout the year. I think that the condition of law and order has never been so unsatisfactory during the pre-partition days, as it is at present. During the British regime Section 144 was never in force for such a length of time. Britishers were only influenced by consideration of work and nothing else. But now-a-days much deterioration has set in in the standard of administration. I would like to refer to a case of Naib Tehsildar which has become a great scandal in our district. That Naib Tehsildar has earned a great reputation of being efficient, a conscientious worker and quick in the disposal of work entrusted to his care. I understand that he disposed of 894 cases within a fortnight while the out-turn of the disposal of such cases by the two Tehsildars during the same period was 57 and 51. Then during the period from October to the end of December the number of cases disposed of by three Tehsildars was 66, 74 and 369 respectively whereas this Naib Tehsildar disposed of 1164 cases within the same period. He has got a certificate from the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, and even from His Excellency the Governor in recognition of his hard and efficient work. He has been a victim of conspiracy of certain bad characters who supply women to the Commissioner for immoral purposes. I understand that this Naib Tehsildar has been transferred from that district by the Commissioner at the instance of his paramour. The Commissioner is debauchery personified and he has lowered the prestige of his exalted office by indulging in such unholy pastime.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, is the word 'luchpuna' (debauchery) parliamentary ?

Sardar Kabul Singh : Sir, the circumstances under which this victimization has been effected are rather unusual and it is height of

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injustice that the Naib Tehsildar has been transferred for no fault whatsoever on his part. This case has become a scandal and is talked over by every man in the street.

I was saying, Sir, that ours is a democratic form of Government and so it is all the more imperative that the administration should be responsive to public opinion. Even a despot like Maharaja Ranjit Singh who had carved out a kingdom for himself with the help of his sword, alone had to submit to the verdict of the people and express his willingness to be whipped, when he was accused of being a bad character by Akali Phula Singh. I ask how law and order can be maintained when.....

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : On a point of order, Sir. There was a convention in this House before that those public servants who have no opportunity to defend themselves should not be condemned openly in the House. I was expecting that the Leader of the House himself would protest against the remarks of the hon. Member but he has kept silent and, therefore, I draw your attention to the convention.

Chief Minister : I have always requested hon. Members to observe that convention but as it has been respected more in its breach than observance I have, therefore, said nothing. I feel, Sir, that as the hon. Members are privileged persons in the House they are expected not to use defamatory words or say things which they would not have said outside.

Master Kabul Singh : Sir, the fact of the matter is that it has become extremely difficult to tell the truth these days. We don't bear the public servants any personal grudge. If we criticize them, it is because we are anxious that they should desist from such conduct as may be calculated to bring down the prestige of the administration. Two things are essential for the maintenance of law and order. There can be respect for law only if the innocent and peaceful citizens are afforded protection and ruffians are severely dealt with. On the other hand if malefactors have the backing of the officials, law will have no fear for them and no respectable person will be safe from their

mischiefs. Again, Sir, if we are real well-wishers of our State we cannot look complacently at the corruption that is being indulged in under the guise of female welfare. As honest people, we should never try to shield that which we consider evil, nor should we try to conceal truth. We know the real state of law and order better than anybody else.

Now I would like to say a few words about Grow More Food Campaign. Government's efforts in this direction have been praised. True, the Government has succeeded in reclaiming some land. But, Sir, a very large area of land in this State is still lying uncultivated. The Government was requested to allot it to the landless tenants who were willing to pay for it six times the amount of land revenue but no action was taken in the matter. If the Government is really earnest about increasing food production, it should see that not a single acre of land remains uncultivated. Mere slogans won't do. Our words are bitter no doubt but our intentions are good.

We want this State to be prosperous and that is why we bring home to the Government its weaknesses. Let it not be deluded by its imposing superstructure. Let it also mind its feet of clay. We are today sitting on a wall of sand. If we want to improve the administration, we have to weed out corrupt people and appreciate the work of honest officials by giving them suitable rewards.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : (ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi): Sir, I must first thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the matters mentioned in His Excellency's Address. I agree with my Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh that the time is such that we should avoid destructive criticism of the Government and make constructive suggestions only.

Sir, there is no doubt about it that laudable efforts have been made by the Government to meet the locust menace. An ordinance has also been promulgated for this purpose. Various Ministers have also been to the locust infested areas. But for the diversion of the attention of the officials as a result of His Excellency's visit to Nangal, it would have been possible to overcome the locust menace in Hoshiarpur

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district much earlier. The delay that was thus caused in making an all-out effort was responsible for a very great damage. Now, Sir, I would like to convey to the hon. Minister some very valuable information about an anti-locust measure discovered in America. This consists in spraying two very virulent poisons, namely, chloradane and toxaphane over the locust infested area. If one pound of either of these poisons is mixed up in two hundred lbs. of brine it will be sufficient to destroy all the hoppers in an area of twenty acres. This operation can be conducted from on aeroplane flying at the height of 200 feet. In this way, it is possible to spray 7,200 lbs. of the mixture in twenty-five to thirty minutes. One such spray will result in the destruction of as many as twelve crore and eighty lakhs of hoppers. One aeroplane can be used to make ten sprays a day. Sir, it is a matter for regret that though the Government of India had the knowledge of the coming of locusts much in advance of their actual attack, no steps were taken to use the most up-to-date method of exterminating them. If these poisons of which I have made a mention had been used in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur districts, it would have been possible to nip the evil in the bud, especially when the public opinion was in favour of the destruction of locusts and people were not moved by any silly sentiments. But all-out effort was not made when the locusts were in the hopper stage and when it was easy to destroy them.

Then, Sir, His Excellency stated that the law and order position had improved and was improving and thanks to the vigilance of the Government, activities of subversive elements had been curbed.

Dacoities are being committed with the active aid of the Police Constables. It is something most disconcerting. This clearly means that we cannot depend on the vigilance of our Police and we will have to exercise vigilance even on them. It is said that in some dacoities committed in Amritsar and Ferozepore districts dacoits ran away with the police men themselves. These are very bad precedents and we should subject our Police to full control.

Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Kabul Singh suggested that steps should be taken to remove inefficiency and corruption from among the officers of the various Departments. Here I may tell the hon.

Members that I have no intention of saying anything against any individual who cannot be afforded an opportunity of defending himself. But I shall only say that when officers of our Government are corrupt and responsible Members of this House are a party to that corruption, no satisfaction of the general public can be brought about. If we are honest about ending corruption we should take a solemn pledge that we will not tolerate it in any shape or form. This corruption cannot be got rid of if we take into our heads to construct bungalows at the cost of the public. It is really shameful that all the necessary material for building the bungalows, *e. g.* coal, bricks, concrete and cement etc. should be taken by a responsible Member of this House from the contractors free of any charge.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order Sir. My hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh Kang contrary to his own words is departing from the practice of not bringing allegations against persons who are not in a position to defend themselves. Obviously he is bringing allegations against an hon. Minister who is not present in the House.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Sir, it is also said that if these bungalows are demolished, iron girdles bearing the words P. W. D. are sure to be discovered. It is a very bad example which is being set by one of very responsible persons in this House and I would request the hon. Chief Minister that he should take an immediate action against him. I wonder why such persons should be allowed to continue as Ministers of the Government particularly when as remarked by my hon. Friend Sen Bhim Sain Sachar they are not to be entrusted with any portfolio. To my mind this appears to be the case of a person referred to in the following lines.

ਨਾਮ ਦਾਰੋਗਾ ਕਰ ਦੇ ਚਾਹੇ ਪਾਂਚ ਤਲਬ ਕਮ ਕਰ ਦੇ ।

ਨਾਮ ਬਜ਼ੀਰਾਂ ਧਰ ਦੇ ਚਾਹੇ ਪਾਂਚ ਮਹ ਨਮੇ ਕਮ ਕਰ ਦੇ ।

ਨਾਮ ਦਰੋਗਾ ਧਰ ਦੇ ਚਾਹੇ ਪਾਂਚ ਤਲਬ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦੇ ।

ਨਾਮ ਵਜ਼ੀਰਾਂ ਧਰ ਦੇ ਚਾਹੇ ਪਾਂਚ ਮਹਿਕਮੇ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦੇ ।

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

Sir; It is a matter of great satisfaction that our producer has changed this deficit State into a surplus State so far as food grains are concerned. This is a fact which is patent not only to the Punjab Government but also to the Central Government. But it appears that certain interested persons will not allow this satisfactory state of affairs to continue. These undesirable people have carried during the census operations the Hindi-Punjabi controversy to these very useful simple minded members of our society. This was the greatest disservice that they could render to the State as also to themselves. If by these dirty means they succeed in bringing about some estrangement between the producers or between the tenants and the zamindars where is the food to come from? Such an estrangement is sure to affect the production of food in the State and the result will be that instead of 25 per cent cut in our rations we may be subjected to a cut of 50 per cent.

Sir, I have also to say a few words about the construction of the Bhakra Dam. His Excellency has in his Address said that a Control Board has been set up and that this work is to be executed by the Irrigation Department. I think these are not the right lines to adopt. The first mistake that the Government committed in this connection was that it sent three or four officers abroad to recruit engineers for this project and incurred a huge expenditure on them. All this expenditure was uncalled for and was a sheer waste. If things are allowed to continue in this way, we will have to spend on the project at least one and a half times of the amount which has been actually estimated. So far as our own engineers are concerned, I am not very much satisfied with their work. They only know how to pick up faults but they are not fit to do anything constructive. I am convinced that this project can only be properly executed by some foreign Company and we should try to arrange for the services of one without any delay. Any delay on our part is sure to result in serious consequences. It is estimated that if the execution is delayed for one year, we may have to suffer a loss of a very huge amount which may range between 80 and 120 crores. This is a very considerable amount of money particularly when we know that the whole estimated cost of the project should not be more than 140 crores of rupees. Besides this, I am

of the opinion that the Chairman of the Bhakra Dam Board should be a whole-time man and not a person like His Excellency who is so busy that he cannot devote sufficient time for this work. A part-time man is not likely to render any useful service. As a matter of fact we should have a Chairman of the calibre of David Lilenthal a gentleman who worked as a Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority and toured our country a few days ago. It may also be of some interest for hon. Members that when the Tennessee Valley project was under way a steel plant was set up near this place to supply parts of machines but it is not possible to do any such thing in this country as the necessary machinery for a plant would not be available and it is a further reason why the Bhakra Dam project should be entrusted to some foreign company.

In addition to this, before the commencement of 'Grow More Food campaign' subsidy amounting to fifty percent was given by the Government on the sinking of wells and for the use of chemical manures. This has now been stopped but a great deal of expenditure is being incurred on moving about in jeeps or on holding of meetings of certain committees. I feel that if all this money is spent on sinking wells, all our shortage in the matter of food can be made good. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr Deputy Speaker : Although no time limit has been fixed, I request the hon. Members to be as brief as possible so that more members may be able to take part in the discussion.

Sardar Swarn Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, the Governor's Address gives nothing but a picture of gloom for the major population of this State and no hope of immediate relief. On the one hand when we had hardly got out of the difficulties into which our State was hurled as a result of un-precedented floods, we have a visitation from another equally great calamity in the form of locust. I do not want to take up much time on this locust matter, because so far as its control, so far as the scheme of its extermination, is concerned after the initial mistakes one can say with a certain amount of confidence that the present arrangements which are being taken have inspired a ray a hope that effects you, steps will be taken for the complete extermination of eggs and hoppers. The part played in

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this matter by the officials, particularly the Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur and other Officers requires special mention. The area of destruction is being widened and parts of Pepsu and un-affected parts of Jullundur are being brought under the activity of the locust and very speedy action is therefore necessary. It is hoped that with the co-operation of the people which is being spontaneously and generously given, the administrative set up will be able to meet the menace. But it is time that apart from the extermination of the menace, we should think about the items of relief. That is also of equally importance. What form the relief should take is a matter of vital importance whether it is to be in the form of foodgrains in the form of fodder or in the form of tacavi or in the form of remission of land revenue. These are the various things about which Government should formulate a tangible scheme and chalk out a definite plan for affording the necessary relief. I do not want to go into the details at present but I only want to sound a warning that in assessing relief by way of remission of land revenue, the stereotyped rules such as the land revenue rules or the F.C.'s. notifications will have to be departed from. Formerly in the matter of floods no relief by way of remission of land revenue was given and shelter was taken under certain old stereotyped and out-of-date notifications and percentages of losses were counted. That system will have to be scraped and an imaginative handling of and a sympathetic approach to the problem is required. The amount of destruction of fodder and damage to other crops will have to be taken into consideration irrespective of the absence or presence of damage with regard to certain other crops. Certain items do require immediate relief and it is hoped that Government will take positive and immediate steps in this direction.

Next to this nature's, wrath, with even great velocity, came the man-made wrath upon the innocent population of the State, I mean the serious and complicated situation that has arisen over the bungling of the language question in the census operations. It will be a matter of very interesting history if some one will go into the real reasons and real causes of this calamity into which the rural population of some districts today has been hurled. It passes my comprehensions as to why there should be a scheme to ask a major part of the population

to give incorrect statements about an existing fact. One can understand the desire to make a change in the existing state of affairs. One can appreciate if one wants to divorce the existing language and says that hence forward I want Hindi, Arabic, English or any other language. But when it was only a factual survey of the existing circumstances and that in that respect there should be a sort of unholy conspiracy and people should be persuaded, one and all, belonging to a particular class to state an untruth, is something which passes my comprehensions. Government cannot be absolved of its responsibilities in this matter because it was the administrative set-up of this State which had supplied the personnel to carry out the operations and I have still not heard of any action being taken against any public servant or against any outstanding public leader for making deliberate false statement with regard to the factual statements on the question of language. I have seen innocent people being dragged in scores to courts and when I questioned both the parties about the controversy and as to whether they understood what they had done, they expressed all ignorance. In this state of affairs the Government of the State has excelled its previous records in the matter of indecision and want of any firm action against those responsible for creating this schism in the major part of the rural population of the State. At the time of reckoning, the State will be the biggest target that will have to answer for all this trouble to which the people have been put. So far the only action that has been taken is to let loose repression upon the people who at the worst acted merely as tools and those people who deliberately and defiance of law, and defiance of what I would call proper order or proper instructions, flagrantly disobeyed them and deliberately made false statements have been let off and no action has been taken against them. I am a member of the Congress Organisation but it pains me to admit that Congress men in this respect have betrayed a tendency which has opened the eyes of many and has set a thinking quite a large number of fairly responsible people to take stock of the position and to find out as to whether this set-up is competent to meet the situation. (*Hear, hear*) Serious doubts have arisen that if in a comparatively small matter where the implication of giving the language as Punjabi or Hindi are fraught with any serious or tangible consequences, if in a comparatively innocent affair, these people behave

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in this ugly manner, I wonder whether in a comparatively more important matter, where vital issues are involved and where important decisions have to be taken, they will be able to cope with the situation that might arise. This is the view of all thinking sections of the State and I have no hesitation in admitting that there is a widespread frustration on that score. It is the vital duty of the head of the State and the Government of the State to take some imaginative step to restore the confidence which to-day is extremely shaken and which, if I may say so, does not at all exist. I am not at all exaggerating. What has happened in the country-side? Those people who acted as mere tools, those who did not know even a word of Hindi, were, by ingenious propaganda, made to say Hindi as their language. I do not hold cudgels on behalf of one or the other and others who might have been equally incited by others resented this and a sort of social boycott or an exhibition of feeling of anger did exist. How has the Government tried to solve the problem? All that it has done is to drag innocent people to courts of law and powers which have been given to the police and the administration have been abused under the security proceedings or Code of Criminal procedure and on grounds which are wholly insufficient, people have been prosecuted. I do not want to discuss the merits of these cases. They might be sub judice. But it is for the Government to say whether it has satisfied itself as to whether the action it is taking is firstly according to law and secondly whether it is likely to achieve the purpose which it wants to achieve. Has the position in those villages wherefrom thousands of people have been arrested, improved? If not, then the handling of the situation is wrong. I do not make secret of my views. I have explained it to the hon. Chief Minister that the administrative approach to this problem is wholly wrong. So long as outside forces are permitted to work the havoc, to preach and instigate the people, so long as the initial mistake which was committed is persisted in, so long as the false sense of security and false hopes of snatching the land from landowners and handing it over as a free gift to those people who are supposed to be heads of the forces of liberation, are being utilised against innocent people, so long as this state of affairs continues, the position can never improve. Nay, it may increase a thousand-fold. If the situation deteriorates, it does

not require a prophet to state that we will be hurling this State into difficulties the magnitude of which has not been properly calculated by those who are at the helm of affairs in the State. I do not want to act as an alarmist, but on the basis of information in my possession, I can say that as a result of this propaganda a feeling has been created by which any possibility of rapprochement without any imaginative approach, without any joint action, is absolutely impossible. How has this problem been tackled? A large number of people have been arrested and when bails are offered, they are refused. That is an absolutely illegal use of the powers which are vested in the executive and it is the main thing which shakes the confidence in any administration when it resorts to lawlessness to achieve its purpose. Further in trying to achieve the purpose in this manner, even the fringe of the problem is not touched. Therefore, I very strongly stress the desirability of calling immediate halt to the extremely tactless and repressive act which the State Government has undertaken in making these indiscriminate arrests. It has not got the guts really to catch hold of those people, whether they are in the Congress organisation or outside it, who are actually responsible for this state of affairs. It is very chary to take action against those people. The other day I was greatly amused to find a responsible member of this House who is also connected with press say that press cannot do much havoc because in the villages papers are not read. That was an argument which surprised me more than anything else. Sometimes the mind of the villager is poisoned to the greatest extent by an extremist approach to the problem. I therefore submit that the problem requires imaginative and immediate handling and some stern action is necessary before an actual flare-up takes place. The other day I was very much struck by the shouting of slogans in the court precincts themselves when people were brought in handcuffs--slogans like Punjabi boli zindabad and counter-slogans. Those people were extremely reluctant to accept the offer of bails. Now you have dealt with previous situations, but those did not touch the honour, the susceptibilities and the pride of the rural population. But if the present goes out of your hands—and it is bound to go if you continue in the present senseless policy of repression—then God only should take charge of you and the future of the State. Therefore, Sir, through you I want to sound a very strong note of warning to the Government that the manner in which it is dealing with the present situation is extremely clumsy. It should

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straight away approach the Government of India for a notification to the effect that so far as the collection of the data on the language question is concerned, it should be scrapped. Every responsible official has admitted before me—even the Census Superintendent has admitted—that so far as the indication of the language spoken by individuals in the State is concerned, the information is wrong as it is based on communal bias. Therefore, it is time that the real cause of the trouble was tackled and the Government of India was approached for a clear declaration that information obtained during census operations on the question of language is vitiated by extraneous circumstances and no conclusions should be drawn for whatever purpose from such information. This matter is not without precedent. In 1941 there was some madness with respect to the indication of religion and the Government of India took a decision that the figures were bolstered up in every way and therefore no action should be taken on the figures collected. I hope that the hon. Chief Minister realises the gravity of the situation. He should feel convinced that the information collected is wholly wrong and therefore the fears of the people on that score should straightaway be dispelled and the people should be told that the information which has been collected is factually wrong and therefore no conclusions one way or the other would be drawn. After securing that background, a joint effort should be made to restore confidence, not by resorting to repression but by explaining to the people that by stating Hindi no lands would be given by snatching them from zamidars and that they have not become demi-Gods by stating the language as either Punjabi or Hindi one way or the other. They should be brought down to the normal level. The factual position should be explained by means of a well-worded communique issued on behalf of the State Government. After that, there should be a joint approach and both parties should be told that they are complementary of each other so far as the rural matters are concerned, and so far as the rural fabric and the economic condition of the country-side in our State are concerned. No State, much less the present day weak Government under a tottering democratic system on the eve of general elections, can afford to sit quiet under such circumstances. Even a firmly established and a newly elected legislature—I do not make a secret of it—will be unable to satisfactorily tackle a problem with the economic fabric with which our State

is faced today. The resources in the State or in the Centre are so meagre that those who hoped that probably a military man or a police constable would be placed at the disposal of each individual or that a millennium will result if Hindi is mentioned as the language and not Punjabi or vice versa and that food-grains depots or fodder depots would be given or that their economic conditions would overnight undergo a change, would be sorely disappointed. That is a picture which I cannot conceive of. If that were so, I would go any length—not to talk of Punjabi or Hindi—to make any sacrifice if the economic ills of our people can be secured in that way. But, Sir, I know that the Government with its present political set-up and its weaknesses and shortcomings is incapable of effectively handling the various problems that it has to face today such as locusts, food, economic planning, reconstruction programme and so on. It is by the restoration of the original fabric of economic structure of the rural side that there is any ray of hope. Those who are today inciting the rural population forget that they are playing with fire because the forces of disruption when let loose would engulf all those who are banking upon them for petty gains at the time of the polls. Therefore, Sir, this is a problem which will have to be tackled in the present set-up with this approach that the existing fabric of economic inter-dependence of the Harijan and the land-owing classes will have to be restored. We cannot give any substitute for this. I have spent restless nights over this intricate problem but have not been able to find any solution which can be regarded as a substitute for the economic fabric which has been prevailing in the country-side ever since. Those who are out to shatter that fabric are not doing any service to those whose cause they espouse; they are exposing the ignorant masses to danger without affording them any relief whatsoever. I would request the Government to utilize all their resources—whatever little is left—and their entire administrative machinery for the purpose of restoring confidence in the minds of the people and make them realise in a spirit of reality that the two sections of the society Harijans and the land-owners are complementary to each other and one cannot progress without the other and that realisation would be the desire of us all. We should all strive for that ultimate goal that these Harijans, these backward classes to whatever community they may belong should occupy a respectable position both economically and socially. The disruption of the existing

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pattern is no solution of their ills. I have no doubt in my mind that their upliftment in all phases of life is possible. The State Government is making improvements in that direction. The Harijans have been given the right to purchase property; they are being given other rights in the form of educational facilities and other privileges. If in the wake of all that, an atmosphere is created in which they are always painted as victims and the other party as aggressors, if this game is played for long, I have no hesitation in saying that this game will lead to extremely dangerous results. I would, therefore, strongly stress upon the Government the desirability of a fresh approach to the problem. That approach certainly does not lie in repression because that would lead to chaos.

Sir, I have a number of other things to say but I will not at the moment make any reference to them. I have laid stress on the subject to which I give top-most priority and I do not want to confuse the issue by bringing in other small matters. On the subject of administrative improvements and other matters connected with the economic future of our State, I shall place my point of view on some other occasion when I get time by your accommodation.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : On a point of order, Sir. The Governor's Address is being discussed for the last two days but no opportunity has been given to any Member of the Opposition to speak. I would request you to give us a chance also to have our say.

Sardar Ujjal Singh : There is no regular Opposition Party in this House.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural)
(Hindi) : Sir, it is four years back that we achieved independence. There are different views in this House on the standard which our administration has achieved during this period. There are some who hold that we have made progress while there are others who think that we have gone down. Here I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to some of the important matters. Although I have political differences with Shri Bhim Sen Sachar but he was a strong Premier. He did away with the practice of Governors presiding over cabinet meetings in his time. But on Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava's

return to Chief Ministership the I.C.S. officers at the instance of the Governor have begun to interfere in the work of the Ministers and do whatever they like by utilizing the Cabinet Sub-Committees in such a way that the Governor presides over them and the Secretaries place whatever important matter they like on the agenda of the cabinet sub-committees. In this way they exercise an influence in such matters. When the Governor expresses his opinion on a certain matter beforehand, the hon. Ministers are compelled to be silent and in this manner it is only the Governor and the Secretaries whose policy prevails. In this connection I may submit that a heavy responsibility lies on the shoulders of the hon. Member and with the general elections approaching fast, it becomes all the more heavy.

At this stage the Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Sri Ram Sharma a member of the Panel of Chairmen.

If what I am going to state becomes an accomplished fact, then it would be a bad day for the people of our State.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Sir. The other day Mr. Speaker assured us that all those hon. Members who had given notices of amendments to the motion under discussion would be given time to make a speech but the manner in which the proceedings of the House are being conducted indicates that they will not get time.

Mr. Chairman : This is no point of order.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : My submission is that a great injustice is going to be perpetrated on our rural people by the levy of a betterment fee which is going to be imposed on all lands receiving irrigation facilities from the Bhakra Dam Scheme. This has been clearly indicated by His Excellency the Governor in his Address. I sound a note of warning to the hon. Members that if they keep mum over it and do not raise their united voice against this levy that poor section of the people, who are known as landless tenants, will be put to a great hardship. What I am strongly opposed to is the realisation of a fee in the form of cash from the zamindars by the Government. I feel that instead of charging a fee, the Government should take away some land on certain basis in lieu of irrigation benefits received by them. For instance, holders of fifty acres of land be exempted from this deduction but all those zamindars who possess

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larger areas of land, should be made to part with a certain percentage of their lands as a fee or cost for the irrigation facilities afforded to them by the Government. Now what will be the result of this suggestion? In this manner Government will procure ample lands for purposes of distribution among those refugee zamindars who have so far not been allotted any lands and to whom Government could not allot because it had no land to make any allotment to them. In other words the land problem, which is baffling the Government will be solved to a considerable extent and a large number of landless tenants who are now in a miserable plight for want of land, will be provided with some livelihood. I feel it is the bounden duty of the Government to alleviate the distress of these poor landless tenants, particularly the Harijans, who are being crushed to death under conditions of abject poverty. This problem can be solved only if the Government abandons the idea of levying a betterment fee on lands irrigated by canals under the Bhakra Dam Scheme and instead gets a certain percentage of lands from the zamindars in lieu of the irrigations benefits received by them. Then Government will be in a position to distribute the same among the tillers of the soil who have so far remained without an allotment of land. Besides, there is no guarantee that the fee realised in cash will be utilized in improving the hard lot of the poor people in the rural areas. I have serious apprehensions that this amount will more or less be spent for the benefit of the rich in the towns. I am sanguine that the poor ruralite will never receive any benefit from the money realised from the zamindars in the shape of betterment fee. I would, therefore, request the hon. Members to make a concerted effort to persuade the Government not to impose this fee. If they succeed now, well and good, otherwise after the Budget Session, the Cabinet who is to run the administration, would not care to act upon their suggestion. May I know from the hon. Members representing the Haryana Prant, whether they are agreeable to the levy of a fee in cash on the zamindars receiving irrigation benefits from the canals under the Bhakra Dam Scheme? May I ask how do they reconcile their professions as the champions of the cause of the poor Harijans and landless tenants with their actions in quietly acquiescing to the cash levy as proposed in the Governor's Address? Then, may I enquire from the Government how do they propose to resettle the landless tenants when they have got not an inch of land to offer to them? Can they snatch lands from the zamindars and hand over to the landless tenants? Obviously, they can, not, because they are debarred from taking any such action under the

Constitution. It is common knowledge that it is laid down in the Constitution of India that Government will have to pay compensation for any property or land which it takes away from a citizen of India. Under the circumstances, how will it be possible for the Government to rehabilitate the landless tenants and Harijans? I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Chief Minister to avail of the opportunity which Providence has given him to get his name written in golden words in History by accepting my suggestion. It passes my comprehension as to what forces have compelled him and his other colleagues in the Cabinet to agree to the proposal of imposing betterment fee on lands. Again, the argument put forward by the protagonists of the levy of fee in cash does not find favour with me, namely, that the Punjab Government cannot deduct lands in lieu of the irrigation facilities supplied to the zamindars as this is unheard of in the history of the world. But my suggestion is that we should create history in this matter. We shall have to adopt a new line of action if we want to improve the miserable lot of the poor landless tenants. Under the circumstances, the suggestion that I have put forward will go a long way in solving the land problem of the Government.

Then, Sardar Ujjal Singh appealed to the Government to make every endeavour to eradicate poverty and corruption from the State. I may tell my hon. Friend that it is no longer the desire of the Government to do so. This Government consists of heterogeneous elements having divergent interests at heart and with different goals before them. I may warn the Government that their tall talk or lip sympathy for the poor will not help them a whit. (Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Change the Government). But that is not in my power. It has pained me to find that the Central Government has set up a Bhakra Control Board, so that the Governor of this State who is the Chairman of this Board may be able to carry out its policy in the matter of distributing water to PEPSU and BIKANER. It is a pity that the position of the Punjab State has been subordinated. I wonder why our Chief Minister has meekly acquiesced in the setting up of a Bhakra Control Board. It is our great misfortune that we are divided amongst ourselves and we cannot compel the hon. Chief Minister not to agree to the proposal of the Central Government in this regard. I may point out that since we have to build Punjab anew, we should not accept this subordinate position which has been created as a result of the formation of the

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Bhakra Control Board. I, for one, am not prepared to bow so low before the Central Government. It is a strange irony of fate that Bikaner should be supplied with water at the cost of Punjab, which being badly devastated as a result of the partition, requires to be helped more than ever in the matter of supply of irrigation facilities. I admit that the Central Government has extended a helping hand to us in rehabilitating the refugees and has advanced loans for purposes of resettling them. But it has not, by doing so, put us under any obligation. It was its duty to do so. It was responsible for the partition of our State and ruination of our brethren. If it has advanced loans to us, it will be repaid in instalments. But this does not mean that it should thrust a Control Board on our Government for the execution of Bhakra Scheme. I would, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister to see that the interests of our State are fully safeguarded.

Before I pass on to the next point, I would again ask the hon. Chief Minister to reconsider the matter of levying the betterment fee. This levy will not help him in solving the difficulties of the State.

Then I would urge upon the hon. Ministers to be strong enough to make full use of their powers in running the administration of the State. If they fail, then they will not be able to bring about the welfare of the State which they so ardently desire. In this connection, I may point out that during the British regime, the Commissioners and the Chief Secretary to Government were invariably transferred to other posts after four years. But what do we find now? We find that the present incumbent occupying the post of the Chief Secretary has been made to monopolise this post. I had requested the hon. Chief Minister and in fact representations were made to him to effect transfers of the Commissioners and the Chief Secretary. But he has not been pleased to pay heed to this matter. The result is that there has been a severe criticism on the continued retention of these officers at one post. In this connection, I may tell the House that I do not see eye to eye with my hon. Friend Sardar Kabul Singh in condemning high officers of the services on the floor of the House. But what I want to drive at is, that the hon. Chief Minister should be chary of inviting such unnecessary criticism by keeping certain officers in certain posts for a long time. Now I want to place certain facts before the hon. Chief Minister which, I think, have not come to his notice.

Mr Chairman, you are aware of the fact that about 60 high officials were suspended by the Government. Prosecutions were started against them and ultimately out of these about 58 officers were reinstated. Those who were reinstated were given full pay for the period they were under suspension. Among those officers who were suspended were included three I.C.S. Officers out of whom two were reinstated after enquiry. The suspension of these I.C.S. Officers was illegal as they were suspended without framing any charge-sheet against them. The Government, however, did not take any action against the officer on whose suggestion these officers were suspended.

Further, Government of India had to take three persons from the P.C.S. to I.A.S. cadre. The Chief Secretary recommended the names of three P.C.S. officers against whom enquiries regarding allegations of corruption were pending. I am told that their personal records were sent to the Government of India without the knowledge of the hon. Chief Minister. On the one hand our Government suspended three I.C.S. officers on charges of corruption while on the other we find the names of such persons being recommended to the Government of India for being appointed as I.A.S. officers against whom enquiries regarding serious allegations of corruption are pending. It will not be out of Place to mention here that I had asked different questions on this topic during the regime of the Sachar Ministry. Mr. Chairman, you will also subscribe to my view as you have already had greater experience than me, so far as the replies to questions are concerned, when I say that the Government would not hesitate to give evasive replies to such questions. Through you, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Chief Minister kindly to let us know whether we have ever thought as to why those P.C.S. officers against whom enquiries regarding allegation of corruption are still pending, have been promoted to I.A.S. cadre. What I mean to say is that those who prove guilty of corruption should be awarded severe punishments while action against those who have been dealt with by mistake should be withdrawn. Such action on the part of the hon. Chief Minister will, I am sure, add to his honour and reputation and will also be instrumental in making the officers realize that justice has been done to those who deserved it. The P.C.S. Association submitted a representation to the Government to the effect that grave injustice had been done to them by promoting the three officers from the P.C.S. to I.A.S.

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cadre. It is really a matter of deep regret that the Government did not pay any attention to their representation.

There is another point towards which I would like to draw your attention and that is this. The Chief Secretary was very keen to get an officer punished severely. As a matter of fact, he was very anxious to win the case instituted against him. While the enquiries were being held. —————

Mr. Chairman : Are those enquiries being held even now ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Sir, I am only giving an instance. What I wish to point out is this that a certain ruler of a State ————

Mr. Chairman : Has the case, that the hon. Member is referring to, been dealt with by the High Court or Is it still pending ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Sir, I am not referring to any case which is pending in the High Court. I am only giving an instance. I would like to submit, Sir, how a ruler of a State who refused to give any evidence in the court against this officer against whom, as I have already stated, the Chief Secretary wanted to take severe action, was involved in a false murder case. But this ruler fought this case in a court of law where generally nothing stands in the way of one's seeking justice. In spite of the enormous sums spent by the Government in winning this case, he won the case and was ultimately acquitted honourably. Things did not stop here. His property was entrusted to the court of wards against the wishes of the Legal Remembrancer who was of the opinion that the property of the ruler could not be kept under the management of the court of wards. The Chief Secretary who was bent upon taking such an uncalculated-for action did not pay any heed to his legal opinion and ultimately succeeded in entrusting the property of this ruler to the court of wards.

There is yet another instance in which the Chief Secretary terminated the services of the C. S. O. Jullundur simply because he refused to give evidence in the court of law according to his wishes. The orders of the Minister-in-charge are already on the file. The services of the C.S.O. have been terminated without any rhyme or reason. It is really a matter of deep regret that the Chief Secretary is not prepared to revise his orders with a view to reinstating him.

This is how the administration is run at the top by the bureaucratic

officers and if this state of affairs continues, I am afraid, it will have very bad repercussions. Mr. Chairman, if the officials at the top continue to work in a bureaucratic manner you can very well imagine its effect on the services. As a matter of fact, such officials are taking undue advantage of the gentleness, fairmindedness and goodness of the hon. Chief Minister. Under the circumstances, I cannot do without requesting him that he will have to change his policy.

Mr. Chairman, at this stage I have no intention to enter into any further details so far as the allegations against the Commissioners are concerned. But through you, Sir, I would suggest to the Government to transfer those Commissioners against whom allegations have been made from time to time. The Commissioners have become the real masters and the sooner they are transferred the better would it be in the interests of both the people and the Government. If the Commissioner is displeased with any officer he does not spare any pains to victimise him without any rhyme or reason. In the same way if he is pleased with him then there is no limit to his showering all possible favours on him. My hon. Friends know it full well that the present Commissioners being young in age would continue to serve the Government for at least 10 to 12 years more. I would therefore request the hon. Chief Minister that if he wants to strengthen the administration, particularly at the top, then he should lose no time in transferring the Commissioners to some other high posts in the Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, you will recollect Sir, that at the time of the election of the Chairman of the District Board of Hoshiarpur, Government had issued orders to the Deputy Commissioner to resign from its Chairmanship. After this order, the Chief Secretary issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioner that Government officials should not take any part in this election. You will be surprised to learn, Sir, that it was not the district administration only which employed all the forces against my being elected as the Chairman of the District Board but an hon. Minister also went there specially for the purpose of impressing upon the Deputy Commissioner the desirability of not getting Chaudhri Kartar Singh elected as the Chairman of the District Board. It is really a matter of deep regret that if the high officials fail to carry out the instructions of the Government and also dare to disobey these,

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then, it can very well be imagined as to what can be the state of affairs in the other parts of our State.

Further, my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has in the course of his speech referred to the critical situation existing at present in our State. It is really a pity that such unfortunate happenings should take place in our State. But who is to blame for it. The responsibility for all such things really falls on us. I am really constrained to remark that some people amongst us should think in terms of creating a rift between the Zamindars and the Harijans with a view to having an easy walkover in the coming elections. Here I cannot do without saying this that very recently the General Secretary of the State Congress Committee made such a speech in one of the villages as (Noise).

Mr. Chairman : Order, Order.

Chief Minister : Sir, I rise to reiterate what I have already said while supporting the feelings expressed by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal to the effect that it has been a convention not to attack any person who is not in a position to answer the allegations, made against him on the floor of this House. As a matter of fact, it is not in keeping with the dignity of the House to make such allegations. I am of the opinion that the standard of our discussion has become very low and in case we do not stop this practice, I am afraid, the world outside will form a very bad impression about us. Under the circumstances, I would request the hon. Members not to bring in any allegations against any such person who is not in a position to defend himself on the floor of the House.

Mr. Chairman : I will ask the hon. Members not to make personal attacks.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. I would point out to you that nothing should be said against any officers of the Government who cannot be present in the House to offer their defence against accusations.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I would warn the people living in villages that just as Jats are at logger-heads with the Harijans and are socially boycotting them, similarly the non-agriculturist classes will also one day meet the same fate. The Jat of the Punjab wants to

create Jatistan in the State. I will, therefore, ask the non-agriculturist classes in the rural areas to forge a united front to offer full resistance to the tyranny of Jats. Then propaganda was also made among the public in Jullundur Division to record *Hindi* as their mother tongue in the column of census forms. But the pity of it is that the Government is not taking any action against the persons who are responsible for making such a communal propaganda and the sins of these people are visited on the poor Jats and Harijans who are being arrested for no fault of theirs.

The responsibility for making such propaganda in villages falls on those leaders who want to gain strong foot-hold for fighting the coming elections. Sometime back, my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh met His Excellency the Governor and discussed with him the communal situation in the State. His Excellency was of the view that the strained atmosphere in villages was not due to any fault of the ruralites but was the outcome of the propaganda made by the interested parties to gain their selfish ends. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government that it should not hesitate to put behind the bars the big leaders even if they happened to be the Members of this august House. These people are misleading the masses to follow a dangerous path. If the hon. Chief Minister does not take serious view of these happenings and does not take action against the persons who create rift then I am of the view that their propaganda will bring ruinous consequences to the State.

Besides this, the hon. Chief Minister had promised Sardar Ajit Singh that he will allot time for the discussion of the situation created by large-scale invasion by locusts in the State. In Hoshiarpur district, the situation is so worse that people have to traverse a long distance of about five miles to get fodder for their cattle. Large number of cattle-heads has died owing to non-availability of fodder in the district. The district authorities are now-a-days busy spraying the hoppers. I hope the Government will make immediate arrangement for providing fodder to the peasants. It should mobilize all resources to store fodder in various centres from where the peasants may be able to take supply conveniently. Moreover, the Government should advance loans and sanction grants to enable them to store sufficient fodder for their cattle. These people have no money to purchase fodder and wheat. I would request the hon. Chief Minister to make immediate arrangement for the supply of wheat-straw from Hissar

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for these peasants. He should not leave this work to the Deputy Commissioners because that course of action might cause delay, but should instruct the Director of Agriculture who is occupying his seat in the official gallery to make immediate arrangements in this behalf to avoid any trouble and hardship to the zamindars.

Sardar Partap Singh (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural. (*Punjabi*) :

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am sorry to say that some of the hon. Members of this House have made undignified remarks against the Congress. Whereas some of the members have accused the Congress in a disinterested way, some have tried to condemn the Congress organization by flinging charges against its office bearers. I cannot help saying that my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh who has great love for the Congress has criticised the Congress attitude in a most disinterested way. My hon. friend Chaudhri Kartar Singh has gone to the length of maligning the Congress by making undignified remarks against it. In spite of the fact that he is the Chief Whip of the Congress Assembly Party and is closely associated with the hon. Chief Minister he has indulged in mud throwing against the Congress. He has remarked that the Congress is a composite of conflicting interests but it has never been so and the assertion of the hon. Member, I should say so, is quite baseless. His allegations that the Congress Leaders exhorted the Harijans that they.....

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member discussing the Governor's Address or making counter-attacks against the members?

Sardar Partap Singh : Sir, I was going to refer to the communal situation in the State, a mention of which has been made in His Excellency the Governor's Address. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Kartar Singh has made wrong allegations against the Congress that it exhorted the people not to cast votes in favour of Rai Hari Chand saying that he belonged to Sardar Baldev Singh's party and would thus bring about partition of the State. Such remarks, I should say, are most uncongressmen like.

Then, Sir, reference has been made to the Una constituency by-election. I say it was a folly on the part of the Congress to

have allowed its members to play the role which, to say the least, was ungress-man like. As regards Harijans, my hon. Friends should not forget the time when we were going round canvassing their votes. My hon. Friend who has made reference to all these things has not acted like a responsible person

Sir, it is a matter of great regret and pain for persons like myself who have always looked upon communalism as a curse and other sincere members of the great organization which has always been doing its best to create an atmosphere free from the evil of communalism, to find that the language column in the census returns should have become the subject of bitter communal controversy in this State. Our heads hang down in shame at the very thought of it. I wonder if there is a single person on earth who does not love his or her mother tongue whatever it may be. It is for this reason that I am led to think that whatever has happened has not happened spontaneously. I doubt very much if it could have happened, if it had not been preceded by a virulent propaganda extended over a long period, by the interested persons. Here on the floor of this House, I have no hesitation in saying that this propaganda was engineered by some of the hon. Ministers who went about collecting funds and engaged agents to carry out this work. (Voices: Shame, shame) I challenge the Government to repudiate it. It is a fact, Sir, that some members of this Ministry are a mixture of diverse motives. On the one hand is the love of office and on the other hand is the love of the community and the love of the language.

Sardar Ajit Singh : What has the Congress done in the matter ?

Sardar Partap Singh : Congress? If the Congress has done nothing, it should pain the hon. Member as much as it is paining me. But the Congress has not been sitting idle. I draw the attention of the hon. Member to the speech that I delivered at Dasuya in my capacity as President of the State Congress. Didn't I make an unequivocal statement therein that any person who tells a lie in regard to his mother tongue would be an enemy of this State and of the country? Didn't I urge the people to be honest in declaring their mother tongue? Didn't I hold forth an assurance that there would be no further division of the Punjab even on linguistic basis ?

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Was such an assurance from the Congress President not sufficient to allay the fears of the people in this respect? Sir, I also want to assure the House that from what I know of the mind of Pandit Nehru and the minds of other Cabinet Ministers of the Government of India, I am quite right in saying that there will be no division of the present Punjab on any basis whatsoever. In my speech at Dasuya I had urged the people not to disown their mother tongue as their fears were unfounded. But, Sir, the pity is that where Ministers are in the field doing exactly the opposite kind of propaganda, how could my words be of any avail? My speech was not even published by the press. [An hon. Member: Did your assurance to the people have any effect?] How could it have any effect? Like the voice of truth in an atmosphere of sin and vice, it remained a cry in the wilderness and people continued to be haunted by this nightmare of the division of the Punjab on linguistic basis. To accuse the Congress of engineering communal controversy on the question of language is to indulge in an absurdity ('lachar bat'), when my friends are well aware of the fact that communalism runs counter to the very spirit of the Congress. The Congress knows that this State would go to dogs if it will continue to harbour communalism. How could then the Congress itself be a party to this communal controversy? Would this action on its part be not tantamount to cutting its own feet with its own axe? It is a pity that those friends who think on these lines do not have any understanding of the spirit of the Congress even though they are in it. I wish such persons had better quit the congress.

Chauchri Kartar Singh: Attempt is being made to shield 'dishonesty' (ba-imani).

Sardar Bachan Singh: On a point of Order, Sir. We are discussing the Governor's Address or the position of the Congress party?

Sardar Partap Singh: Well, I will be relevant, Sir.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I will respectfully submit that the dignity of the House must be preserved by the Chair. If the Chair

finds that certain remarks are uncalled for and derogatory, the hon. Member must be asked to withdraw them. If any hon. Member has objection to any other Member's observation, he can draw Chair's attention to that effect. May I just draw your attention to the remarks of the hon. Member Chaudhri Kartar Singh?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : If the word 'lachar' is parliamentary, the word 'ba-imani' that I have used is also parliamentary. Sardar Partap Singh ji has stated that he had told the people not to be dishonest in the matter of declaring their mother tongue but do we not find 'Hind Samachar' daily urging the people to declare Hindi as their mother tongue?

Sardar Partap Singh : The hon. Member might be referring to the news columns. Can he show me any editorial in which people have been urged to do so? Well, whoever has been inciting the feelings of the people on the language question has been doing a wrong thing. It was for the Government to counteract such propaganda in the very beginning. My Friend Master Kabul Singh tells me that this kind of propaganda has been going on for the last two years. If this is so, it is a grave reflection upon the Government which failed to take action against those responsible for fanning the fire of communalism. The public is also partly to blame for it for having fallen a prey to it.

I ask were not the activities of the newspapers and other mischief-mongers checked in good time? My hon. Friend Sardar Kabul Singh is a resident of District Jullundur and he can vouch for that place and I can say about District Amritsar that the atmosphere there remained undisturbed but wherever things went wrong blame lies not on the Harijans, the Zamindars, the ruralites or the urbanites but on the Punjab Government which miserably failed to suppress mischief which was calculated to do the greatest possible harm to our social life in this State.

I now wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to a point mentioned by an hon. Member from Hoshiarpur. This point concerns the levy of an indirect irrigation tax and I am opposed to it on principle. I do 'nt think that anybody who has any sympathy

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for the zamindars can ever support such a levy. His Excellency has in his Address said that :

I must add in this connection that since the Bhakra project is being financed by loan money it must be productive and that in order to make it productive, it will be necessary to levy betterment fee on all lands receiving irrigation benefits from the project.

To me the very idea of levying a betterment fee appears very strange. In case canal water is supplied to some particular lands, it does not mean that those lands should be subjected to an additional taxation as they become better than before. As a matter of fact I feel that my hon. Friend from Hoshiarpur should not have suggested that the Government should take part of the lands rather than impose additional taxation as this amounts to acceding the principle of the betterment fee which in no case should be agreed to. It will be recalled that during the Unionist regime we opposed the imposition of the Hasiat Tax tooth and nail. We did not like the idea of this when we were paying the Abiana. Now, so far as this betterment fee is concerned I may not condemn it in this House out of respect and regard for His Excellency but this question will be duly thrashed if and when it comes up in the party meeting. To ask the people, for example, the people of Haryana to pay a betterment fee because their lands have improved due to the supply of water from Bhakra Dam, is in fact to do a great injustice to them. The Government is entitled to charge only Abiana from such persons and nothing more than that. If an hon. Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary argues that because Bhakra Dam has been constructed by loan money there is justification for realizing betterment fee I would say that this argument is absolutely devoid of any sense. Such a levy is against all principles. At the most what the Government should do is this that it may charge the owners of lands concerned advance Abiana for two or three years and the same may be refunded to the people after the loans incurred on the project have been paid off. But, there is absolutely no justification for an additional levy. And in case any Minister, the Chief Minister or the Cabinet as a whole stands committed to the Central Government in this connection, I can only say that they have done a most improper act. At any rate I do not find even an iota of sense in this levy. I most respectfully ask, is an additional fee

charged from the owner of a house who is given an electric connection because his house becomes more comfortable or is the proprietor of a brick kiln entitled to charge a betterment fee from a house-owner who has built a pucca house by the use of bricks from his kiln? All this is absurd. The only thing that the Government should do is, as I have already suggested that it should charge the land-owners concerned advance Abiana for two or three years on a returnable basis.

Sir, much has been made about a speech made by me in which I happened to remark that about 90 per cent of the Government officers were corrupt. I again say that I was not guilty of any exaggeration when I said that it was so. When I said this I had in my mind corruption not only due to bribe but also corruption relating to jobbery, nepotism, favouritism and communalism. I daresay that if all corruption is put together my remarks are not far from truth. Here I may mention something about Tehsil Dasuha as a good deal has appeared about it in the papers. Sir, here in this Tehsil a college is to be opened at Tanda Urmar and the Deputy Commissioner, Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars and the Revenue Assistant have been instructed that they should collect contributions for the college from all those who sell, transfer or purchase lands. I ask, is not this corruption? This is not all. A certain percentage is being realized from the refugees from the taccavi loans which are being given to them in Tehsil Dasuha.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Was not the hon. Member himself guilty of corruption when he issued permits for trucks?

Sardar Udham Singh : But the present corruption cannot be justified because of the fact that corruption had existed in the past.

Sardar Partap Singh : I did issue permits for trucks but I raised no funds out of them. To extort five rupees from a refugee who had been given a taccavi loan of Rs. 50 only for repairing his house is the height of injustice and corruption. If a person applied for the post of Ziladar, his application was recommended by the Tehsildar on receipt of one hundred rupees. Similarly every recommendation for the post of Lambardar was made on receipt of fifty rupees. What will happen to our State when this is the prevailing state of affairs? Nobody willingly paid for the college at Dasuha. There is a vast difference between our conception

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of Congress principles and that of the Government. It is a pity that what we regard as corruption is not considered to be so by the Government. This fundamental difference in outlook should undergo immediate change. If the Government does not raise the moral of the people, our State is doomed. I have already referred to conditions in Dasuha. Now I wish to say a few words about the manner in which taccavi loans were advanced to flood-affected persons. A large number of Members of this House are aware of the condition of refugees who suffered in the recent floods. Is anyone in a position to say that taccavi loans were advanced to any sufferer unless he paid illegal gratification to the person concerned? I regard these things as signs of our downfall. These will mean not only death for us but for that organization also with which we are connected. The prevailing evils of jobbery, corruption and nepotism are leading to the end of prestige of the Congress in this State. This is giving rise to a revolutionary urge because the public is feeling frustrated. Our Ministers can not go to the villages and face the public there. Whether one travels by a train, a bus or a tonga, people can be heard cursing us. Abuses are hurled at everybody who puts on khaddar clothes or a Gandhi cap. If a Minister's car passes by a certain street, the people standing there can be heard cursing the Government. Our Government appear to have lost the confidence of the public. Conditions cannot improve unless the confidence of the public is rehabilitated. If the Government merely tries to crush the voice of discontent, it will bring about the ruin of Congress prestige in this State. I am holding in my hand a letter written with blood. On receipt of this letter several thoughts passed through my mind. I thought that it might be the blood of the writer or a goat or a sheep but the House will be shocked to know its contents. The writer of this letter has narrated how he was discharged from service, when he tried to take action against those who indulged in black-marketing or other corrupt acts. I shall give this letter to the hon. Minister concerned so that he might go through it and take whatever action he considers necessary.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : It would be better if the hon. Member reads out the letter.

Sardar Partap Singh : It is a long letter and if some hon. Member wishes to read it, I shall show it to him. This is the tale of an agrieved person. His Excellency the Governor delivers an Address at the commencement of every session but it would be better if the difficulties of the public are also mentioned in it. In that case there might be some chance of these difficulties being removed. That would give some hope to the public. In his recent speech Shri Gautam has revealed that out of total police force of 35,000 in Uttar Pradesh, 7,000 persons have been dismissed on grounds of corruption. Has anybody been treated in the same manner in our State?

In reply to some of my speeches, the Government recently issued a Press Statement. I am trying to collect facts in order to answer it. However, I beg to submit that I was made Chairman of the Anti-corruption Committee in October. Powers were delegated to me in January and recruitment of anti-corruption personnel was made in February or March. When it started its work it was decided to celebrate anti-corruption week from the 1st to the 15th of May. I was removed from office on the 10th May. Now I leave it to the House to judge as to how far I am responsible for not removing corruption. Whether I am good or bad it is necessary that the Government should win the confidence of the public.

Shri Ram Chandar, took action against Sita on the suspicion of one person. Here every body blames and abuses us. Every Congressman is being cursed by the public. When I hear any body cursing a Congressman or the Government, I feel as if I am being cursed. The Government should improve this state of affairs. If they do not do so they will not only bring about their own downfall but of that great organization too with which they are connected. I do not say these things merely because it will not be possible for us to face the electorate during the forthcoming elections. I say these words because we can not appeal to the people for long in the names of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru or Sardar Patel. If I have said some incorrect things the hon. Chief Minister may contradict me but he should admit those which are right. He should study the political atmosphere of the State. There is a tendency of revolutionary upsurge in the State. The people of Jullundur, Ludhiana and Dasuha have serious grievances against the Government. If these are not redressed, we will bring about our own ruin. This

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will be very harmful for the state of Punjab. With these words, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity of expressing my views before the House.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*): I am thankful to you for giving me time to place my views before the House. I have read the whole of the Address of His Excellency, the Governor, not once but a number of times. He has proudly mentioned the achievements of this Government in that Address. But I find that the Government has not made any achievement, so far, in actual practice. These achievements may be on paper but practically we see no achievement of the Government in the State. His Excellency has remarked that this Government would pay attention towards effecting economy in the expenditure. The manner in which this has been done in our State for the last three years does not inspire much hope. We find that new posts are every day created in the Secretariat and the economy is effected by the retrenchment of low-paid staff. This sort of economy will not take the State forward. We have been shouting for three years that the Government should decrease its expenditure. But it has produced no effect on the Government. You, Sir, imagine the number of district which comprised the Punjab before the partition and the number of districts in this truncated Punjab of today and then see the expenditure that is being incurred. Is it not disheartening? You see how other States are progressing. For instance, we find that Uttar Pradesh comprises of about 55 districts. Besides, various States are being merged together to form bigger administrative units. His Excellency has not made any mention of this matter of vital importance. At present, PEPSU and Himachal Pradesh, even though they are small States, are separate units. They should be merged with our State and thus a bigger unit should be formed. It is a matter of regret that the Government has not given its attention to this matter.

Then, Sir, His Excellency has exhaustively dealt with the Bhakra and Nangal projects in his Address. But I am sorry to say that he has not offered any constructive proposal in this respect. For instance, there is the question of distribution of the electric energy which would be generated from this Project when it is completed. No scheme has been taken in hand for this purpose. Such schemes cannot be formulated in minutes; naturally they take time and must be drawn up well

before the completion of the Project. There is no mention of any such scheme in the Address. So far we find that the demand for money for this project has been increasing and the target year has been receding further every year. And then we are not sure that the money is being properly utilized. The Government has been sending Missions abroad to appoint experts for these Projects. Could this not be done through our embassies? What I mean to say is that the Governor has not pointed out the weaknesses and faults of the Government. He has, instead, glossed over them. But I may point out that no amount of gloss can hide the foul smell of the rot that is below it.

Again, sir, His Excellency has pointed out at page 12 of his Address that the law and order situation in our State is satisfactory. In this connection, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Chief Minister and the House to the recent happenings in connection with the census operation. I don't know whether Central Government or the Provincial Government is to blame for these happenings. Previously, too, there might have been the language column in the census forms; but then the communal situation was not so bad. This time this column has been the cause of social boycott of a large number of poor Harijans. I have personally visited a number of villages such as Bopa Rai, Kasla, Bilga etc., of Jullundur district in the past three days. In those villages, I saw that the poor Harijans are not allowed to pass through the fields of zamindars. They have been completely boycotted.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : This speech will also instigate them, because it will go in Press tomorrow.

Shrimati Sita Devi : There cattle are starving and they, at some places, have even to answer the call of nature inside their houses. As His Excellency pointed out, I do not want to make a post mortem of these ugly happenings. But the speeches so far made have been one sided and it was necessary that I should place facts before the House. I think both the parties are to blame in this matter. But I would request the hon. Chief Minister to take action against anybody howsoever highly placed he may be and to whatever party he may belong, if he has instigated the people to create such an ugly situation in the State. If this is not done, it will vitrate the atmosphere not only of Jullundur district but also of the whole State. Only the

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other day, a meeting of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee was held at Amritsar in which a resolution was passed that legal action should be taken against those who have given Hindi as their language.

Minister for Land Revenue : Against those who have wrongly given Hindi as their language.

Shrimati Sita Devi : If our Government, will not put a check on such communal activities, there will be no law and order in the State. And yet the Governor says that the law and order situation is satisfactory. Such a thing can be said from the heights of Simla and not on the basis of actual facts.

In his 'Social Contract' the world famous revolutionary writer of France, Rousseau stated that the people imposed upon the Sovereign the duty to protect their lives and property while accepting his right to impose taxes with a view to run the government. It was upon these conditions that the contract between the people and the Sovereign was signed. As a result of his writings, the people in France became conscious of their rights and the princes and the high-ups in France who did not recognise such rights of the public had to pay heavily by getting their heads chopped off in the revolution. We don't want such things to happen in our State. But the Chief Minister should realize that the way in which the administration is carried out might create conditions which it would become impossible for the hon. Ministers to tackle successfully. This is not a matter to be laughed at. It requires serious consideration. There is a little time at my disposal to go into the details of this problem of law and order at this time.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : We have also little time to listen to them (*laughter*).

Shrimati Sita Devi : So I don't want to exhaust your patience. I would say only one or two things more. One thing is that His Excellency the Governor has stated in his Address that the problem of rural rehabilitation is practically completed and that in the villages houses and lands have been allotted. I wish to say from my experience of Jullundur District that there are many persons who are

not satisfied in this matter. Most of this dissatisfaction is among poor people and Harijans especially in the matter of houses. I think I should narrate an experience of mine to make the point more clear. In village Kaki of Jullundur District about fifteen or twenty Harijans were turned out of some houses because they were allotted to others. Instead of giving these houses to the new allottees they were locked. The poor people who were turned out of them met the authorities and approached the M. L. As. They saw the Tehsildar and the Deputy Commissioner also. But the poor people were unable to get their difficulty removed immediately. In such cases the poor families of these persons are put to a lot of unnecessary worry and suffering.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The hon. Lady Member should know the time limit.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Member should have patience. I am not going to place all of my suggestions before the House because I realize that other hon. Members are also keen to have their say. What I wish to stress is that the prevailing dissatisfaction should be removed and the Government should realize its duty in the matter of law and order in the State. It is only thus that conditions in the State can be improved. Speeches and Addresses are not going to help. With these words I resume my seat.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : Sir, first of all I would like to thank the hon. Members for the view which they have expressed in the course of the debate on His Excellency the Governor's Address. These days in our State as well as in the country there are two tendencies which should be taken note of. In the first place, there is the tendency of blaming the Government in every matter, so much so that even if a person gets daughters only and no son the Government is to blame for that (*laughter*).

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : That is because the hon. Chief Minister is a doctor. (*renewed laughter*)

Chief Minister : Sir, I was saying that if locusts invade parts of the State, the Government is blamed; if floods devastate certain territory the Government is attacked, if rains fail, it is again considered to be a fault of the Government. This tendency of placing responsibility for every natural calamity on the shoulders of

(Chief Minister).

the Government is noticeable everywhere these days. As a matter of fact, in democratic countries it is the duty of the party in power to support the actions of the Government outside the legislature and to see that the public is informed of what the Government does for the people and to create a public opinion in favour of the policy of the party in power in legislature. There are certain matters which the Government cannot do. It lies upon those members of the party in power who work among the public to see that such duties are performed by them. It is for such workers to approach the people and tell them what their duty is.

Another thing which I have noticed is that a reference has been made to the recent happenings in the matter of census operations. As far as Census operations are concerned, the hon. Members are aware that they are necessary in order to have a social data. No country can make any progress unless certain facts are known about its people their number, professions, the percentage of educated persons and so many other things. It is only on such data that planning can be based when the collection of such useful data is given a political colouring, in other words, when the operations are sought to be influenced by other considerations, it becomes regrettable. In fact, it is not desirable that facts should be misrepresented and the people should be influenced and asked to give wrong statements. To ask the public to mis-state facts is wrong and undesirable, especially in the case of census operations. As a matter of fact, census is undertaken by the Government of India with the help of the State Government. The instructions are issued by the Central Government and the State Governments provide men to assist in these operation. Sir, I wish to state for the information of the House that when the Census Commissioner reached here for consultation on certain points, one or two months were taken up. One of these was with regard to filling the column of religion. I told him that in the matter of collecting information for whole of the country it was not proper, under the present circumstances, to ask information on religion. The question was whether all would agree to this suggestion. I told him, for his information, that hon. Sardar Kartar Singh was also of the view that collection of information on religion should be dropped in the census. In this way the question could be solved and there would be no difficulty at all. The Census Commissioner conveyed our view point to the Government of India; but the Central Government considered it necessary to retain this

column. So for as the question of mother tongue is concerned, the matter was quite unambiguous. It was clear that the people should state the language which they speak in their homes.

Now I come to the question of language which has been raised in connection with the census operations. I may tell the House that the provision of the language column in the census entries was merely to ask people to state truthfully what their mother tongue was and what other language they knew. It is a pity that certain persons misunderstood this and thought that Gurmukhi was indirectly being thrust upon them. But this misapprehension was completely misplaced. The Census never meant that if a person spoke Punjabi, he could not write it in Devnagri script. The difficulty is that the people confuse Gurmukhi script with the Punjabi language. But as I have said the Census has never put a bar on any Punjabi speaking person not to write it in Devnagri script. I am sorry that certain persons went round propagating that people might as well have any entry of their choice made in the language column. I think, by making such a false propaganda, they contravened the law, because misstatement or suppression of true facts in regard to Census is an offence, and thus they rendered themselves liable for action under the law. Not only this. The people who became the victims of this poisonous propaganda and made wrong statements before the Census Officials regarding the language column, also committed an offence. I think that the propagandists, who persuaded the people into making misstatements about the language question in the Census and vitiated the atmosphere in the rural areas in such a manner as to bring about estrangement of relations between certain communities, did a great disservice to the country. The result of their nefarious activities has been that cordial relations between different classes and communities no longer exist in those places. I am, therefore, of the opinion that the hon. Members representing those ilaqas, where this trouble had arisen, should have taken upon themselves as their duty to approach such people and persuade them not to indulge in such activities as would result in the disturbance of peace among different classes of people. These popular leaders as also the Congress workers should have impressed upon the people the desirability of giving correct information to the Census officials, because without a correct data, proper planning of the country would not be possible.

(Chief Minister).

Then, Sir, I may be excused, if I tell the House that information regarding the estranged relations among the people in those ilaqas and the maltreatment of Harijans on the language question, was not reported to me by my hon. Friends. They tried to see the Governor in this connection. But I may tell them that under the new Constitution the Governor cannot take any action in any matter over the head of the Chief Minister. He can tender his advice to him but can not take action independently. It is the Chief Minister who ultimately passes an order in all the matters. So it was the duty of my hon. Friends to have apprised me first of all the untoward incidents that had happened in the rural areas. But they thought otherwise and went direct to the Governor. However, that unhappy information was passed on to me through Government sources. Then my hon. Friends have advocated that those persons who were responsible for creating trouble in the countryside over the language question during the Census operations, should be severely dealt with according to law. I admit that law has to be brought into action against the offenders in special circumstances. But I also assert that in certain circumstances action taken by the Government against the so called offenders results in that offence gathering momentum, which must be avoided in the interest of law and order. So what I feel is, that in such circumstances the difficulty can be overcome only if the political parties and other responsible persons like the accredited elected leaders sitting in this House approach the people creating trouble and persuade them to refrain from such activities as disturb the peace of the State and create bad blood among different sections of the populace.

Then, Sir, it has been suggested that the high officers should be instructed by the Government to take up work of persuading the people to maintain cordial relations among themselves. It is a strange thing that my hon. Friends on the one hand dub the officers as corrupt and on the other expect them to go on peace missions. According to the logic of my hon. Friends the officers cannot prove useful in this matter because they can be bribed by one party or the other. So how can they be expected of bringing about peace among different warring sections of the people. I am, therefore, of the opinion that in such matters it is my hon. Friends and other responsible persons who can work miracle and by exerting their moral pressure on the

people bring about peaceful conditions in the county. I think it is their duty to move out to the villages and ask the people not to harass the Harijans or boycott them socially. My hon. Friends should tell them to live in amity and concord with other communities and not wait for the Government to take action against them for their unsocial activities. I may tell the House that I, too, have closely studied such matters where people wielding influence and power carried a social boycott of an other section of the people. And the manner in which I brought about amicable settlement among them was like this. I approached the powerful and influential people living in that area where the relations of different classes had been estranged. I prevailed upon them that it was their moral duty to afford protection to the weak and poor section of the people. I asked them that instead of repressing the other party, they should treat them with brotherly affection and kindness. I also approached the other party and asked them not to act in a manner in which the other party might feel offended. I impressed upon them the desirability of not thinking in terms of classes. I made both the parties realise that class war was ruinous for both of them. So the result was that both the parties saw reason and made up their differences and began to live peacefully. In the same manner, I would say that if the relations between the communities had been estranged to alarming proportions in two districts, then it was the duty of my hon. Friends to go there and pacify them. They should have asked them not to fly at one another's throat. They should have persuaded them to think in terms of Indians first and last as thinking in class interests was sure to lead to red ruin. I, therefore, feel that the hon. Members representing those areas and Congress workers of that ilaqa should consider it their duty to help the poor Harijans who have been subjected to inhuman atrocities. The powerful elements in the areas should be asked to stay their hands from repressing the Harijans. But this does not mean that law will not take its course in a case which has been registered with the police regarding atrocities committed on the Harijans. I do not know what will be the result of the investigations and what will be the decision of the court in this regard. But this is evident that the authority responsible for the maintenance of law and order has to move when the offenders go beyond the limit.

Then, Sir, Government has been accused of having failed to take action against those persons who made virulent speeches and

(Chief Minister).

newspapers which were responsible for bringing about a rupture of relations among the communities on the language question. Now the difficulty of the Government is that under the New Constitution which enjoins freedom of speech and expression in its chapter of Fundamental Rights, it feels itself helpless to take any drastic step against them. Even Section 153-A I. P. C. has been declared ultra vires of the Constitution by the High Court. I submit that whosoever will contravene law, will certainly come under its grip but all the same I would say that persuasion is a powerful weapon which can bring about amicable settlement among the warring classes of people. I would again urge upon the Congress workers and the hon. Members to exert their moral pressure on the powerful elements in those districts to refrain from the social boycott of the Harijans.

Now about the allegations of corruption made by some of my hon. Friends in the course of their speeches. My hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh has in the course of his speech pointed out that so long as he was the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Committee, the work in connection with the Anti-Corruption drive in the State was carried on successfully and that things have gone from bad to worse since he left this department. I would like to refer to one of the speeches of my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh which he delivered while inaugurating the Anti-Corruption-fortnight in the State on June 2, 1948. The speech that I am going to refer to appeared in the Tribune dated 4th June 1948. It is given therein :—

Sardar Partap Singh described corruption as a great evil. He said that though it was not wide spread in the Province as compared with other Provinces, the East Punjab Government was determined to eradicate it at all costs. He said that it had a great demoralizing effect on the people. When he took over charge, he heard many complaints against the Civil Supplies Department and he had taken steps to remove the controls and disband the department. He thought that the people who offer bribes were public enemies as much as those who received it.....

Further at the time of the formation of the Anti-Corruption Committee while making an appeal to the public on April 18, 1948, he has in a few lines which I am going to read out to you and which are from special representative of the Tribune dated April 19

1948 expressed his wholehearted appreciation for the wide and patriotic attitude of his colleagues. It is given therein:-

While referring to his two colleagues who he said, were the best men among the Services and even though officials were to his mind infused with the enthusiasm and spirit of service of the best among public-men. The outlook of both these officers was as wide and patriotic as that of any non-official and they were working with him in that spirit. The desire of the Committee, he said, was to do its best. The Chairmans regret, however, was that the Committee was not getting that whole-hearted co-operation from the public which is so necessary for the work which had been entrusted to him and his colleagues.....

Who are these 'Colleagues', or in other words the members of the Anti-Corruption Committee. They are the Inspector General of Police and the Chief Secretary. The former is on leave while the latter is the same gentleman who continues to hold the same office. Both of these gentlemen are the members of this Committee of which during the last few months of 1948 and the beginning of 1949 I was the Chairman and then this office was held for some time by my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar and after that I have been working as its Chairman. What I mean to say is this that no changes whatsoever have been made in the working of the Special Investigation Agency. But we have gone ahead in this direction. We have formed an Anti-Corruption Sub-Committee of M. L. As. to deal with the complaints and allegations of corruption against the members of the Special Investigation Agency against whom we receive many complaints. We have issued orders to all the departments to carry out the instructions which the Committee may issues from time to time for the completion of the necessary enquiries.

It has also been stated that a Judicial Tribunal should be set up to try the cases of corruption. Here I may point out that the investigation is altogether a different thing because it is on the basis of the investigation that a *prim facie* case is formed.

It is after completing the investigation that enquiries are held. I would like to point out that we have enquired into the allegations of the officials and we have given wide powers to non-official to try such cases. But on the contrary, if we set up a Judicial Tribunal as suggested by my hon. Friend then the members of this Tribunal would cease to have any non-official position as they would have to

work in the capacity of officials. The system of investigation carried on at present is quite different from that which was followed prior to my becoming the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Committee. At that time it was found advisable to suspend the officials first and then start holding investigations. This practice resulted in the suspension of many officials during the chairmanship of my predecessor. In most of the cases it was not possible to get sufficient material to hold necessary enquiries as a result of which most of the suspended officials had to be reinstated and paid full salary for the period they were under suspension. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Kartar Singh has in the course of his speech referred to the ruling of the Nagpur High Court. I wish to inform him that that ruling is not being accepted here. However, I would like to bring this point home to him that Government of India have already issued instructions to the effect that explanation should be called from the Government servant concerned before orders are issued for his suspension. It is clear from that this a Government servant cannot be suspended unless and until he is called upon to give his explanation.

It has also been stated that 3 I. C. S officers have been suspended by the Government. I do not know as to who those officers are, who have been suspended by the Government. As far as I remember enquiries were held and only one official was suspended. This enquiry was held by the Central Government which appointed its own official to submit his report. I may mention here that the report which this official of Government of India submitted was against the Punjab Government and in favour of the officials concerned. We consulted the Union Public Service Commission which was of the opinion that the Punjab Government had taken the right step.

This officer belonged to me all India Service and was awarded punishment by our Prime Minister, himself. The matter relating to the other official who has been suspended by the Government is sub judice. We cannot discuss this matter on the floor of this House till the Chief Justice pronounces the result of his enquiries.

Further, some mention has been made about the promotion of 3 P.C.S officers to the I.A.S cadre. It has been stated about them that in spite of the serious allegations of corruption against these 3 officers

necessary enquiries were withheld by the Government and their names were recommended to Government of India for promotion. Here I would like to bring this point to the notice of the hon. Member who has made mention of it during the course of his speech that the Union Public Service Commission does not make the selection in the way he has mentioned. In such cases the commission sends for the personal records of all the Senior and Junior officers. It goes through these records and makes the selection from amongst them. Here I may add for the information of the hon. Member that the Commission did not select only 3 officers as mentioned by him but it selected 4 officers. There were 8 officers in all out of whom only 4 officers were selected. Out of these 8 P.C.S officers the first four could not be selected as they did not fulfil the conditions of age-limit prescribed for the Government servants and the result of it was that the remaining four were ultimately selected. I would like to make this point clear that we had absolutely no interest in the selection of these officers. We were not in favour of any particular person in this selection. After all why should we have stopped any officer's promotion when we had no reasons to do so. As a matter of fact we do not want to see any corrupt officer in our services. As I have already stated and I once again repeat it on the floor of this House that a corrupt Government servant is a blot on the fair name of that class or community of which he is a member. A corrupt officer brings disrepute to the whole class of Government servants. Under the circumstances, it is the duty of each and every Government servant to be on guard against such a black sheep and should not give any quarter to him. They should make all out efforts to eradicate this evil root and branch. I have more often been repeating that the services should co-operate with us in carrying out our policy to root out corruption in our State. Those who do not co-operate with us and thus fail to carry out our policy, they not only bring disrepute to the cadre to which they belong but they are a blot on us too. People who resort to such uncalled for practices as are detrimental to the interests of both the Government and the people have no right to work with us and live with us.

Sir, we recruited persons belonging to rich families in the Civil Supplies Department because we thought that men of that sort would not feel the need of accepting bribes from the public. It was done so because some of my hon. Friends generally remark that Government servants become corrupt because of the low salaries. We had about

(Chief Minister).

24,000 Government servant just after the partition and the number has now swelled to 50,000. The recruitment of about 25,000 Government servants has been made from amongst us who are displaced persons. They also have the same vices as we generally possess. It is, therefore, idle to expect a person entering into Government service to become a saint overnight. It is our duty that we should make joint efforts to eradicate the evil of corruption that exists in our departments. It is not possible to reform a person by abusing him. If the Government does not shield the Government servant from public accusations then he tries to cajole his officers who are annoyed with him, in order to escape punishment. He tries to bring pressure upon his officer through certain influential Congressmen and the officer thinking that he has the support of big leaders also protects him. It would, therefore, appear that officers also squirm in their seats at not knowing how to decide such cases. They are afraid that if they brush aside the recommendations of influential Congressmen they fear slanderous propaganda against themselves in the press. These are the considerations under which the corrupt officials are allowed to go scot-free with the help of the influence of the congress leaders who pull the strings of the officers for the benefit of such person. The House will, therefore, realize that these are the factors which make the Government's efforts ineffective to rid the administration of nepotism and favouritism. It would not be fair to accuse the Government for indulging in nepotism and favouritism unless the persons who wield power and influence do not desist from helping the wrong doers. I think it should be the bounden duty of every political party which hates corruption in the Government administration to raise the morals of the persons who offer bribes to the Government servants. If mahatamas cannot successfully resist temptations how can we expect a poor and needy Government servant to stick to the sense of lofty morality under the dazzle of money. After the partition of the State the loss of wealth and property has broken the hearts of our displaced persons. Such circumstances effectively influence their character. Sometime it is very difficult for the Government servants to restrain themselves from the temptations of accepting bribes on account of their embarrassing financial position. On the one hand, it is suggested that the Government servants should not accept bribes and on the other it is

said that the giver of the bribe should not be treated as offender. I do not find any logic in such arguments.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : My. hon. Friend Chaudhri Kartar Singh had remarked that the Chief Secretary had made enquiry into the allegations of corruption against P. C. S. officers but eventually these cases were hushed up by the Government.

Chief Minister : I have already stated that no enquiry was instituted against the P. C. S. officers excepting one officer in whose case enquiry is now being made. We never try to shelve such matters. Sir, I would submit that if we take action against the persons who give bribes to Government servants then we are asked to show sympathy on human considerations as such persons are family men and if we intend to punish the corrupt Government servants we are then asked to avoid inflicting punishment on poor men who are saddled with responsibilities and hardly eke out their existence. Under these circumstances I am constrained to remark that we cannot effectively eradicate the evil of corruption unless we get the cooperation of all. What is required is that we should all raise our morals and be prepared to suffer even to the extent of not getting our due rather than giving our purses to the corrupt officials in order to get anything done from them. I think it is only by acting in this way that corruption can die its natural death. I would make another submission. Sir, we received several complaints of corruption against officers based on animosity but as soon as that animosity was over the complaints were withdrawn. Keeping in view all these facts, I think the task of uprooting corruption becomes all the more difficult. I admit that corruption is rampant in the State but I would not agree that if someone collected money for opening a public college it also amounted to corruption. Whatever work we do, we are charged of corruption. I am sorry to say that ninety per cent of Government officials have been dubbed as being corrupt by my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh. I am prepared to challenge this statement. It does not, at least, behove my hon. Friend to say so after he has severed his connections with the Anti-Corruption Committee of which he was a Chairman sometime ago. By making such statements I think we cannot remove corruption from the Government departments. I may just inform my hon. Friend that there is marked difference between the officers and the officials. The gravamen of his charge is against the officials and not the officers. Such a sweeping condemnation of these poor

(Chief Minister).

officials who have no voice of their own is entirely unjust and uncalled for. We cannot run the administration efficiently by making such irresponsible remarks, against the Government servants. Then it is said that if the situation does not improve congress will lose its hold on the public but I would say that it will be the wrong approach of these friends that may bring downfall of the Congress. I would ask my hon. Friends who have criticised the Government that they should ask the public to judge our work and achievements that we have made during this short space of time. A reference has been made about the conditions obtaining in China. To give my hon. Friends the true picture of the present day China, I would like to quote from a speech of Mr. Mao Tse Tung the head of Chinese Peoples Government.

One, carry forward the work of agrarian reform step by step and in an orderly manner. The war has been fundamentally ended on the main and the situation is entirely different from that between 1946 and 1948 when the PLA was locked in a life and death struggle with the KMT reactionaries and the issue has not yet been decided. Now the Government is able to help the poor peasants solve their difficulties by means of loans to balance up the disadvantage of having less land. Therefore, there should be a change in our policy towards the rich peasants, a change from the policy of requisitioning the surplus land and property of the rich peasants to one of preserving a rich peasant economy in order to help the early restoration of production in the rural areas, and this change is also favourable for isolating the landlords and protecting the middle peasants and small renters out of land.

Two, consolidate unified control and leadership in financial and economic work, and consolidate the balance of income and expenditure and the stabilisation of prices. In accordance with this principle re-adjust taxation and lighten the burden of the people as far as is proper. On the principle of unified planning and taking into account the interests of all sections, exterminate blindness and anarchy in the economic field step by step, properly readjust existing industry and commerce and improve relations between public and private enterprise and between labour and capital earnestly and properly, so that various economic components of society have a division of labour and co-operate with each other and each play a correct role under the leadership of the state owned sector of the economy, which is socialist in nature, to facilitate the revival and development of the entire social economy. The idea

of some people who think it possible to bring about an early elimination of capitalism and introduce socialism is wrong and unsuitable to the conditions of our country.

Three, on condition that it gurantees sufficient forces to liberate Taiwan and Tibet, consolidate the national defences and supress the counter revolutioneries, the PLA, while retaining its main force, should demobilise part of its troops in 1950. This demobilisation must be carried out carefully so that demobilised army men can settle down in productive work when they return home. Retrenchment is necessary in administrative organs and superfluous personnel should also be dealt with in such a manner that they have the opportunity of obtaining work and of studying.

Four, carry out systematically and carefully the work of reforming agitation in the old school and the old style cultural work in society and win over all patriotic intellectuals to the service of the people. On this question procrastination and unwillingness to carry out reforms is incorrect ; but rashness or attempts to carry through reforms crudely is also incorrect.

Five, relief work for unemployed workers and intellectuals must be carried out seriously and the unemployed are to be helped step by step to get work. Relief work for people stricken by calamity must be earnestly continued.

Six, we must earnestly unite with the demacracatic personages of all circles, help them solve the problems in their work and studies and overcome any tendencies to seclude ourselves from them or to make unprincipled concessions in the work of the United Front. We must seriously convence the People's conferences of all circles so as to bring about satisfactory results, as they are capable of uniting the people of all circles to carry out work in common. All the important work of the People's Government should be submitted to the People's conferences for discussions. All delegates to the People's Conferences must have full rights to speak; any action suppressing People's representatives from speaking is wrong.

Seven, all bandits, spies, despots and other counter revolutionery elements, who are harmful to the people, must be resolutely wiped out. On this question we must carry out the policy of combining suppression and leniency, that is, the policy of punishing the principal culprits and not bringing to book those who were forced to become accomplices, those who do meritorious work are to be rewarded and no neglect of any of these points is permissible. The whole party and all the people throughout the country must increase their vigilance against subversive activities of counter revolutionery elements.

[Chief Minister]

Sir, I was talking of the measures taken by this Government to stamp out corruption. I have also stated the difficulties that we had to face in this matter. May I ask the hon. Members who have complained of the prevalence of corruption in the administration on the floor of this House if they have ever cared to draw the attention of the Government to any specific cases in this connection. Some of them will say that they have been writing letters to the Government but their letters were not even acknowledged. To avoid this complaint we have decided to entrust the work of attending to the complaints received from M. L. A's to the Parliamentary Secretaries of the Departments to which they will relate. On receipt of a complaint from an M. L. A., the Parliamentary Secretary concerned will be responsible to follow it up and get an inquiry made into it.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal: But have the Parliamentary Secretaries been asked to set up their officers? Are they given any work to do?

Chief Minister: Yes, they do the work that is allotted to them.

Then, Sir, criticism was levelled at the Government from very responsible quarters that Parliamentary Secretaries had been disallowed to go on tour. I wonder how the hon. Member who raised this objection came to have this information. So far as I think, he himself is not a Parliamentary Secretary. Then it was alleged that the Ministers draw Rs. 3,000 P. M. as their travelling allowance. It is regrettable, Sir, that even though questions about the travelling allowance drawn by the Ministers have been so many times answered on the floor of this House, misunderstanding on this score still exists in the minds of some hon. Members: Yes, they are great men and that is why perhaps such figures as thousands rotate in their minds all the time. How can they think of any smaller figure? It was also alleged that the Ministers are drawing Rs. 300 p. m. as Simla compensatory hill allowance. Well Sir, I have been a Minister of the Government since 15th August, 1951. First I was Chief Minister, then a Finance Minister and now again am Chief Minister but so far I have never drawn any such allowance. He was also Chief Minister for sometime. I wonder if he was drawing any such allowance during the period he was in office. But how could he when there is no such provision in the Ministers Salaries Act? I might inform him that Ministers are not included in the category of Govern-

ment servants. Even Gazetted officers except the Superintendents and P. A's are not in receipt of hill allowance. This is meant chiefly for subordinate Government servants.

As regards Grow-More-Food Campaign, doubt has been expressed in certain quarters as to whether it has actually resulted in increased food production. Well, Sir, if this is not so, how has the Government been able to procure a larger quantity of food grains? If the Government has been able to procure more, it means that more food was produced by the people of this province.

As I have already stated some people expect the Government to do everything for them, though here even they will agree with me that the Government cannot manufacture food. If its production will increase, it will be through the efforts of the people themselves. We are beholden for this increase in production of food to those hardy peasants who undeterred and undismayed by the damage caused by floods, devoted themselves whole-heartedly to the cultivation of Rabi crops, even though they had no house to live in and no clothes to protect themselves from cold after the floods had washed away all their belongings.

In regard to grow-more-food I may give the hon. Members a summary of the results achieved in Kharif 1949 and Rabi 1950 which are as follows :

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT SCHEMES.	ADDITIONAL PRODUCTIONS IN TONS.
Shah Nahr.	2,571
Raising Banks of Canals.	21,429
Damdam Storage.	193
Irrigation schemes initiated by Deputy Commissioners.	2,077

[Chief Minister]

TUBEWELLS.

(I) Agriculture Department.	2,280
(II) Private.	1,513
Reclamation and Mechanical Cultivation.	1,927
Percolation Wells.	7,358
MANUFACTURE OF COMPOST.	
(i) Villages.	9,983
(ii) Committees.	135
FERTILIZERS.	
(i) Green Manuring.	1,643
(ii) Ammonium Sulphate.	5,746

Total. 56,855 tons.

So we could produce 56,855 tons of more food by virtue of our different schemes. In order to finance the grow-more food campaign we have started two kinds of schemes, namely the grants-in-aid schemes and the loan schemes. Here is the budget for these schemes for 1950-51.

Grant-in-aid Schemes for 1950-51

Name of the Scheme.	Provision by F. D. for 1950-51.
<i>Irrigation—XVII</i>	
	Rs.
1. Raising Banks of channels and providing temporary shoots for irrigation ...	14,00,000
<i>18—Irrigation</i>	
2. Development of Irrigation in Gurgaon } District	
3. Repairs of Kuhls in Kulu and Kangra } Valleys	7,51,040
4. Kasim Khera Minor }	

40—Agriculture

6.	Destruction of Jackals	50,000
7.	Publicity (Agriculture Department)	14,730
8.	Sinking of percolation wells	2,31,150
9.	Staff for Manufacture of Compost	47,460
10.	Grant of subsidy to cultivators on loans and advances for sinking of wells	9,97,310
11.	Palm Gur Development	23,940

25—General Administration

12.	Domestication of wild cows	35,010
13.	Destruction of Monkeys	1,35,500
14.	Additional District and Financial Commissioners office staff	4,45,900
15.	Advances to Deputy Commissioners for local funds etc.,	5,00,000

57—Miscellaneous

16.	Publicity	35,000
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10—Forests

17.	Anti-erosion and soil conservation	3,92,640
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Co-operation

18.	Anti-erosion and Cho reclamation	42,530
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Total	...	51,63,410
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[Chief Minister]

LOANS SCHEMES FOR 1950-51.

Name of Scheme	Provision by F. D. for 1950-51.
<i>Agriculture</i>	Rs.
1. Loans to M. C's. for compost	2,08,790
2. Land reclamation and mechanical cultivation	34,13,200
3. Sinking of Tubewells	18,31,980
4. Sinking of percolation wells	20,00,000
5. Purchase of Jeeps	15,000
<i>Irrigation scheme</i>	
6. Extension of New Disty for Kasur Branch	} 19,66,550
7. Extension of Irrigation to Barani areas in Amritsar District	
8. Extending irrigation in New Areas on Eastern Canal	
9. Shah Nahr	
10. Kiran Nallah	
11. Talu and Bhiwani Khera Extension	
12. Reclamation in Karnal District	
13. Direction and pensionary charges in respect of scheme Nos. 6 to 12 above	
14. Extension of irrigation in Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts	
15. Jagadhri tubewell scheme		10,00,000
16. Tubewell electrification (Panipat-Jagadhri)	2,17,300
Total	1,06,52,820

It may here be noted that a sum of Rs. 17,00,000 has been asked for from the Government of India for expenditure up to the 30th of June 1951 on the following schemes : —

Lining of Bhiwani Distributary	—	5 lakhs.
Construction of 60 tubewells in Nanak and Radaur areas	—	12 lakhs.

Now I would read out the budget estimates of this Government for this year, 1951-52, in connection with the loans scheme.

Agriculture Department—71—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

			Rs.
1. Land Reclamation and Mechanical cultivation	—	—	35,00,000
2. Sinking of tube-wells	—	—	5,84,000
3. Sinking of surface percolation wells	—	—	28,00,000
4. Purchase of Jeeps	—	—	49,000

Electricity Department.

5. Tube-well electrification (Panipat and Jagadhri)	—	—	7,85,000
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Irrigation —68—Irrigation Capital Outlay on Irrigation works.

6. Excavation of New Disty. for Kasur Branch	—	—	4,65,000
7. Extension of Irrigation to Barani areas in Amritsar District	—	—	30,000
8. Extending Irrigation on new areas on Eastern Canal	—	—	2,06,000
9. Shah Nallah	—	—	7,60,000
10. Kiran Nallah	—	—	17,66,000

[Chief Minister]

11.	Talu and Bhiwani Khera Extensions	—	35,000
12.	Extension of Irrigation to arid areas in Jandiala and Gurdaspur Division	—	10,00,000
13.	Construction of 2-L Minor of Sutlej Navigation Channels	— —	3,50,000
14.	Reclamation of Thur areas	— —	2,39,000
15.	Extension of Bhiwani Disty. R. D. 65,200 to 2,27,776 and lining from R. D. 65,200 to 2,27,776	— —	6,50,000
16.	Extension of Jasrana Minor—	—	1,20,000
17.	Extension of Irrigation to villages Dubal Dham, Majra, etc., by extending Bakrab Minor of Jhajjar Disty.	— —	3,30,000
18.	Extension of Irrigation to Harita and other villages on Patwar Disty. of Hansi Branch	— — —	1,00,000
19.	Increasing capacity of channels and running excess discharge in channels of Ferozepore	— — —	2,70,000
20.	Tube-well Project of Irrigation Department	— — —	60,00,000
	Total of Loans scheme	—	1,99,79,000
	Total inclusive of grants-in-aid	—	2,47,92,042

Sir, I am to inform the hon. Members that we have grown not only more food but we have also grown more and an excellent quality of new cotton which brings very good price.

Now a few words about the locusts. Whatever steps we have been taking for the destruction of this winged plague is patent to every one. My hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh has asked for some time to enable the House to discuss this particular matter and I have promised that as desired by him I shall as soon as possible do the needful. I shall certainly do my best to find time for this purpose. But hon. Members are aware that we have been doing our level best to end this menace and the result is that so far as Hoshiarpur is concerned it has been cleared of locusts though unfortunately large quantities of eggs are lying in the fields which would give rise to hoppers and trenches will have to be dug to bring about their destruction. As for killing the locusts in the air I am to inform the House that the Government of India wrote to the American Government in this connection and it is gathered that the methods used in America for killing locusts cannot be employed in India as the American locust flies in a peculiar manner. And then we do not have the right type of aeroplanes for this purpose. Of course, steps are being taken to get the desired type of planes from the United Kingdom.

As for the dusting method is concerned, it can only be used for killing the hoppers. If it is used for killing the locusts in the air through the agency of the aeroplanes the dense population of District Jullundur and Hoshiarpur is bound to suffer a good deal. This is the opinion of the experts.

Sardar Dalip Sing Kang : It does not kill even the wild birds in the air.

Chief Minister : I shall give the necessary literature to the hon. Member and he can read it for himself.

I may say a few words in regard to the relief which is to be given to the affected people. The Government has made this thing clear that if the cooperative societies or some private bodies undertake to purchase fodder for distribution, the Government will surely help them by fixing its prices etc. But the Government does not like the idea of distributing fodder itself as it has had a very bad experience in this connection in the past. I repeat that all possible help will be given to all persons who wish to purchase fodder. But we do not favour the idea of giving taccavi in the form of money as a person in straitened circumstances is likely to misuse it. We will surely have no hesitation in giving taccavi in the form of commodity.

[Chief Minister]

So far as the question of food is concerned, the demand for it always exists. There is no doubt that our food crop has been damaged to some extent but if we have good rains, not only will there be no shortage of food in this State, but we shall be able to export to other deficit areas also.

Another thing to which I wish to refer is the remission of land revenue. Generally, girdawri is done on collective basis. The amount of total loss is estimated and remission is granted on its basis. We have ordered that the estimate of loss be made fieldwise so that necessary action might be taken in the matter.

Then, Sir, I wish to refer to Ludhiana Maternity Hospital. It is true that I am Chairman of its Board of Governors. I have held that position since long and was the President of the Board at Lahore also. Among others publicmen like Goswami Ganesh Dutt ji, Lala Jagat Narain ji and Lala Thakar Das ji Kapur, who has spent almost the whole of his life in national service, are also on this Board. Dr. B. L. Kapur started this hospital but later on he constituted a charitable trust to manage it. It was our agreement with him that so long as he served this hospital in honorary capacity, he would be its Superintendent. This hospital has been functioning with the aid of public charity. It had a premises of its own at Lahore. I wish to read out from the letter which Dr. Kapur wrote to Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, who was at that time the Premier of the Province. The letter which is dated 23rd July, 1949, reads thus.

It was kind of you to give me your valuable time when I came to have an interview with you at Simla. We look forward to your visit to our Hospital when you come to Ludhiana next. I am sure you will be able to form an idea of the work that the hospital is doing in rendering medical aid in the sphere of Gynaecology and Obsterics.

We had started the land acquisition problem in Lahore and we had got it under your Ministership and we are only happy that no construction had started otherwise that money had gone waste. Now again we are facing the same problem and hope that we would meet success in your Premiership.

After the partition the hospital was raided and we had nowhere to go to. The Arya Medical School people gave us their kind patronage and encouraged us in starting this institution. During this period as you see from the attached report for 1948, we have trained medical students in Midwifery and Gynaecology, Nurse dais and

Dais and have served the abducted women, the refugees and the poor from the whole of the East Punjab.

I again request you to pay a visit to the institution.

The immediate need of the hospital is a modern building. That can be had only if you give us the land.

On this letter, the then Premier made the following remarks on the 1st August, 1949 :—

Will H. M. F. kindly look into the needs of the hospital.

I was at that time incharge of Medical portfolio. I wish to read from another letter written by Shri Bhim Sen Sachar to Colonel J. R. Kochhar, Janshedpur, who is also connected with this hospital. This letter is dated the 19th August, 1949 and reads thus :—

Thank you for your letter of the 14th instant enclosing Kapur's letter to you. Kapur met me when he was here the other day. I had also agreed to visit his hospital at the time of my visit to Ludhiana which I had to give up because of my recent illness-(this should not worry you at all ; I am better now) I shall look into the question of acquisition of land for the hospital.
with best regards.

It is said that I have given a large piece of land to this hospital and it will become someone's private property. I wish to submit that I was ordered by the Premier to take steps for the acquisition of land for the use of this hospital. A particular plot of land was asked for, but it was not given because the Government wanted to construct a market on it. About the land which has now been given, it has been said that it was used by the Ram Lila Committee. Can anybody believe that a man like Goswami Ganesh Dutt ji would do anything against the Ram Lila Committee ? It is said that Roshani fair used to be held on this land. With the help of some persons, it has been stated over the West Pakistan Radio Station that if this land is given to the hospital authorities, the Government of that State would treat the lands of Nankana Sahib Gurdwara in the same way. How is it possible ? In this case the land belongs to the Government. When our hon. Prime Minister went to Ludhiana, it took full one week to get this land cleared for holding a public meeting. Ram Lila is held on this plot for not more than ten days in a year. For the rest of the year it is always lying unused in a very dirty condition. The question of disposal of this land arose before the partition also. At

[Chief Minister]

that time it was proposed to sell it. We have not sold this land. As it was not being put to any use the Government has not encroached upon even the equitable rights of any person. The land has been given on lease. It is not correct to say that it has been sold for twentyfive lakhs of rupees. My hon. Friend knows the manner in which Government administration is carried on. During his Premiership, he might not have consulted the Finance Department on some occasions, but I have always consulted them in matters involving finance. There is a regular note of the Finance Department and a thorough enquiry was made about the price of the land. It was estimated at ten thousand rupees per acre and it has been leased out for ten years at one hundred rupees per annum per acre. As usual, there is a clause in the agreement for lease that if the land is not brought under use for the purpose for which it had been leased, the Government will have the right to take it back without payment of any compensation. During the Mutiny of 1857 the houses situated at this spot were demolished. On receipt of hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar's letter I asked for reports of Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent Police, Ludhiana. As my hon. Friend has addressed the Prime Minister of India and the President of Indian National Congress on this subject, he will come to know about the reply which we are sending to them. It is said that shortly I am going to be removed from the Chief Ministership of this State and that I have given this land to the hospital so that I might go and start my work in it. I beg to submit, Sir, that I gave up practice in 1935. I also gave up service long ago. If necessary, with the grace of God, I shall be able to earn my livelihood by putting in hard work. If God wills it otherwise, I cannot live even for one day. It is therefore not correct to say that I have given this plot of land to the hospital because I am President of its Board of Governors. My hon. Friend is a lawyer and he knows that a charitable trust is meant for the benefit of its beneficiaries. Nobody can use it for his personal gain. All the Governors of the hospital are doing this work honorarily. Even if anybody does private practice, he has to give one third of the income to the charitable institution. When it is said that it is done for personal interest, it is the height of ingratitude. I don't want to say anything in this case which is now sub-judice. An enquiry is being conducted into these happenings by a magistrate. I don't want to prejudice it by saying anything just now in this connection. My Friend is a big man ; he can say what

he likes. I can't say anything regarding the case which is sub-judice. He writes to me :—

1. Lease in favour of the Ludhiana Maternity Hospital should be cancelled so that the open space is not diverted from the uses to which it has been put from times immemorial.

Note.--There is no objection to the Ludhiana Maternity Hospital having its own building on any other suitable site.

How can he have any objection. I don't know why he has written these words. He further writes :—

Government may help the hospital in acquiring for it the requisite piece of land. Besides, the land in question which is estimated to cost at least rupees 25 lakhs, is too precious to be made a present of to a private institution which is, perhaps, not a properly registered body.

My learned Friend is a big man ; he does not take into consideration sums less than lakhs and thousands of rupees. He says that body is not even a registered body. If it is not registered, how could it be given the land. Then, Sir, it was said that the Deputy Commissioner was a nice man when he was appointed by the hon. Member ; but now he has misbehaved. Similarly it was said that he would have dismissed the Superintendent of Police for his misbehaviour. All that I can say is that it is not proper to say arbitrarily against anybody such things. Then Sir, I have been asked to withdraw cases against people in this connection. How can such a thing be done in view of the fact that the bricks and other building material was stolen from the site of the hospital. Cases can be withdrawn only by those persons who made the complaints. If the Deputy Commissioner cannot do that, no Minister can do that now. They can be withdrawn only by the Cabinet. Further on the hon. Member writes to me :—

Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana should cease to be the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Ludhiana Maternity Hospital especially when the Chief Minister, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, is so actively associated with the management of the hospital.

6. The Chief Minister, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, should withdraw his directions to the Deputy Commissioner Ludhiana to collect funds for the Ludhiana Maternity Hospital and Government servants should not be used for collecting funds from the public.

Mr. Speaker : Now I will put each amendment separately to the vote of the House. Does any hon. Member wish to withdraw his amendment ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, amendment No. 1 stands in my name but I was neither given an opportunity to move it nor to make a speech

Mr. Speaker : It was not necessary to move it separately because at the very beginning I had held that all the amendments can be taken to have been moved and the hon. Members taking part in the debate could speak on the main motion as well as on the amendments.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I never delegated powers to any Member to move the amendment on my behalf.

Mr. Speaker : Perhaps the hon. Member does not know the rules. The Chair has certain powers under the rules and in exercise of such powers I held that all the amendments could be taken to be before the House without having been moved by the Members individually.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I protest.

Mr. Speaker : The following Members have expressed their desire to withdraw the amendments standing against their names :—

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.

Shri Prabodh Chandra.

Sardar Ajit Singh.

Sardar Kabul Singh.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendments standing against the names of these Members be withdrawn ?

Hon. Members : Yes.

The amendments were, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—

but regret to note that

- (a) there is no mention even of the fast deterioration in the economic conditions of the State and
- (b) no assurance has been given to the people to provide them protection against the corruption and unconstitutional acts of the high-ups in the Government of the State.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—

but regret that

- (a) nothing substantial has been done or proposed to be done for the land reform ;
- (b) nothing has been done or proposed to be done to better the conditions of low paid and subordinate Services.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—

but regret that

- (a) nothing has been done or proposed to be done to clear the administration of inefficiency and corruption ;
- (b) nothing has been done or proposed to be done to upkeep the secular character of the State Government and to win confidence of the minority communities.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—

but regret that waste land operations in the State have not been satisfactorily carried out.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That at the end of the motion the following be added:..

but regret that no mention has been made in the Address relating to the welfare of women in the State.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That at the end of the motion the following be added:..

but regret to note that

Nothing has been said in the Address about the unwisely action of the Government in arresting Master Tara Singh and other workers of Shromani Akali Dal with which action of the Government the Sikhs living in the State have started feeling sense of insecurity against their rights to live in free India.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the members of this House assembled in this session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House.

The motion was carried.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p m on Thursday 8th March,
1951.*

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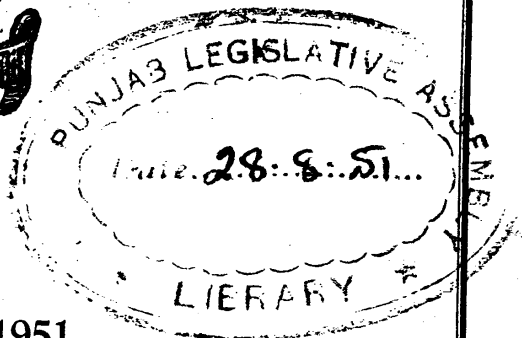
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

8th MARCH 1951

Vol. III — No. 5.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 8th March, 1951.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock,
Mr. Speaker (The Hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REVERSION OF SHRI RAM CHANDRA.

***2774. Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Shri Ram Chandra the only Harijan patwari working in the Deputy Commissioner's office, Gurgaon continuously for the last seven years has been reverted; if so, on what grounds;
- (b) whether he was afforded a reasonable opportunity to explain his position as required vide Rule 311 (2) XIV of Constitution of India?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

- (a) Yes. For unsatisfactory work and for his being an unwilling worker.
- (b) No. He was a Temporary clerk only. He was neither dismissed nor removed nor reduced in rank but was posted as

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

patwari, his original substantive post. As such provisions contained in article 311 (2) Part XIV of the Constitution of India do not apply in his case.

**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY HON.
MINISTERS.**

*2854. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state;

- (a) the amount of Travelling Allowance drawn by each of the hon. Ministers during the period 15th October, 1949 to 31st March, 1950 and from 1st April, 1950 to 15th February, 1951 separately ;
- (b) the total number of miles travelled by each of the hon. Ministers during the periods referred to above;
- (c) the total amount of daily allowance drawn by each Minister during the above mentioned periods ;
- (d) the Travelling Allowance drawn by the hon. Minister for Labour and the hon. Minister for Public Works for their visit to Gurgaon on 31-1-51 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a), (b), (c), and (d) :—

A statement is laid on the table. †

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Did the hon. Minister for Labour and the hon. Minister for Public Works draw travelling allowance for going to Delhi ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Do the Ministers draw travelling allowance for journeys undertaken by them in connection with official business or they charge even for private journeys ?

†Kept in the Library

Chief Minister : Travelling allowance is drawn for journeys undertaken in connection with official business.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the two Ministers who took the ashes of the late Dr. Lehna Singh to Hardwar charged travelling allowance for this journey?

Chief Minister : I require notice of this question as I have not got files of all the cases with me

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did the hon. Ministers draw travelling allowance for going to Nasik for attending the Congress session held there ?

Chief Minister : The information asked for in the main question has been supplied. This question has nothing to do with that.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I wish to know whether the travelling allowance mentioned in the reply relates to journeys undertaken for official business or it includes some private journeys also ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied to this question.

DACOITIES IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

***2889. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of dacoities committed in the Ambala District, Police Station wise from 1.1.50 to date;
- (b) the special measures adopted by the Police to check the re-occurrence of such cases in future;
- (c) the number of dacoities traced by the Police station wise in Ambala District during the period mentioned in part (a) above along with the number of those untraced and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of traced dacoities in which the culprits have been convicted by the law courts together with the number of such cases where the accused were acquitted by the court ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

(a-d) A statement is laid on the table.†

MURDER CASES IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

***2890. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of cases in which the Police were accused of having beaten people to death and thrown their dead bodies into wells, tanks, rivers etc. in the Ambala District Police station-wise from 1.1.50 to date;
- (b) the number of such cases sent up for trial in law courts together with the number of those dealt with departmentally and the result thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a)	P. S. Chamkaur	—	1
	P. S. Rupar	—	1
	P. S. Chandigarh	—	2
	P. S. Jagadhri	—	1
	P. S. Mubarikpur	—	1
	P. S. Sadhaura	—	1
		— — —	7

- (b) No case was sent up for trial in Law Courts.
One case was registered U/S 302 but on investigation the Inquiring Officer came to the conclusion that the deceased drowned himself by jumping into a well. The D. M. concurred with the inquiring officer and got the case cancelled. In another case the magisterial report is still awaited.

EMBEZZLEMENT IN AMRITSAR MUNICIPALITY.

***2610. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

†Kept in the Library

- (a) the date when the case with regard to an alleged embezzlement of certain municipal funds and loss of files etc. in the Amritsar Municipality was first reported to the Government;
- (b) the date on which the matter was handed over to the C.I.D.;
- (c) the date on which the matter was taken out of the C.I.D. hands and handed over to the ordinary police for investigation;
- (d) whether the Investigating Agency of the police has submitted any report; if so, the date on which the report was submitted;
- (e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, the reasons for delay in the investigation;
- (f) the action Government propose to take on this report?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :

- (a) 2nd September 1949.
- (b) 15th December 1949.
- (c) 20th January 1950.
- (d) Yes, on the 22nd September 1950.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) It will not be in public interest to disclose the action being taken by Government.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know why no action was taken for five months?

Parliamentary Secretary : Action was taken during this period.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : The dates given by the Parliamentary Secretary show that no action was taken for five months. I wish to know the reason of this delay.

Parliamentary Secretary : The report was received on the 2nd September and the matter was sent to the Criminal Investigation Department for enquiry. There has been no delay in this matter.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : What is the cause of first sending

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar].

the case to the C. I. D. and then passing it on to the police from whom it has again been sent to the C.I.D,

Minister : This was done on account of administrative reasons.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the meaning of the term 'administrative reasons'?

Minister : We have not opened a school here for educating people.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the reply given by the hon. Minister is relevant and is not an insinuation?

Mr. Speaker : I would like answers to questions to be given in a manner which may be considered proper.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Why has no action been taken by the Government when the police has submitted its complete report on the case?

Parliamentary Secretary : Action is being taken. Cases have been instituted against some while in the case of others departmental enquiries are being made.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Has any action been taken in the case regarding embezzlement? At what stage has the enquiry reached in this case?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice for this question.

Pandit Faqir Chand : When the police has already submitted report regarding the case of embezzlement, when does the Government propose to lodge regular prosecution? What steps does the Government propose to take in this matter?

Minister : The Government proposes to take necessary action against the defaulter.

Pandit Faqir Chand : It is more than three months when the police submitted its report. What action has the Government taken so far on the basis of that report?

Minister : The hon. Member is giving information instead of asking for it.

Pandit Faqir Chand : What has the Government done during the past three months ?

Minister : The hon. Member has been informed about the action already taken by the Government. Necessary action will be taken in the matter.

Pandit Faqir Chand : I wish to know if the report submitted by the police has been filed.

Minister : The hon. Member has been supplied complete information.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know if this is the same case in which a dye worth Rs. 250 was supplied for Rs. 2500, a wrench worth Rs. 7/- was supplied for Rs. 25/-, a rubber washer worth one anna was supplied for Rs. 10/- and Rs. 1700/- were charged for a carriage worth Rs. 700/- ? Is it also a fact that the relevant files containing the above information in a form likely to implicate certain employees of the Municipality suddenly disappeared ? Is it a fact that the necessity of searching the premises of the contractor concerned and certain others, had been repeatedly impressed upon the Government by many public men but nothing has been done in this respect ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know if the matter under discussion relates to the case which I have just now mentioned ?

Minister : Yes, it is the same case.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : The hon. Minister just now said that the Government is taking necessary action. I want to know if it was brought to the notice of the Government that the premises of the contractor concerned and certain other suspects should be searched ; if so, what action was taken in this regard ?

Minister : It is not in public interest to disclose the details of this case.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know if the Government is aware of the fact that this case has been hanging fire for a year and there is a feeling in the public that the Government wants to hush it up ?

Mr. Speaker : That is an expression of opinion.

Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Minister has stated that the matter is at a stage when it is not in public interest to disclose the details. May I know that stage ?

Minister : Cases are pending against a number of people and departmental action is being taken against others.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the report of the Police which conducted the enquiry into the case has already reached the Government and the necessary action is now to be taken on it by the Government ?

Minister : Some of the cases are *sub-judice* and in some departmental action is being taken.

HOLDING OF ELECTIONS TO LOCAL BODIES IN THE STATE.

*2630. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public works be pleased to state :—

- (a) the year when the elections to the local bodies (District Boards and Municipal Committees) were held last in the various districts of the state ;
- (b) when the Government propose to hold elections to these bodies next ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) A statement is placed on the table †
- (b) The question is under the consideration of Government.

Shri Virendra : May I know if the Government is prepared to hold elections to certain local bodies, elections to which were held as far back as 1936 ?

†Kept in the Library

Minister : Government intends to hold elections to all the local bodies. They will be held on the same electoral rolls which are being printed for the general elections. As soon as these electoral rolls are printed, the elections to the local bodies will be taken in hand.

Shri Virendra : Will they be held before or after the general elections ?

Minister : It will be tried to hold them before the general elections.

Shri Virendra : May I know how much time will be taken before the elections to these bodies are held ?

Minister : The electoral rolls will be ready in July next and the elections will be held probably in September or October next.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if all the requirements of the rules and regulations regarding the holding of elections will be met in a small period of two months ?

Minister : Yes, they can be met.

Shri Virendra : May I know if the elections will be held to all the local bodies such as Municipal Committees, District Boards etc. ?

Minister : Elections to all the local bodies will be held.

— — —

DEPUTATION ABROAD TO SECURE EXPERTS.

*2683. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number and names of the officers who were deputed to visit Europe and America for securing the services of experts for the construction of the New Capital at Chandigarh ;
- (b) the total amount of money spent by them on this tour ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

- (a) Two : Shri P. N. Thapar, I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation and Administrator, Capital Project and Shri P. L. Varma, Chief Engineer, Capital Project.

They visited U. K. and other European countries and did not go to America.

- (b) The High Commissioner, for India in London has not yet intimated the expenditure incurred on tour. The estimate of the expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,000 excluding salaries of the Officers which would have been paid in any case.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the reasons which led the Government to send its representatives abroad to select the experts in view of the fact that our High Commissioners abroad could have done this job ?

Mr. Speaker : I think this matter was decided by the Assembly.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if any resolution was passed on this subject by the House ?

Chief Minister : I would refer the hon. Member to the proceedings of the Assembly on the subject.

SELECTION OF THE ARCHITECTS FOR THE NEW CAPITAL.

*2692. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) the expenses incurred by the Government on the committee which went abroad to select architects for the construction of the New Capital at Chandigarh ;
- (b) the technical qualifications of the persons who went abroad to make the selection ;

- (c) the number of technicians engaged in this connection together with their salaries ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) the High Commissioner for India, London, has not yet intimated the expenditure incurred on the two Officers delegation which visited Europe. The estimate of the expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,000/- excluding salaries.
- (b) one is Financial Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation and Administrator, Capital Project and the other is Chief Engineer, Punjab, Capital Project. The former has no technical qualifications the latter is a qualified Civil Engineer.
- (c) Four :
- (i) Architectural Advisor to Government, Punjab, £ 2,000/- per annum as honorarium plus £ 30/- a day as daily allowances for his stay in India subject to a maximum of £ 4,000/- inclusive of honorarium.
 - (ii) Two senior Architects at £ 3,000/- each per year.
 - (iii) One Senior Architect at £ 1,800/ a year.

Shri Praboh Chandra : May I know for what purpose these two gentlemen went to England ? (*Laughter*)

Chief Minister : They went to recruit officers and the Assembly permitted that.

Shri Parbodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has said that they went to Europe to appoint technical persons. May I know why Mr. P. N. Thapar who is not an engineer, was sent to make these appointments ?

Chief Minister : I may inform my learned Friend that the deputation sent for the Bhakra and Nangal Projects, comprised the Chief Engineer and also the Chairman so that the terms might be settled on the spot. The Chief Engineer went to see that the experts appointed should possess requisite qualifications and the Chairman

[Chief Minister]

went to settle the terms of appointment. It was necessary that both should go.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if these terms could not be settled by sending a cable? That would have saved thousands of rupees.

Chief Minister : It could not be done by sending a cable.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government of India was consulted before sending these two three officers abroad?

Chief Minister : They went with the permission of the Government of India.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government of India objected to the sending of Mr. P. N. Thapar and Mr. Verma?

Chief Minister : No.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if all the powers of the Public Service Commission were delegated to the Chairman who went abroad?

Chief Minister : I have told that the Chairman of the Public Service Commission did not go.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The matter concerning the selection of Architects etc. can be understood by technically qualified persons. May I know in what respects the Government considered the selection of an administrative head for the job justified?

Mr. Speaker : It has already been replied to.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Was it not possible for one delegation which had gone in connection with Bhakra Dam to deal also with Chandigarh Scheme?

Chief Minister : No.

ARCHITECTS FOR THE NEW CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH.

*2693. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India was consulted

by the Punjab Government before sending abroad delegation for the selection of architects for the construction of New Capital at Chandigarh ; if so, what was the advice given by the Government of India ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India agreed to the delegation proceeding abroad.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Can the hon. Chief Minister place before the House the correspondence which passed between the State Government and the Government of India on this matter ?

Chief Minister : Such correspondence is always confidential.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that Government of India advised our State Government to recruit such architects within India itself

Chief Minister : It is not correct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the Chief Engineer of our State drew the attention of the Government to the fact that such technical men could be recruited in India ?

Chief Minister : The type of architects that we require for Chandigarh are not available here, that is why we had to select them from abroad.

ALLOTMENT OF PLOTS AT THE NEW CAPITAL SITE.

*2694. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of applications received so far by the Government for the purchase of plots at the new Capital site ;
- (b) whether any allotment has been made so for ;
- (c) the rules governing the allotment together with the name of authority which will allot ;
- (d) whether any price has been fixed by the Government for each plot ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Upto the end of January, 1951, 33,611 applications for 54,375 plots were received.

(b) No.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any Sub Committee consisting of non officials will be constituted to make allotment of the plots in the new Capital to be constructed at Chandigarh or whether the allotment will be made by officials ?

Chief Minister : This matter has not yet been considered by the Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : When does the Government propose considering it ?

Chief Minister : In May or June, this year.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Are new applications for sites in the Capital entertained even now ?

Chief Minister : Yes.

ALLOTEMENT OF SITES IN THE NEW CAPITAL.

*2695. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any preference will be given to the refugees from Lahore while allotting sites at the new Capital site ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The matter is under consideration.

ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR THE NEW CAPITAL SITE AT CHANDIGARH.

*2697. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons whose lands have been acquired so far by the Government for the New Capital at Chandigarh;

- (b) the manner in which the above referred to persons have been compensated by Government?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) 715.
- (b) In accordance with their wishes they will be given cultivable lands in compensation of the same quality which they have left in the Capital area. Cash compensation for houses, wells, trees, other structures and uncultivable land will be paid.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the date by which the Government intends giving compensation to the persons whose lands have been acquired ?

Chief Minister : The Government intends bringing in legislation for the purpose of getting authority to give land for land because under the present laws the Government is not authorised to do so. When such an Act is passed by this House those persons whose lands have been acquired will get compensation in land after assessment etc.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know what relief is given in the meanwhile or what the Government intends ?

Chief Minister : The relief that is to be provided to them is to be by way of giving compensation for land, so the question of giving them land will arise when such an Act is passed by the House.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I ask the hon. Chief Minister where from they propose to give the lands—whether from Nazul lands or evacuee property ?

Chief Minister : There are no Nazul lands there. We have acquired evacuee property as well as some other property.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that certain standing crops have been cut down at the Capital site ?

ACQUIRING OF LANDS BY GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE.

***2892 Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :--

- (a) the total area of land in acres so far acquired by the Government in the State since partition along with

[Shri Rattan Singh Tabib]

location of such lands and the compensation paid in lieu thereof ;

- (b) whether there are any such acquired lands for which no compensation has been paid so far ; if so , the location of these lands together with the dates on which such lands were acquired ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) A total area of 44,24,914 acres of land has been acquired by the P. W. D , B and R. since partition.

The information regarding location of land and compensation paid in lieu thereof is given in the form of a statement attached as Appendix ' A ' †

- (b) The required information is given in the statement attached as Appendix ' B ' †

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***2627. Chaudhri Badlu Ram:** Will the hon Minister for Revenue be pleased to give the details of work done in connection with the consolidation of holdings in the Rohtak district during 1950-51, together with the amount of money spent thereon ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakar Beli Ram) :

The work is in progress since August last in 19 villages comprising an area of 22,862 acres and the total expenditure incurred upto 31st January 1951 is Rs. 11,778/10/-.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know to what extent has the work of consolidation in Rohtak District been carried out ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the work is in progress.

†Kept in the Library.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I want to know the speed of this progress and the places where it has been undertaken and completed. Has the hon. Parliamentary Secretary any knowledge of it ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have nothing to add to my previous reply.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the scheme which is said to be progressing is the same scheme which was undertaken previously ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require fresh notice for that.

QUESTION NO. 2635.

Mr. Speaker : This question is postponed.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Sir, if there is a question for which the Government has to collect some information, there seems to be some justification for postponing it. But this question relates to the policy of the Government.

Sardar Swarn Singh : This Government has no policy.

Mr. Speaker : It is better that a question is postponed because it comes up again on the order paper.

Shri Virendra : Our experience is that once a question is postponed, it is never replied.

Mr. Speaker : It appears on the list again.

Shri Virendra : It may appear but it is never replied.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Can we enquire from the Government the reasons for postponing a question.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has got the remedy. It is not for me to suggest it.

Shri Ram Sharma : I want to know why is the Government hesitant to reply to this question? Its reply is so obvious regarding which the Government has already declared its policy both in public and in the Press.

Mr. Speaker : That is the hon. Member's view. It is not the view of the Government.

Chief Minister : I may inform the hon. Member that the institution of Zaildars no longer exists so that his question is irrelevant.

**REPRESENTATION FROM THE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION,
ROHTAK MANDI.**

***2318. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any representation from the Merchants Association, Rohtak Mandi was made to the Government for the removal of restrictions on the export of Gur, Shakkar and Khandsari; if so, the result thereof ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that such a ban had been removed in Uttar Pradesh and Dehli States ;

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) Yes It was decided that the ban on the export of gur, shakkar and khandsari etc. from the Punjab would continue for sometime more.
- (b) Yes. the ban on the export of gur from the Punjab was also withdrawn with effect from the 5th July, 1950.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, ROHTAK.

***2319. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the exact location of the office of the Inspector of weights and Measures in Rohtak Town and its distance from the centre of business ;
- (b) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that it should not be at such an in-convenient distance ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) The office of the Inspector of Weights and Measures, Rohtak Town is located in a central market place adjacent to Mandi Post Office.
- (b) A representation was received from the Merchants' Association Mandi Rohtak against the proposed shifting of the office of the Inspector of Weights and Measures, Rohtak to the Model Town, Rohtak, with a view to the amalgamation of all subordinate offices of the Industries Department there, but the proposal was dropped.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

* 2320 **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the fact that new weights and measures and stamping are subjects of great complaint by the business community ; if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

Yes. Some complaints were received from the business community regarding inaccuracy of new weights and measures and the stamping fee charged by Government. The complaints were given immediate attention and faulty stamping of weights and measures was checked and stopped and the ceiling prices of weights complained of were reduced. A copy of the press communique issued in this connection is placed on the table.†

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation kindly recollect that the Sarafa Association of Sarsa represented to him that the weights and measures supplied to them by the Government were faulty and that it demanded that the same should be set right? May I know what action has been taken by the Government in that regard ?

Minister : A complaint in this respect was received and it was immediately attended to. The reply to the main question covers the action taken by the Government

†kept in the Library.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the reply that has been given in respect of that complaint ?

Minister : The main reply covers this point also.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the hon. Minister remembers the reply that he gave to the Sarsa Sarafa Association ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : It is not a memory test. (*Laughter*)

REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES IN THE STATE.

2657. Dr Sant Ram Seth : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of companies registered in the State from January, 1950 to January, 1951 together with their total capital ;
- (b) the number of companies which went into liquidation during the above mentioned period—together with reasons in each case ;
- (c) the period for which each such company functioned ;
- (d) the percentage of refunded capital ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail

- (a) 71. Authorised Capital Rs. 1,68,60,000
 Subscribed Capital Rs. 11,14,100
- (b) & (c) The Statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table.†
- (d) Not available as the first annual statement from the liquidators appointed in each case is not yet due.

FORFEITURE OF PART SECURITY OF A DEPOT-HOLDER JULLUNDUR CITY.

†**2681 Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

†Kept in the Library.

- (a) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs 50/- was ordered to be forfeited by authorisation No. W-27, dated Jullundur City, the 16th January, 1951 out of the security of Mr. Chuni Lal, a depot-holder of Jullundur City ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this fine was levied on the said depot-holder for issuing wheat of inferior quality ; if so, where the depot holder got that quality of wheat from ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that all the depot-holders take delivery of wheat from the Government stocks ;
- (d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, how was the responsibility for the issue of the inferior quality of wheat fixed on the said depot-holder ;
- (e) whether the Government intend to refund the said fine to the above mentioned depot holder ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) First part. Yes.
Second part. The depot-holder got the wheat from P. R. godowns.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The depontholders in the Jullundur rationed area have been given clear instructions since June, 1949, to refuse to take inferior quality of wheat for distribution to consumers. This depot-holder failed to ensure that the wheat was of proper standard.
- (e) The matter is under consideration.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation kindly tell us as to when the case, which he has stated to be under investigation, will be decided ?

Minister : I never stated that the case was under investigation. What I said was that the case was under consideration of the Government.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know when will it be decided ?

Minister : Very soon .

Shrimati Sita Devi : How long will it take the Government to decide that case ?

Minister : The decision will be taken at a very early date.

DAMAGE TO EVACUEE HOUSES AND SHOPS AT JULLUNDUR.

***2682 Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of evacuee houses and shops which got damaged or destroyed during the heavy rains of September 1950 at Jullundur ;
- (b) the number of refugee occupants of those houses and shops who applied for monetary aid to the Government for the repairs of such premises ;
- (c) the total number of applicants who received any financial aid from the Government up to January 15, 1951 ;
- (d) the number of applications that are still pending ;
- (e) whether the Government intend to consider those applications ; if so, when ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) 5000.
- (b) 6892.
- (c) 1806.
- (d) 350 on 15-1-1951.
- (e) Out of 350 pending applications, 250 have since been

disposed of and the remaining will be disposed of by the end of February 1951.

FEE CONCESSION TO DISPLACED STUDENTS.

***2655. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a circular was issued by the East Punjab Government in 1947 or 1948 to all the aided schools directing them not to charge any fee from the displaced students ;
- (b) the names and number of schools which did not carry out the orders of the Government referred to in part (a) above ;
- (c) the action which the Government took or propose to take against such institutions ;
- (d) whether he is aware if the Hindu Sabha High School, Amritsar charged any fee from the displaced students ; if so, the amount so charged ;
- (e) whether the amount referred to in part (d) above was deposited in the Hindu Sabha High School accounts or deposited in the Manager's personal account ;
- (f) if the answer to part (e) above be in the affirmative, the action the Governmen propose to take against the Manager, of the said Hindu Sabha High School or the authorities thereof ;
- (g) whether the Government keep any control on the accounts of institutions not managed by the Government but receiving grants from the State Government ; if so, the nature thereof ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) Yes. A circular was issued in February, 1948 in which it was inter alia stated that students should be charged tuition fees for twelve months only for the session (1947

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48 which had to be extended beyond one year owing to disturbances.

- (b) All the schools, it was reported, had carried out these orders. Subsequently it came to notice that Hindu Sabha High School, Amritsar had charged fees in contravention of these orders.
- (c) The case is under enquiry.
- (d) Yes, the amount, as reported, is Rs. 13,422/4/3.
- (e) It is reported to have been deposited in the manager's personal account.
- (f) The matter is under consideration of the Government.
- (g) Yes. The accounts of such schools are audited by Government Auditors.

PENSION CASES RELATING TO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

*2684. **Shrimati Sita Devi**: Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names and designations of teachers and other officers of the Education Department who retired from the Government service in the State from 15-8-1947 up-to-date together with their date of retirement ;
- (b) the number and names of such teachers and officers whose pension cases have not been decided so far by the Government ;
- (c) the names of such teachers and others officer who have not got even anticipatory pension so far ;
- (d) the action, Government intend to take in the matter ; if, so; what, if not, why not ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) (b) and (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table.† The total number of teachers and

†Kept in the Library.

other officers whose pension cases have not so far been decided is 76.

- (b) The question regarding the finalization of the pension cases is receiving active attention of the Department but owing to the non-availability of the pre-partition period records and other unavoidable circumstances created by the partition of the Province, there are many obstacles in the way. The work connected with the finalization of pension cases of a fairly large number of teachers and other officers of the Education Department who retired from service after the partition has been held up for want of their service books. Despite the best efforts made by the Department in this direction, it has not so far been possible to obtain these records from the Pakistan Government.

Government is, however, taking steps to solve this problem which is of paramount importance. The teachers or other officers of the Department who retired from Government service on or after 23rd November, 1949 and whose service books have not so far been received from Pakistan, have been authorized to prepare fresh service books with the help of their personal records etc; in pursuance of the recent Punjab Government orders. On the completion of such record, every possible effort will be made to finalize many of the present pending pension cases. Government is proposing to take similar action in respect of those who retired prior to 23rd November, 1949 while serving in the Punjab (India) or Punjab (Pakistan). The matter is yet under the consideration of the Auditor General of India and as soon as a final decision thereto is arrived, it is hoped all of the pending pension cases will be disposed of.

Some of the pending pension cases in the Education Department are under correspondence with the Accountant General, Punjab and there appears every likelihood of their finalization very shortly. In doubtful cases where there are reasons to believe that these are likely to be

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delayed for a certain amount of time for want of certain technical formalities, the Accountant General, Punjab has been asked to sanction anticipatory pensions to the pensioners concerned so as to afford them immediate relief.

WAGES AND LIVING INDEX OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ETC.

*2776. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar** : Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the nominal wage index ;
- (b) the average cost of living index ;
- (c) the real wage index with the year 1939, as the base year, for the years 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950 respectively in respect of (i) the 3rd and 4th grade employees of the State at Simla ; (ii) the same employees in plains ; (iii) the workmen in the Government Central Workshop, Amritsar ; (vi) the general factory labour ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad.

- (a) and (c)—The relevant statistics have not been collected by this Government.
- (b) Statement showing working class cost of living indices for each month during the year 1950 at Rohtak with base 1931-35=100 and at Ludhiana with base 1944=100 is enclosed.†

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Mr. Speaker, the copy of the statement which I have been supplied contains only the general index. There is no mention about the nominal wage index in it.

Minister : I have stated in my reply to (a) above that the relevant statistics have not been collected by the Government and that the statement showing working class cost of living indices for each month during the year 1950 at Rohtak with base 1931-35=100 and at Ludhiana with base 1944=100 is enclosed.

†Kept in the Library

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : What about the reply to part (c) of the question ?

Minister : I have stated that the relevant statistics have not been collected by the Government.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know as to when will the relevant statistics be made available by the Government ?

Minister : I cannot say that off-hand.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : In view of the fact that the question regarding the wages of labour etc., is a very important one, has not the Government thought it advisable to collect the statistics of the nominal wages and the cost of living index ?

Minister : Government has already issued orders to the department concerned. Needful will be done as and when the relevant statistics are collected,

PLANS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT.

*2778. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to State :—

- (a) the total number of building plans received by the Chief Inspector of Factories under the Factories Act, during the years 1949 and 1950 respectively ;
- (b) the number of plans for factories ;
- (c) the number of plans for labour quarters ;
- (d) the number of plans for Rest Houses and canteens etc ;
- (e) others ;
- (f) the total number of plans that have been approved

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) 1949 ... 102
1950 ... 161

—
263
—

- (b) 263.
 (c) Nil.
 (d) Nil.
 (e) Nil.
 (f) All the 263 plans were approved. Some of them were approved after amendments desired by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Punjab.

PROSECUTIONS MADE UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT.

*2779. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state the number of prosecutions launched and which succeeded under (a) the Factories Act ; (b) the Payment of Wages Act ; (c) the Children's Employment Act during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 in the State ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) Factories Act.

Balance.

Year	No. of prosecu. tions launched.	No. of cases succeeded. (No. of cases in which convictions were made)	No. of cases in which accused were acquitted.	No of cases pending in Courts.
1948	600	478	6	116
1949	434	300	4	130
1950	474	Results of the cases are awaited from the District Authorities.		

(b) Payment of Wages Act.

1948	—	—	—	—
1949	—	—	—	—
1950	1	Pending in the Court		

(c) Employment of Children's Act.

1948	} No prosecutions were lodged under the provisions of thict's Act
1949	
1950	

—————

**REVERSION OF THE SECRETARY, MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE,
ROHTAK.**

***2380. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the resolution of the Municipal Committee, Rohtak regarding the reversion of the Municipal Secretary along with his representation against being reverted has been considered by the Government if so with what result;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this Secretary was appointed and confirmed by the said Committee according to rules;
- (c) whether a permanent hand can be reverted under the Government instructions ?

Parliamentary Secretary : (Shri Dev Raj Sethi):

- (a) No resolution of the Municipal Committee, Rohtak, on this subject has been received by Government so far.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Attention is invited to the provisions of section 41 of the Punjab Municipal Act 1911. In certain circumstances, Government is even competent to demand the dismissal of a permanent hand.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the conditions which the Secretary of a first class municipality has to fulfil. What are those

conditions which this secretary cannot fulfil and as a result of which Government want to revert him from the secretaryship?

Parliamentary Secretary : Conditions are laid down in the Municipal Act. One of the conditions is that he should be a graduate.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if all the secretaries of first class municipalities are graduates? Is it necessary that the secretary should be a graduate?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that this is one of the conditions.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know at which stage the matter stands now? Has this Secretary been reverted from that post or not?

Parliamentary Secretary. The Government has issued an order that he should revert to the post of 2nd grade accountant from 1st February, 1951.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH.

*2639. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the progress which has been made so far regarding the construction of New Capital at Chandigarh?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The progress so far made regarding the construction of the New Capital near Chandigarh is as under :—

The Master Plan for the construction of the New Capital has been settled in broad fundamental aspects. Senior Architects appointed for the construction and designing of various buildings have arrived and further details will soon be finalized.

The project estimate has been prepared and is under examination. 1833 acres of land has already been acquired.

Temporary offices, godowns and residential accommodation for the construction staff are in hand and will be completed by the end of March, 1951.

Brick kilns for burning brick and tiles required for Government and private buildings are working at the site. More are being let out

to step up production. Other building material is also being collected. A large stock has already been piled up at the site.

To facilitate the carriage of building materials to the site of work a net work of gravel roads has been laid. Works in regard to the internal roads by passes and diversions have also been taken in hand.

Road link between Ambala and the Capital site is being surveyed.

Trial bores made for exploring the sub-terranean water supply have shown good results and scheme for supply of water from tube wells is being worked out.

A nursery for planting trees and hedges etc., on road sides and open spaces is being set up.

Details of one of the neighbourhood L-37 have been worked out and tenders for construction work have been called.

A 25 K. W. generating set has been installed at site and the plant is in commission for supplying power for the construction works. The installation of 2 numbers 200 K. W generating sets has been planned and construction will be taken in hand shortly.

Shri Virendra : May I know when the offices of the Government would move down to the new capital ?

Chief Minister : I have replied to the question stating the progress that has been made so far regarding the construction of new capital at Chandigarh, I cannot say at present when the offices would move down.

ELECTRIC ENERGY SUPPLIED TO PAKISTAN

*2658. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

- (a) The total number of K.Ws. of electricity given to Punjab (Pakistan) during the year 1950-51;
- (b) the total amount of money received from Pakistan in this connection;

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- (c) the total amount of arrears, if any, with them;
- (d) the total number of K.W. of electricity supplied to Pakistan during the year 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively together with the amount received therefor during each of these year
- (e) the number of K.Ws. by which the supply to Punjab (Pakistan) was reduced during 1950—1951;
- (f) the number of villages in the State which were electrified as a result of energy thus saved from Punjab (Pakistan);
- (g) The balance of unused K. Ws. of electricity and the approximate loss of revenue to the State Government as a result thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) }
 - (b) }
 - (c) }
 - (d) }
- It is not in the public interest to give reply..

- (e) No reduction in the extent of supply in 1950—51 as compared with 1949—50, as it could be conveniently spared.
- (f) In addition to the increased supply of power given to various consumers in the existing Local Distribution Centres and in the various Refugee Colonies, power connections have also been given in 18 new villages. This has been achieved by utilising the spare capacity of our generators.
- (g) There is no unused balance from the amount of power so far saved from Punjab (P) or loss in revenue. In fact the revenue from Hydro Electric Supply has increased by 50 lakhs since partition (1947—48).

— — —

ARCHITECTS AND TOWN PLANNERS FOR NEW CAPITAL.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : I do not want to ask this question. Sir

Mr. Speaker when a question is on the order paper, the hon. Minister has every right to reply it even though the Member giving notice of the question does not want to put it.

***2663 Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that two officers of the State were sent out of India recently to engage the services of a few architects and town planners for the new Capital ; if so, the number separately of architects and town planners so employed together with their monthly emoluments and other conditions of service ;
- (b) the period for which their services have been engaged ;
- (c) the total amount of expenditure incurred by the Government in this connection on officers who went abroad for the recruitment ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) Yes.
Four Architects only.
 - (i) Architectural Advisor to Government, Punjab, at Rs. 2000/- per annum as honorarium plus £30 a day as daily allowance for his stay in India subject to the maximum of £ 4,000/- per annum inclusive of honorarium.
 - (ii) Two Senior Architects at £3000/- each, per annum (Rs. 40,000/- per annum each or Rs. 3333 p. m. each)
 - (iii) One Senior Architect at £1,800/- per annum (Rs. 24,000/- per annum or Rs. 2,000/- per month each).
- (b) Their conditions of service are governed by the agreement executed by them on the form prescribed by the Punjab Government.
- (c) Three years.

[Chief Minister]

(d) The High Commissioner for India, London, has not yet intimated the expenditure incurred on the visit abroad of the officials.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the Government would engage more experts or the present number will suffice ?

Chief Minister : The Government do not require the services of any more experts.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the appointment of such architects was made by the Public Service Commission ?

Chief Minister : The House had agreed to exempt the appointment of this staff from the purview of Public Service Commission.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the members of the House were opposed to such an idea ?

Mr. Speaker : No decision of the House whether it was made by majority or unanimously can be challenged.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It was a forced decision.

Mr. Speaker : It was a decision all the same.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I know the period for which their services have been engaged ?

Chief Minister : For three years.

ADMISSION TO THE ENGINEERING COLLEGE, ROORKEE.

*2677. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of students admitted recently to the Punjab Engineering College, Roorkee ;
- (b) the criterion for nomination of candidates;
- (c) whether his attention has been drawn to the remarks passed by the learned Judge of the Punjab High Court while pronouncing judgment on an appeal in connection with the same ;

(d) whether the Government in view of the strong and widespread public opinion proposes to stop admissions by nomination ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) 42.
- (b) Suitability for the engineering profession.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Will be considered at the time of making next admissions.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether admission was made on merits or by nomination ?

Minister : On merits and nomination both.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the number of students who were admitted keeping in view their merits and how many were admitted by nomination ?

Minister : 17 by nominations and 42 in order of merits.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether any committee was set up which made these nominations ?

Minister : Yes, the nominations were made on the recommendations of this committee.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell the names of the members of this committee ?

Minister : Chief Engineer P.W.D. (Building and Roads) Branch with his two assistants.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the Government did not nominate the students recommended by the committee but nominated their own men ?

Minister : This is not the case. The hon. Member is generally in the habit of making such remarks.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the number of students in the Punjab Engineering College, Roorkee who are related to the hon. Ministers ?

Mr. Speaker : No insinuation please

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I want to have a definite reply to my sepecific question.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know whether any student was admitted to this college who was recommended by the hon. Minister for Public Works ?

Minister : I made the nomination myself.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it not a fact that the Govern-ment declared last year that it will abolish the system of nominations in future ?

Minister : I require fresh notice to answer this question.

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
DEPOSITING MONEY IN THE TREASURY OF UNA,
DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR.**

679. **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Reha-bilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the sum of money deposited in the Treasury of Una, District Hoshiarpur on account of the auction of leaves of *beri* trees standing on Muslim evacuee lands situated in village Khad, Tehsil Una, District Hoshiarpur during the years 1949 and 1950 respectively ;
- (b) the sum of money deposited during the years mentioned in part (a) above on account of the auction of other property of Muslims of the same village ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) Rs. 302/7/- in 1949 and Rs. 235/4/- in 1950.
 - (b) Nil in 1949 and Rs. 208/14/9 in 1950.
-

REVISION APPLICATIONS REGARDING LAND ALLOTMENT.

680. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of revision applications received by the Rehabilitation Department in connection with land allotment in the State by the displaced persons district-wise ;
- (b) how long it will take to dispose of them and rehabilitate finally the displaced applicants ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) Total number of applications for review of land allotments received by the Rehabilitation Department in each district are shown in the annexure†
- (b) Rehabilitation Department is working on these applications with a view to decide all of them and implement the decisions by the end of September, 1951.

GRANT OF LOANS TO DISPLACED AGRICULTURISTS FOR BORING TUBE WELLS.

681. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount of money advanced as loan to the displaced agriculturists in the State for boring tube wells district-wise ;
- (b) the total number of applications received for the grant of such loans ;
- (c) the number of applications rejected together with the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : A statement showing information asked for is placed on the table.† Nothing had actually been disbursed upto 28th February, 1951, but it is expected that the

†Kept in the Library.

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

entire amount sanctioned will be disbursed before the close of the current month. An allottee must have 50 S. A. of unirrigated land to qualify for a loan for a tube well. Out of these who qualify, those with the highest area are considered first according to the availability of funds.

LOANS TO DISPLACED AGRICULTURISTS.

682. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total amount advanced as loan to the displaced agriculturists for all purposes other than industry during the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 respectively in the State ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhal : The following total amounts were advanced for loan to displaced agriculturists other than Industry :—

1947-48.	Rs. 76,73,730
1948-49.	Rs. 1,31,36,181
1949-50.	Rs. 53,89,271
1950-51.	
(up to 31st January, 1951.)	Rs. 78,30,575

CENTRES FOR DISPLACED PERSONS, THE INFIRM, WIDOWS, ORPHANS, ETC.

683. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number and names of Centres started in the State giving board and lodging to displaced persons, infirm persons, widows, orphans etc ;
- (b) the nature of work taken from persons in these Centres;
- (c) whether any cottage industry is taught to the inmates of these Centres ;

(d) the total expenditure incurred on them by the State ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : The reply is enclosed †

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, I beg to present the Supplementary Estimates (II Instalment) for the year 1950-51. The demands made there in are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1950.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now resume discussion on the motion that the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1950 be passed.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, it is often alleged that the opposition employs dilatory tactics and does not let Government Bills be put on the Statute Book. But the fate of this Bill which was introduced in the last session along with the Punjab District Boards Bill will, to some extent, serve to dispel this wrong impression. No other State Government in this country can boast of such an achievement as that of piloting an important measure to the third reading stage and then shelving it and postponing its passage for a number of months. You will recall, Sir, that in the Autumn Session, this Bill was considered by the House up to its third reading but on the following day to our great surprise it was removed from the agenda. If the motives of this Government had been pure and it were really desirous of promoting the cause of Local Self-Government, it would not have shelved a measure like this which might have made possible the holding of fresh elections to the Municipalities at an early date and which would have abolished the system of nominations. Obviously, by postponing the enactment of this beneficial measure, the Government wanted to extend the tenure of the present members of whom quite a number are its own nominees, knowing full well that if elections were held they would not be returned. The condition today is that the members who were elected

†Kept in the Library

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

for a terms of 3 years only are still dominating the Municipalities even after the lapse of fifteen or sixteen years. The honour of not letting the elections be held during this long period goes to our popular Government.

Sir, is it not a matter for regret that while elections to local bodies are being held in the neighbouring State, I mean, Pepsu, which is a very backward State as compared with ours, we are nowhere near them even up till this time. If electoral rolls could be completed in that State why could they not be finished here? The honesty of purpose of this Government is clear from the fact that even after this Bill had been brought before the House and piloted upto the third stage, nominations were continued to be made while it was lying in cold storage. And, Sir, the irony implicit in the words of His Excellency that the progress of legislation in the past has been rather slow becomes clear from the fate of this Bill. If the pending work of legislation continues to swell whose fault is it? When I heard these remarks from His Excellency's mouth, it gave me considerable pain because I had a misgiving lest a wrong impression should be created that the Assembly's failure to dispose of legislative work was due to the supposed obstruction of the opposition. I want the public to know how this Government itself delays the passage of good measures and blames the opposition for obstructing legislative work.

Sir, what we want to urge is that not only this Bill be passed expeditiously but that its provisions should be faithfully implemented. But I know from past experience that Government has not the least intention of putting it into effect and it would once again postpone elections to local bodies which it says will be held in September or October next, as it had postponed the enactment of this Bill from October last to this month. A concrete instance of this Government's insincerity in this matter is now before us. I have read in the 'Tribune' today that elections of Ambala Cantonment Board which is not directly under this Government but results of whose elections would certainly have their effect on general politics of the State have been postponed.

The work of all the Municipal Committees is far from satisfactory. Sir, you are very well aware of the facts about the Municipal Committee of Ludhiana. This Municipal Committee has been in a deplorable

condition. It contained as many as seventeen Congress nominated Members and as a matter of fact it was here where lay the bitterness of the pill. These nominated members who were favourites of this Government were responsible for the mal-administration of the Committee which ranked third in the Municipal Committees of the State, the first two being the Municipal Committees of Amritsar and Jullundur. The mal-administration due to these nominated members reached such a stage that the Committee had to be suspended. I do not, for a moment, say that there was no need of suspending the Committee. The suspension was called for and it is good that it did take place. But now I request that fresh elections should be held and the Committee should again be brought into existence. It is really very unfortunate that whenever we ask for fresh elections we are told that the elections cannot be held as the electoral rolls which are to be prepared on an all India basis are not ready as yet. These electoral rolls may not be ready for a very long time, of course with the obvious result that we should go without elections. This appears to be the case of the well-known Hindustani adage? But this is not the right attitude to take. A very large number of our people who live in the cities are suffering owing to want of elections. I am of the positive opinion that if elections were held the trouble which arose about the Ludhiana Municipal Committee would never have arisen. The administration of the Ludhiana Municipal Committee had reached such a low ebb that the work of the Administrator who succeeded it was at least one hundred times better than what the Committee was doing. We certainly do not want our Committees as they are. We ardently wish that this Bill should be immediately passed and the new election should be held within two or three months so that we have the benefit of efficient Municipal Committees working in our towns and cities. Under these circumstances, I request that this Bill when it is passed should be put through at once and its enforcement should not be postponed as has been done while considering it. The present Municipal Committees are in such a bad way that they have never been so in the history of the Punjab. Their mal-administration is a slur on the fair name and face of our State. I may in this connection bring to the notice of the hon. Members that a few days ago I happened to pay a visit to Rohtak which is the native place of my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma who is known for being a very active Member of this House. Now this town may also be associated with my hon. Friend

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

Shri Dev Raj Sethi who also happens to be a Parliamentary Secretary of this Government. So far as the Municipal Committee of this town is concerned the less said about it the better. I think that the villages of Bikaner may be in a better condition than this town is in.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Then why obstruct the passage of this Bill ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am not obstructing, I only wish to lay before the House the grievances of the public. I wish to submit that I had the opportunity of visiting different cities of our State and everywhere I have found that the people are fed up with the administration of the present Municipalities. So much of dirt, filth and dust is found in the streets and bazars of the different cities that conditions could not have been worse even if there were no Municipal Committees. Such Committees do not deserve to be given any further lease of life and if this Government of our State is really a popular Government, i.e. a Government of the people it should take immediate steps for holding fresh elections so that old Committees are replaced by new and efficient Committees which can prove equal to the task. All attempts should be made to surmount difficulties and obstacles in the way of elections, if there be any. When a small State like that of Patiala could manage to hold elections, when the gigantic task of census could be done within a small space of time i.e. , from 9th February to 1st of March, I see no reason why we cannot have our electoral rolls ready for purposes of our Municipal elections. Now a very large number of our population lives in cities and forms about 20 per cent of the total population of our State. Things are not the same as they were some time past when only four or five per cent of our population lived in towns and we should not allow so many people to suffer at the hands of inefficient Municipal committees. In the past an excuse was put forth that elections could not be held due to the fact that the rehabilitation of the refugees and the displaced persons had to be given top priority, but now no such excuse is possible. Now there are no refugees and displaced persons to be settled. Every displaced person has settled where he could settle and nobody will suffer if preparation of electoral rolls is undertaken now. I feel that the presence of the old Committees does not fit in the present time particularly in the year of grace 1951, when we, in India, are to be governed under the new Constitution which lays down that all elections should be held on the

basis of adult or universal franchise. I think that to continue with the present Committees which contain about 60 per cent of nominated members is nothing short of an outrage on our new Constitution.

This Bill has a special significance. The people of this State have lost confidence in the Municipal Administration. Some persons appear to have become members of Municipal Committees for their life. They continue to be members of these Committees for the simple reason that they were elected in the elections held about fifteen years back. This is not the case in other States. In the centrally administered State of Delhi, Municipal elections were recently held in Najafgarh, Narela and Mehroli. When we ask our Government to hold elections in this State, we are told that the lists of voters would be published in March. Revised lists would be ready by July or August and elections would be held in September or October, if possible. Last year also, we were told that elections to Municipal Committees would be held as soon as possible, but I know, Sir, that so long as the present Government is in power the time meant by the term 'as soon as possible' would never arrive. It is necessary to pass this Bill and to take action on it as early as possible, so that the prevailing mismanagement in Municipal affairs might be removed. The Municipal administration has become a curse for the public. I wish to request the Government to hold early elections after passing this Bill, because if they fail to do so, they would be deceiving the public. In that case history will record very poor impression about us. People should be given an early opportunity of electing those representatives to the Municipal Committees in whom they have confidence. The present deplorable conditions in Municipal Administration should be put an end to at a very early date. I find that some Members of this House or their friends are even now trying for being nominated to Municipal Committees.

Mr Speaker : The Government can not be blamed for the action of these individuals. Leave that matter aside.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am not blaming the Government for this. I am only referring to the activities of those persons who have influence with the Government. At present a large number of members of Municipal Committees are nominated by the Government. There should be no more opportunity of nominations being made. I shall have great praise for the Government, if they assure the House

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that early elections would be held under this Bill. Elections should be held within three months of passage of this Bill. If these are not held before the general elections, the Government would be doing great injustice to the people. I shall again request the Government to hold elections soon after passing this Bill so that the Municipal Administration in the State might improve.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, when motion was moved for the passage of this Bill in last October session of the Assembly, it was proposed to repeal and replace the Punjab Municipal Amendment Ordinance of 1950. On that day also, the hon. Member who delivered a speech just now, spoke for so long that the time was over and the Bill could not be passed. Ordinance No. 11 of 1950 therefore lapsed and Ordinance No. 14 of 1950 had to be promulgated in November. It has now become necessary that in Clause 7 of the Bill, the words 'Ordinance No. 11' be replaced by the words 'Ordinance No. 14'.

Sardar Bachan Singh: On a point of order, Sir. Is it open to the hon. Minister to move an amendment at this time when the Bill has reached the third stage?

Minister: This is a consequential amendment.

Mr. Speaker: I received notice of two amendments at this stage. The first one is quite out of order. As regards the second, I find that it is only a formal amendment. Even if the House does not pass or adopt it, the Ordinance which it seeks to repeal will automatically lapse after six weeks. So I think there is no harm if the amendment is allowed to be moved at this stage.

Sardar Bachan Singh: I beg to submit, Sir, that when this Bill was moved last time, the hon. Minister for Labour agreed to move an amendment but as he did not know how to move it, it could not be taken up. There is a serious defect in this Bill. The provision for nomination exists in it. As was done in the case of District Boards Act and the small Towns Act, the hon. Minister for Labour agreed to remove that provision for nomination from the Bill under discussion, but as he could not make his intention clear and did not know how to move that amendment, the time of the sitting of the Assembly expired and the meeting was adjourned.

This amendment, Sir, is against the spirit of the agreement that was the outcome of the discussion held on the Bill during the last Session. If the Government wanted to bring it in correct form before the House it should have got your permission beforehand. If the hon. Minister for Labour committed a mistake on that day by not introducing the amendment, it cannot be brought up at this stage. As regards the Government, it is absolutely inefficient.

Mr. Speaker : Leave that aside. I clearly recollect what happened on that day but the question at this stage is whether this amendment should be taken up or not. Ordinarily no amendment can be taken up at this stage except the one which is only a formal amendment. As I have said before, the amendment given notice of by Shri Dev Raj Sethi, is out of order because it is a substantial one. But the second amendment which the hon. Minister wants to move is only a consequential amendment. In the Bill, as printed, we find that in clause 7 ordinance No. 11 of 1950 is sought to be repealed but this amendment provides that the later ordinance i. e., ordinance No. XIV of 1950 be repealed. So, the amendment does not in any way make any change in the body of the Bill. I think that the amendment is only a formal amendment and I allow it to be moved.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. I want to know if this amendment is in order at this stage when the Bill is in the third stage and all the discussion has taken place. It should be admitted only if the rules permit.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, rules allow that a consequential amendment can be moved.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) :
I move.

That for the existing clause the following be substituted.

“ Repeal of Punjab Ordinance
No. XIV of 1950”.

“ The Punjab Municipal (Amend-
ment) Ordinance, 1950 No. XIV
of 1950) is hereby repealed.”

The motion was carried

Mr. Speaker : Question is.

That the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried

PUNJAB LAND PRESERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Education: (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) : I introduce the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Education : I move—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindus'ani*): Sir, this Bill which is called The Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill, is a very important piece of legislation. A large area of land in our State, especially in Hoshiarpur and Ambala Districts, has been rendered uncultivable on account of the Cho menace. I think 3 lakh acres in Hoshiarpur district and 2 lakh acres in Ambala district have been eroded by these Chos and streams. The purpose of this amending Bill, introduced by the Government, is to be able to charge as much money from anybody as it likes. Now, Sir, people in this State have a general complaint that favouritism is rampant here. Previously, the Government could charge only ten percent of the land revenue from the zamindars. But now it is sought to empower the Government to charge as much as it likes. So far as the undertakings of the Government are concerned, it is our experience that it spends three or four times more on them than that spent by the people of a village or a town. They get a thing done for 100 rupees and the Government spends 300 rupees on the same work. Up till now this work of fighting the Cho menace has been done through the co-operative societies.

So far as the work of Co-operative Societies is concerned, it is quite unsatisfactory. As a matter of fact, Co-operative Societies are not to be blamed for this. In fact, the fault lies with the Government itself. It is a patent fact that the poor farmers of those ilaqas, which are menaced by 'Chos', are not in a position to afford money for the purposes of bull dozer, levelling operations and so many other activities in this matter. The Government, on its part, says that it has no funds. It is stated that this Bill is brought in because the work done by the Co-operative Societies has not been found to

be satisfactory. As a matter of fact, it appears that the Government is not satisfied by it because under the present state of affairs in this matter, it finds it difficult to indulge in favouritism and nepotism. It is strange that the Government finds it difficult to pull on with ten times the land revenue and considers it necessary to realize the full cost and to get the work executed through its own agency. At such a time when the condition of the poor peasants especially in these districts of the State is deteriorating it is unjust to burden them with still more taxes in this indirect way. The peasants, at present, are finding it difficult to make their both ends meet. Last year there was a failure of gram crops. During the current year in the whole of Jullundur Division and in some parts of Ambala the crops have been damaged by the locusts and scarcity of rain. The swarm of locusts is still lingering in the State and there is danger that it may work still more havoc. Under these conditions, who does not know that the condition of the peasants is very bad? Is it not the duty of the Government to extend a helping hand to the hard-pressed farmers of the State? But what do we find? Instead of helping such people it is asking them to bear still heavier burdens. The hon. Members are aware of the fact that in Hoshiarpur District the peasant proprietors have small holdings. According to the Government figures three lakh acres of land have been made uncultivable by the chos. In fact there is very little land in Hoshiarpur District which is under cultivation. Similar are the conditions prevailing in Ambala District. Only a few thousand acres of land are well-irrigated. A large area of land is dependant on rainfall and there is practically no canal irrigated land in these districts. So under these conditions the peasants in these districts find it a tough job to earn their livelihood. I have received a letter from Una in Hoshiarpur district narrating the woes of the peasant proprietors. Last year the crops were damaged by floods. This year the locusts combined with the failure of rains have made them suffer still more. Under these circumstances, it will be very unjust to put on these people the burden of maintaining the Government contractors, S.D.O's and overseers etc. In my opinion, instead of doing land preservation the Government will be doing the work of maintaining its own employees and their families. If the Government really wants to do this job, then it should, in fact, give maximum help to the Co operative Societies in the form of loans and grants. They should be asked to increase the speed and output of their work. Expert opinion can,

[Sardar Bachan Singh]
of course, be supplied to them. When I say 'expert opinion' I do not mean old and rotten opinion of the British days. The problem of chos cannot be solved by raising a few dams here and there. When there is rainfall the water from the nearby hills rushes at a great speed and in a large bulk and when there is no rainfall these chos are quite dry. The result is that the dams which are erected every year go down with the rush of water. This temporary solution is costing the Government and the people a lot. I am pleased to learn that the Chief Engineer has given an opinion in the case of Patli and Sukhna Nadis near the Capital site of Chandigarh, that 'regulating dams' should be constructed with a view to canalize the streams. This scheme is quite useful. But, as a matter of fact, it can be utilized in the case of one or two chos only, otherwise the expenditure involved would be heavy. The problem of 'chos' can be solved only by stopping them at their source. This is the only permanent solution. Sheikh Saadi once remarked that a spring could be stopped at its source by the head of a needle. I had an opportunity of going to Hoshiarpur and Ambala districts and seeing things myself. In Naraingarh Tehsil of Ambala District people told me that they were not so much troubled by old 'chos' as by the new ones which damage their crops every year. The land is uneven and so whenever there is rainfall, the water from the nearby hill rushes in every direction and makes new chos and streams. As a matter of fact, the dams should be constructed in the hills and the flow of water should be controlled there. Instead of doing any such thing the Government is simply making makeshift arrangements. I have read the report, which has been distributed, regarding the work in Ambala District. It has been stated therein that it is very difficult to do this work on a permanent basis and that only temporary arrangements are possible at this stage. I am convinced that such makeshift arrangements are not going to do any good to these districts. What the Government proposes to do is not the real solution of this important problem. It proposes to take the work from the Co-operative Societies and to get it executed through their own agency. The result will be that where now hundred rupees are spent on the execution of a work, by this change one hundred and fifty rupees will be spent by the Government agency. This burden will fall upon the poor farmers. The most important need is that co operation of the people should be sought. But our Government does not intend to do this. It is a misfortune that in this State all matters are decided at the Secretariat level and the people are not consulted in the matters which immediately concern them. As

a consequence of this policy medicines for Rheumatism and gout are administered to the patient while actually the disease is T. B. In fact a bad physician is always dangerous. In this matter, my submission is, that the Government, in this case, instead of doing good to the people will actually do harm to them.

Now, Sir, it is about fifty one years since the parent Act, I mean the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900, was brought on the Statute Book. During all this period extending over half a century, our State passed through different regimes, namely, the British and the Unionist regimes. Now since the dawn of independence, about four years back, it is under the sway of our benign Congress Government. But what is the sum total of the achievements made by these Governments in regard to this matter. I am, in this connection, reminded of a verse, namely,

ਮੰਜ਼ ਬੜਤਾ ਗਯਾ ਜੂਂ ਜੂਂ ਦਵਾ ਕੀ
ਮਰਜ਼ ਬੜਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਜੂੰ ਜੂੰ ਦਵਾ ਕੀ ।

I am of the opinion that since the enactment of the parent Act, nothing has been done by any Government to conserve the lands in the State. I shall feel obliged if the hon. Minister gives us up-to-date figures regarding the achievement of this or previous Governments about preserving the lands in the Punjab. I aver that whatever danger to the lands existed in 1900, it has increased five times now. In other words, it means that this Act has proved a dead letter and has not served any useful purpose. As a matter of fact it must have been enacted on the representation of those zamindars whose lands had been damaged by the action of chos. But it did not make much headway. I remember to have received last year copies of the representations made to the hon. Minister by the zamindars of Hoshiarpur, whose lands had suffered erosion as a result of the action of Nasrulla Cho. The Government was pleased to take action in the matter for the preservation of lands of the sufferers. A dam was constructed to stem the action of the Cho. But what happened was this. If the lands on one side of the dam were saved, the lands lying on the other side were severely damaged. The position is that the casual treatment of one disease results in the cropping up of others. In other words the Government fails to take proper assessment of the Cho trouble and it is natural that it miserably fails to take a judicious step to preserve the lands. My submission, therefore, is that this Bill as it stands at present, should not be passed. Government should defer a little and bring forward another Bill in such an improved form as would be instrumental in benefiting

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

the peasants and zamindars. Besides this, the Government should consult the members of the District Boards and Panchayats of the ilaqas concerned and those zamindars also whose lands have been damaged by the action of Chos. It should seek their opinion and advice or overcome this trouble. Now what is the root cause of the trouble. This Government fights shy of inviting public opinion in the matter. It gathers a few yes-men around it and gets their consent to do a certain thing.

Now may I ask from the Government whether it has ever taken any concerted action to find out the remedy for meeting the Cho menace in the Ambala and Hoshiarpur districts? Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether he has ever got or cared to get the channel of a Cho surveyed right from the fountain from which it starts, to the mouth or the place where it joins some other tributary? Has the Government ever tried to enquire about the difficulties experienced by the zamindars in connection with the erosion caused to their lands by the chos? I wonder if the Government will be able to answer any of the queries: Still I have no doubts about the *bona fides* of the Government so far as its efforts to check further erosion are concerned. The difficulty lies in its being inefficient and not that it has bad intentions. That is why all the endeavours made by the Government to overcome the cho menace have not borne any fruit. I would, therefore, again counsel it not to make haste in passing the Bill under consideration. Besides, no harm will be done by postponing it at present for the purpose of bringing in a better legislative measure later, say after two months when a special session of the Assembly may be called to pass the improved Bill as well as other legislation which is still pending. But what do we find? The peasants are in a miserable plight. They are being crushed under the weight of increasing taxes. On the one hand Abiana has been enhanced by fifty per cent, on the other various taxes like the Chullah tax local rates, cycle tax etc., have been imposed on the rural people. In other words the zamindar is being burdened with one tax after the other. Now this Bill envisages yet another tax on him, and for that, too, no definite amount has been laid down. The necessity of the recovery of the cost of works to be executed for stopping erosion, could be understandable if the Government had stated that such and such amount would be recovered from the zamindars owning such and

such number of acres of land. But this has not been done. Then, where is the guarantee that the amount realised from the zamindars for this particular purpose will necessarily be spent on meeting the menace? The zamindars have serious apprehensions because they have not been consulted in the matter which vitally concerns them. Well, Sir, if you will just refer to the Statement of objects and reasons, appended to the Bill, you will find the intention of the Government to recover the full cost from the zamindars. It is laid down:

In the latter case, the Government can at the most recover the cost of such works to the extent of ten times the land revenue assessed on all the lands owned by an individual owner in the State. The amount recoverable from the zamindars is thus negligible.

Now the Government considers that the amount recoverable under the parent Act is not enough. In this connection I may point out that the U. P. Government decided to collect a sum of Rs. 180 crores from the peasants with a view to abolishing zamindari in the State. The amount collected could not exceed Rs. 25 crores. The U. P. Government had to admit that the peasants had no money to pay for this purpose. My submission is that whereas Government considers recovery of cost to the extent of ten times the land revenue, as a negligible amount, I feel that the peasants have no money to pay even this much. Then it is further on stated:

With a view to enable Government to have all such works executed in a proper manner, it is considered necessary to recover full cost from the land owners concerned.

I do not see eye to eye with this statement. I feel that the best method of solving this problem is to entrust this work to the co-operative societies formed specially for this purpose in the villages where the lands of zamindars are subject to erosion, or to the multi-purposes cooperative societies already functioning there.

Mr. Speaker : This suggestion was made in the beginning of this speech by the hon. Member. Now he is again repeating it. He should better avoid repetition of arguments.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Well, Sir, what I wanted to drive at is that the Government should take care not to give an opportunity to the people to complain that it was realising more than what it spent actually on this account. Again it has not indicated in the Bill as to when this recovery will be effected.

Mr. Speaker : This argument has already been put forward by the hon Member.

Although the words " the Government can at the most recover the cost of such works to the extent of ten times " occur in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, yet I do not find these words in the Act itself. I have got a copy of the original Act with me but I have not been able to find these words there.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : These words occur in sub section (7).

Sardar Bachan Singh : I was submitting, Sir, that it is provided in Section 7- A of the existing Punjab Land Preservation Act that the Government can at the most recover ten times the land revenue assessed on all the lands owned by an individual owner. Now it is the intention of the Government to remove this section and it considers it necessary to recover full cost from the landowner concerned. What I mean to say is that the Government has not consulted the landowners with a view to taking their consent so far as this matter is concerned. Since they have not given their consent, they are quite justified in refusing any payment which the Government may demand from them after the passage of of this Bill into Law. They can refuse to make any payment to the Government on the ground that they had not submitted any application to it to execute any work for them. As a matter of fact there is every justification for the Government in demanding money from the landowners for bringing their lands under tractor cultivation or for clearing their fields from weeds etc. , or for their general good. But when the zamindar does not request the Government to do anything for him and in the absence of any terms of agreement between him and the Government, the latter has no right to force the former to make any payment. If the proposed Bill is passed in to Law, the action of the Government is likely to result in litigation and the landowners will not hesitate to seek justice in a court of law. This is not all. They will move the High Court as well as the Supreme Court. In the absence of any agreement or contract between the two parties, namely, the Government and the landowners, the former is not within its rights to demand any payment from the latter. As a matter of fact there is every justification for any Government in acquiring or requisitioning the land for the general good of the State. But the fact of the matter is that even in

the event of acquiring land, Government is obliged to pay compensation according to the market rates prevailing there. In the same way if the Bill, now before the House is passed into Law, the Government while demanding full cost from the landowner will receive a blank refusal to make the payment on the ground that the work executed by the former did not cost as much as was being demanded from him. The result of this would be that the Government would employ all methods to force the landowner to make the payment. Such an action on the part of the Government will again result in litigation. Let me make my point clear. Suppose the Government demands rupees five hundred from a landowner under the provisions of this Bill and the landowner refuses to make the payment on the ground that actually Rs50/- were spent on that work and that he was not prepared to pay even a penny more than the sum actually spent on it. The refusal of the landowner will naturally result in litigation.

Mr. Speaker: The same views are being expressed in a different form.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Sir, I am opposing the Bill. I feel that by passing this Bill into law Government would be instrumental in over-burdening the poor landowners. Under the circumstances, I would request the Government to withdraw this Bill temporarily and appoint an expert committee to go into the details of this legislative measure. As a matter of fact it should make the people in general and the landowners in particular, take initiative in this work. If this is done, I am sure, there will be no heart burning in them. They will instead help the Government in devising ways and means for bringing in such a legislative measure which would be instrumental in doing maximum good to the maximum number. Such a step on the part of the Government will, I am sure, enable it to solve the problem of checking further erosion by the action of chos which the landowners of our State are faced with and thus people will not get a chance to make complaints to it.

With these words, Sir, I would request the Minister-in-charge of the Bill to withdraw it temporarily with a view to making some important changes in it after careful consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur, General, Rural): Sir, the various plans and development schemes which our Government has embarked upon from time to time have led the hon. Members of this

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House, and also the general public, who have directly been affected by these and who have already had bitter experiences, lose faith and confidence in its intentions and also in the day-to-day administration of its functionaries. You are fully aware of the fact, Sir, that many houses have been constructed in the new townships for accommodating our displaced brethren. If you estimate the expenditure incurred on the construction of these new houses, you will find that the money spent has been wasted ruthlessly. It is generally heard that if the houses on the construction of which our Government has spent about five thousand rupees each, were constructed through private agencies, then that would not cost more than two thousand rupees. The material used by the Government is of a very inferior quality. On removing the outer plaster of the walls of these houses it will be found that instead of baked bricks unbaked bricks have been used and that sand has been used in the plaster instead of cement. People have been crying hoarse against the inferior material used by the Government while constructing these houses. Complaints and representations have been made by the people both to the Central and the State Governments. But all their cries have so far proved futile. Whenever our Government has undertaken to do any work, people had to repeat their tales of woe because of its failure in accomplishing it. The public Works Department which is in-charge of the construction work of the Government, is a very complicated department, and a very expensive department and the huge expenditure incurred by the Government on its white elephants is a great burden both on the people and the State exchequer.

Further, I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Minister in-charge of the Bill, that the officers whom wide powers are given to spend large sums for checking erosions by the action of chos, spend these amounts on their own person. I have had a very bitter experience in my own district of Gurdaspur. The Punjab Government sanctioned Rs54,000 to the District Board for the construction of roads in the district. The amounts originally meant for the construction of roads were spent on the establishment in the form of salaries to Government servants, drivers and on the maintenance of road rollers etc. Mr. Speaker, you will be surprised to learn, that out of these fifty four thousand rupees, only six or seven thousand rupees were actually spent for repairing roads at different places and the rest of the amount was spent by the officers on their own person and their establishment.

Sir, I am sure that if the Government takes all these powers into its own hands it will greatly overburden the public instead of affording any relief to them. People instead of showering encomiums upon the Government will curse it for overburdening it. The people in Hoshiarpur district were experiencing great difficulty in procuring drinking water for themselves. The Government spent lakhs of rupees in sinking tube-wells in the district. After doing so the Government has now decided to charge water tax at the rate of Rs. 3 per individual. Even a child who may be only six months old will not be exempted from the payment of this water tax. This is the way in which the administration is being carried on by the Government. I would submit, Sir, that the Government has already earned a bad name for pursuing a bad policy but it should not now show such indifference to the welfare of the people that they may feel impelled to hurl abuses on it. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government that it should withdraw the present Bill. Government has entrusted the work of constructing bunds to the village co-operative societies. The Government should provide all the necessary material at controlled rates otherwise if the work is left entirely at the discretion of the officers I am afraid that out of 10 lakhs of bags of cement which may be sanctioned for this purpose only one lakh bags will be utilised and the remaining will go to the officers incharge of these operations.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I would like to say something on this Bill as most of the area in my district is affected by 'Chos'. There is no doubt that this Act came into force about fifty years ago. Several steps were taken from time to time to protect the land from erosion by the action of 'chos'. During the British regime many schemes were formulated but all of them were kept in the cold storage. After August 15, the hon. Sardar Kartar Singh and Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa convened a 'cho' conference where officers of the Irrigation Department, technical hands of the Forest Department and other persons of those ilaqas which were affected by 'chos' were summoned. This conference after deliberation made short-term and long-term proposals to the Government. Though these proposals were not accepted by the Government in toto yet it took action on certain proposals which were accepted by it. The Government supplied tractors to this district for cultivation of land. This step is not sufficient and there is a need for intensive work according to plan. The machinery of the Government moves

[S. Shiv Saran Singh]

at a snail's pace on account of red-tapism and it is why the execution of schemes is often inordinately delayed. The services continue to work in the same old fashion and this is the reason why the proposals of the 'cho' conference could not be given effect to. The object of the Bill is not to inflict any hardship on the land owners but to get the work of levelling, terracing and embankment of fields executed in a proper manner. The Government wants to make people realize the importance of conserving their land. If adequate arrangements are not made, most of the areas in the districts of the State would be subject to erosion by the action of 'chos'. The Government has promulgated an ordinance by which it has become compulsory for the persons above 14 years of age to volunteer themselves to fight the locusts menace. But we find that people have cheerfully volunteered themselves in large numbers in response to the call of district authorities. With the supply of tractors by the Government if the public co-operates in supplying labour for conservation of such lands I think the problem of 'chos' can be successfully tackled. If the people remain oblivious of the importance of this task and do not cooperate with the Government then the only course open for the Government is to get the work executed through its own agency and recover the entire cost from the zamindars.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, If the Government gets the work of levelling, terracing and embankment of fields executed through its own agency and recover the full cost from the zamindars it will constitute a great burden upon them.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, I would draw the attention of my hon. Friend to the Statement of Objects and Reasons where it is stated that the Government would recover the cost 'if considered necessary'. Nothing can be forced upon the people against their wishes in a democratic form of Government. The Government do not intend to squeeze money or force something on the people. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Chief Minister to clarify the policy of the Government and say if any provision has been made in the Budget to end the menace of 'chos'. I would ask my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh to support this Bill as by opposing such a measure I feel that he is not realizing the gravity of the menace. Instead of showing any sympathy towards us he is advising the Government to go counter to our interests. With these words, Sir, I would ask the House to pass this Bill.

Minister for Education (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) (*Punjabi*) Sir, I have risen to reply to the various objections raised by my Friend Sardar Bachan Singh. He has himself admitted that the area of land which is being damaged due to erosion as a result of the action of Chos is increasing from year to year. Under the old Act which is about 50 years old the Government has not been able to check this erosion of land. It was for this reason that it was considered necessary to amend the Preservation of Land Act in a suitable manner and thus enable the Government to have the work done as it should be. Already the area of land in this State is much less than what was before the partition. In view of our food and timber problems, we cannot afford to lose any more land.

Sardar Bachan Singh raised one important point by saying that all the cost involved should be borne by the Government. I submit that when the benefit of the scheme is to reach the landowners concerned, why should they not pay towards its cost?

Sardar Bachan Singh : I never said that the whole cost be met by the Government.

Minister for Education : Sir, the hon Member did say that the Government should provide the necessary funds for this scheme. My submission is that since the people are to reap the benefit, it is their duty to contribute to the cost involved.

As regards his fears that the Bill leaves no scope for private initiative and that the Government might in all cases like to undertake the work itself, I might assure him that this is not the intention of the Bill. If the landowners concerned are willing to do the work as the Government desires, the provision exists that they may be allowed to do so. The Act as it is provides for the realization of costs equal to ten times the land revenue. The amount thus realised being totally insufficient has been the chief cause of the failure of the Act. If the provision for meeting the whole cost by the landowners concerned is not made, the work will never be accomplished. Another improvement sought to be made in the Act is to vest in the Government powers to get the work done or if necessary to undertake to do the work itself and realise the costs from the landowners concerned. I might also assure the hon. Members that the Government will realise only the actual costs and will not make any profit out of the job. Our aim is to serve the people where they cannot help

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themselves. This provision of vesting the Government with powers to get the work done is nothing new. It exists in other Acts also. My Friend Shri Prabodh Chandra should rest contented that the Government has no ulterior motives in bringing this legislation before the House. I am thankful to Sardar Bachan Singh for not having called in question the motives of the Government. Shri Prabodh Chandra, of course, cannot help doing it. Sardar Bachan Singh has rightly blamed the previous Government for ignoring this vital problem. With these words, Sir, I commend this Bill for acceptance by the House

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clauses 2 to 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

The clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

Clause 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill

The motion was carried.

Title

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Education (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) :

I move :—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, two different opinions have been expressed by the hon. Members on the Government side. While the hon. Minister has admitted and appreciated that we have not called in question the motives of the Government in bringing this legislation, his supporters are of the view that we are out to 'cut their throats'. Here I am reminded of the well known adage—

मुड़ई सुस्त गवाह चुस्त
भुदਈ सुस्त गवाह चुस्त ।

Well, Sir, nobody can find fault with the aims and objects of this Bill, which are no doubt good. Lakhs of acres of land have been devastated in the Punjab as a result of the action of the chos and it is essential to stop this havoc. But, Sir, my submission is, will this legislation be able to cope with the situation? Will not this Bill if passed, as it is, add to the amount of haphazard legislation that has been enacted by this Assembly at the instance of the Government since the partition? Or, is it that the Government has no real intention of implementing its provisions? Why then this tinkering with a problem of very great magnitude? After its passage, huge responsibilities will come to rest on the shoulders of the Government. Is the Government ready to discharge them? The Budget is yet to be presented and I can't say how much money will be provided in it in connection with preservation of land. All I can say is that the problem is a gigantic one. I have myself seen the havoc wrought by chos and I doubt if it can be stopped by spending thousands or even lakhs of rupees. A crore or two of rupees might go some way to solve the problem, such is its magnitude.

Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that if it desires to accomplish some work in connection with the preservation of lands it should arrange to commence work on a large scale *i.e.* on large areas of land as all the work done on small areas is likely to be undone by the rains with the result that all money spent by the Government and the people would go waste. And then this work should be immediately taken in hand after this Bill is passed so that

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a considerable work is finished before the rainy season sets in. If the hon. Minister in-Charge has visited the affected areas, he will agree with me that the small chos develop into big chos during the rains and cause havoc to the lands. So it is necessary that we should stop the existence of some chos in some vast areas of land to demonstrate to the people that such a thing is possible and is sure to go a long way towards their prosperity. I am sure that such demonstrations will serve a very useful purpose. We have already seen that demonstrations relating to the consolidation of holdings have very much impressed the people and they think that such a work is calculated to enhance the value of their lands and increase their produce. Similarly when work will be started for the preservation of lands and the Government demonstrates to the people the usefulness of the enterprise they are sure to co-operate with it. But then I again repeat that the hon. Minister-in-Charge should show some substantial results before rains set in. If work is done only in small areas, I think it may do more harm than good as the chos would most certainly wash away the lands on which work has been done and such a thing might discourage the land-owners from subjecting themselves to the scheme of land preservation. But I have no doubt that if work is done in some thousand acres before the rainy season, the Government shall have done a good deal. It should no longer hesitate to undertake useful schemes as the one which is under consideration. Such a scheme does not require a long range policy. It may here be said that it is possible to understand long range policies but care should be taken that simple postponement of things is not confused with long range policies. There are things which have to be done speedily and in a short time and they should not be postponed for very long years. Of course, if there are schemes which can materialize in years, nobody will insist on achieving them in a twinkling of the eye. Still we should never forget that we are living in an age of speed and we should work very hard if we have to keep pace with the rest of the world. The Government should, therefore, do all in its power to reclaim the five lakh acres of land which are lying waste through whatever agency it is possible to do so. It may utilize its officers or may ask for the cooperation of the people themselves. The hon. Ministers, the Parliamentary Secretaries and the hon. Members of this House can do useful work by persuading the people to undertake this work. I am at one with the hon. Minister in-Charge when he says that it may not be

possible to persuade everybody and in exceptional cases the Government might be called upon to interfere. But then if the Government has to interfere in exceptional cases only, it should leave no stone unturned in securing the general cooperation of the people. I would also say that nobody should regard the question of preservation of lands as relating to party politics. It is the duty of everybody irrespective of the party he may belong to, to do his utmost in producing and maintaining the wealth of this State. Such questions are above party politics. At any rate, my party is of the opinion that so far as the food problem is concerned no party should make a capital of it. It should on the other hand help produce as much food as is possible. And as the question of preservation of land is directly connected with grow-more food, I think it is incumbent on everybody to cooperate and not to put any obstacles in the way of achieving useful results.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Puajabi*):
Sir, this Bill which is in its third stage gives very wide powers to the Government. When this Bill becomes law the Government will be enabled to charge from the people instead of ten times of of the land revenue by way of expenditure the whole of the actual cost of the work. The acquisition of these powers throws a very great responsibility on the shoulders of the Government and the Government will have to give a positive proof of the fact that it is in a position to bear it. The people at large are under the impression that the work done by the private individuals or the private agencies is always much better and much less expensive than the work that is got done through the Government agencies.

These expenses have to be paid by those poor proprietors who are already faced with many difficulties. If all the expenditure including the charges of the contractor, share of the official in-charge and the travelling allowance of high officers, are to be recovered from the poor peasants and petty proprietors, it is better not to have a Bill of this kind. I shall, therefore, request the Government to make arrangements to ensure that when under the provisions of this Bill, they take possession of a piece of land for levelling or terracing it, least possible expenditure is charged from the land-owners. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister-in-charge to the feeling prevailing among the Members of this House on the question of incurring expenditure for obtaining technical plannees or other experts. The Capital project is of the value of over a crore of rupees and the expenditure of ten or twelve

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thousand rupees in connection with it was not a major expenditure, but the criticism made by the Members must have revealed their mood to the Government. The expenditure to be charged from the peasants under the provisions of this Bill will be a few hundred or at the most a thousand rupees but it should not be such as might be regarded as completely useless. If unnecessary expenses are recovered from the poor people, it will create complications and the Government will be faced with a difficult situation. It is, therefore, essential that the least possible expenditure should be incurred under the provisions of this Bill. Moreover, it is not necessary that the entire expenditure should be thrown on the poor landowners. The Bill, prescribes the upper limit. It merely lays down that the Government has the power to recover these expenses from them. The rules to be framed under this Bill, when it becomes an Act, should be such that the owners of very small holdings derive greatest benefit from it. A certain limit should be fixed up to which the land owners should be liable to pay only a part of the expenses. It is always good for the Government to be armed with powers but these should be used in such a way so as to result in the greatest good of the largest number. I shall, therefore, request the hon. Minister-in-charge to give an assurance that the least possible expenses will be charged from the poor landowners. If the Government decides to recover all kinds of expenditure, including the salaries of the entire organization—from the lowest official up to the Financial Commissioner—it would be a great injustice to the poor zamindars. It shall be legitimate to recover the cost of the labour and charges for the use of tractor, but if the record of expenditure is maintained in a manner characteristic of some other Government organisations, it would be a great hardship for the poor people. A very strong feeling already exists with regard to such matters and it is the duty of the Government to see that the poor landowners, who are already hard-pressed, are not unduly burdened. The expenditure should not be out of all proportion with the advantage to be derived from it. This Bill, when passed, should be administered in such a manner as to bring about the greatest good with the least possible expenditure.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Hoshirapur West, General, Rural)
(*Hindi*): I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister-in-charge on his moving the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill. It will save those lands in the State which are being destroyed by streams and chos. District Hoshiarpur is one of those places where great damage is being

done to the lands by erosion. Last year, the Government appointed a committee to go into this question and I was a member of that committee.

Mr. Speaker : The proceedings of that committee are not to be referred to.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the advantages which the proposed Amending Bill will confer on the lands which are being damaged by chos. When the committee appointed by the Government went through the official records, it was found that in the Settlement of Hoshiarpur district done for the first time after the establishment of British rule, it was stated that the length of chos and streams in this district was about fifty miles. The Revenue Officer went on to record that the streams were very deep and their banks were sufficiently high. There are said to have existed thick growths of trees on the banks of chos. What do we find now? At some places the level of water is the same as that of the land around it while at other places the water overflows its banks. This results in very valuable land, costing from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 8,000 per acre of three tehsils of Hoshiarpur district, being damaged by erosion. It is a misfortune of this district that it cannot get any relief under the Land Revenue Act or some other provision. It is provided in the Land Revenue Act that because the damage caused to lands in this district is the result of annual rains, it can be given no relief on that score. In the Amending Bill, now under consideration, it has been provided that for the construction of embankments and terraces the Government can, if necessary, recover entire expenditure from the land-owners instead of realizing only ten times the land revenue.

I would like to submit, Sir, that ever since this legislature started functioning, it has been passing legislations which have been putting the burden of expenditure on the poor peasants. With the enactment of new legislations, the administration is becoming more costly. I admit that this Bill is quite necessary, but has the Government ever thought that the poor peasants of Hoshiarpur district whose holdings vary from two to three acres will be hard put to it to bear the expenditure contemplated in this Bill? Besides, there is a political aspect of this question also. Whenever the Government needs soldiers to fight for it at the heights of 14,000 feet, it draws upon the Dogras, Jats and Sikhs. But when it comes to passing legislation it puts extra burden of taxes on the

[Chaudhri Kartar Singh]

brothers of these soldiers. I don't say that the Government should levy more taxes on the townspeople to meet this expenditure. There is another solution of this problem also. The word used in the Bill is 'may'. It says that the Government may charge the whole expense. I would submit that if this Bill is to be enacted and the land worth crores of rupees is to be saved from erosion, I would make some suggestions to the Government. Firstly, the lands which are wasted by chos and streams cannot be saved from the sand that reaches them from above, unless the Government takes over the forests lying in the upper regions. The British Government paid attention to this matter right from the time when it took charge of Hoshiarpur district. With the migration of Muslim shepherds, the forests on the Shivalak hills have grown very thick and are not being properly maintained. It is, therefore, necessary that those forests should be taken over by the Government so that the streams passing through them do not carry sand to the plains. The land-lords and the tenants living in the villages want that enough wood should be left for them. For instance, the wood near the villages should be left for the villagers. The rest of the forests should be taken over by the Government. This would bring two-fold advantage to it. Firstly, it would be a source of income and secondly the lands will be saved from the sand which streams carry from the forests to them. Secondly, the Government should fix a share of the zamindars in the lands to be reclaimed. Should I hope that the hon. Minister-in-charge will pay attention to these two suggestions of mine? When the British Government took charge of Hoshiarpur district, there were only 50 miles of chos in it. But today they extend over 700 miles and they have eroded $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakh acres of cultivable land. When during the floods the bullocks of the zamindars are washed away and their lands are wasted, the Government gives them no remission in the land revenue or any other grant. On the other hand, the Government has brought this amendment. This is not the solution of the problem. The immediate solution is that in Hoshiarpur district where chos work so much havoc with the lands, the holdings should be consolidated on war-level as an emergency. This work of consolidation should be carried out first of all in the case of holdings varying from two to three acres.

It was, Sir, this district in which about 150 police posts were posted by the British Government to stop people taking part in the political movement of 1921. Sometime back our Government announced that

the punitive taxes of those police posts would be refunded. But I am sorry to say that this has not been done so far.

Mr. Speaker : It is not relevant to the question.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I want to submit that the Government while putting any extra burden on the people of my district should take into consideration the repression perpetrated on them by the British Government and their poverty today. I submit that it should first take over the forests and, secondly, the holdings should be consolidated in six month's time. First of all, the holdings of the villages on the banks of the Chos should be consolidated and then those chos should be canalised by means of bull-dozers. Twenty five per cent of the land so reclaimed should be auctioned to meet the expenses of the Government.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Member is not to the point.

Sardar Ajit Singh : He is giving very useful suggestions.

Mr. Speaker : That is why I have allowed him to say things to a certain extent.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Sir, it has been provided in the Amending Bill now before the House that the Government can charge the whole of the expenses instead of 10 times the land revenue. This expense can be met by the auction of 25 per cent of the land so reclaimed. But I am afraid, no attention will be paid to this suggestion of mine. I would point out to the Government that if the holdings in this district are not consolidated, the lands cannot be reclaimed. Along with this, the forests should be taken over by the Government in order to save the lands from the sand coming from those forests in the streams. If these suggestions are implemented our ills can be removed.

Sir, my submission is that if this slow speed continues, there will be dissatisfaction among the people. The work which ought to have been completed within six months after partition is still undone. Government should take over two or three chos at a time and complete them. Of course, I fully realize the difficulties that stand in the way of the Government. I also know that the Government has no magic-lamp with which to complete such schemes in a minute. But still I should like to submit that one stream in each of the four Tehsils

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of Hoshiarpur district can be taken over by the Government and work can be started on them for the present. In this way, the people will have something before them to give them some satisfaction at least. I hope my suggestion will fall on willing ears and some steps will be taken in this direction by the Government. With these words, I congratulate the Government on bringing in this amending Bill and resume my seat.

Dr. Bikram Chand (Una, General, Rural): Sir, the Amending Bill which is before the House for consideration concerns mostly the districts of Hoshiarpur and Ambala. These are the two districts which are devastated by chos during the rainy season. My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has explained the manner in which new chos are formed every year and the havoc they play in these districts. These districts are inhabited by poor peasant proprietors whose holdings are small. There are very few well-to-do farmers in these districts. The burden of this loss falls on the shoulders of poor people. Here I wish to submit that the object of this Bill—which is to recover full cost from the poor people instead of recovering up to the maximum limit of ten times the land revenue—places a heavy burden on the poor land-owners of these districts. It amounts to sheer injustice and I would like to suggest that in the interests of the poor this work on the chos should be made a part of the Grow-More-Food campaign. In this way, the burden will be removed from the shoulders of the poor people. It is not possible under the present laws to make it a part of Grow-More-Food campaign. Then I would appeal to the Government to make such rules as may go a long way in mitigating the suffering of the poor and in lessening the burden that this Amending Bill involves. Another submission that I wish to make is that the speed of the consolidation scheme in Hoshiarpur District should be increased so that it might help in the Grow-More-Food campaign. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Kartar Singh has also laid emphasis on this point. I would like to repeat here that the work in connection with chos should be made a part of the Grow-More-Food campaign so that expenditure on them may be borne from that item instead of asking the poor people in Hoshiarpur and Ambala to pay for that.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Layallpur East, Sikh, Rural): Sir, I wish to congratulate the Government because it has considered it necessary to give its attention to the problem of 'chos' and has consequently brought

forward this Bill before the House to-day. The problem of chos is essentially peculiar to the districts of Hoshiarpur and Ambala. As a resident of Ambala who knows such matters, I can say for the information of the hon. Members that the problem of chos in these districts is an old one. If we look to the history of this ilaqa, we shall find that it was the area round about Ambala which was colonised by the Sikhs after the conquest of Sirhind. At that time, the problem of chos was not so acute because the rulers had wisely considered it desirable to check the menace of chos at their very source. There was a general order that nobody should keep goats and sheep in the Shiwalak Hills. This was because if there are no goats and sheep in the hills there would be abundance of vegetation and undergrowth with the result that when there is rainfall the amount of water would not go down the hills with a great rush and speed carrying with it the soil from the hill-sides. When there is no silt in this water it goes down and passes through the plains in its natural courses. If there is silt in the water, naturally, it will leave it in its way and consequently it will often change its course and will thus damage the crops and fields of the peasants. After the partition although we have many other difficulties, but in one way we stand to gain in this ilaqa. Many of the Gujars who lived in the Shiwalak Hills have left the place and so the number of goats and sheep in these hills has been greatly reduced. If our Government pays more attention towards this matter and places some stringent restrictions on goats and sheep in this area, much good can come out of it. By following this policy in the Shiwalak Hills, the silt which the rainwater carries with it during its course of journey to the plains, will not be so carried and the chos will do much less damage to the districts of Ambala and Hoshiarpur. Another matter towards which the Government should devote more attention than it does at present, is that of canalising the chos. A vast area of land in the above-mentioned districts has been rendered uncultivable by the action of the chos. It is not only chos which do damage to the crops and lands of the poor farmers but there are many other Nalas and small streams which during the rainy season play havoc with the fortunes of these poor people. The hon. Members are aware of the fact that in Ambala district the average amount of rainfall is about forty inches in a year. Whole of this water disperses itself in the form of many small 'Nalas' running in various directions. This damage which they do is very extensive in this ilaqa. In order to avoid it, it is most necessary that

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the Government should undertake terracing and the embankment of fields. The Forest Department has been realising the danger of chos and in order to remove it the department had been undertaking the plantation of trees on the sides of the chos. But this step though very useful has not been able to meet the need entirely, because the rush of water by such plantation is diverted from one bank of the cho to the other. The real problem can be solved only by controlling the rush of water by dams or otherwise and by regulating the flow. The course of the flow of water should be canalised so that the present zigzag courses of these chos may not do any harm to the villages and the fields. The task of canalising should be undertaken by the Government in order to control the flow of water and the silt should not be allowed to remain in the passage where water flows. It should be removed by proper digging operations so that there is no resistance to the flow of water. But before any work of canalising the chos is undertaken by the Government, it is essential that the consolidation of holdings in the villages by the sides of the chos is completed. This is necessary because unless this is done there will be disputed points raised by the people in such villages regarding their lands. After the consolidation of holdings in such villages, the lands that might be saved by the activities of the Government in respect of chos can be taken over by the Government and disposed of in any way it likes. This can provide funds for further work in connection with the chos. My submission is that in this way there would be no need for this amendment and the difficulty which the Government is experiencing in respect of funds would disappear in no time. As a matter of fact, the poor farmers should not be burdened with the responsibility of providing funds for this work.

Then, Sir my submission is that this erosion problem is not the creation of the zamindars themselves. It has been the result of the neglect on the part of the British Government who permitted the Gujars to graze their cattle in the Shiwaliks which the Gujars gradually denuded by constant cutting and removal of jungles. Consequently, the streamlets came down particularly during the rainy season, with enormous speed for want of any natural obstacle like the foliage or shrubbery on the Shiwaliks, and thus eroded lands situated in the submountainous ilaqas of Ambala and Hoshiarpur districts.

Mr. Speaker: This argument has already been advanced by several hon. Members.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang: Since I was absent from the House for sometime, I could not hear the speeches of the hon. Members, otherwise I would have been chary of repeating this argument. However, I wish to urge upon the hon. Minister that the responsibility for making good the damage caused to the lands of the zamindars by erosion lay entirely with the previous Government. Since this Government is the successor of the past Government, it should consider this problem as a bad legacy left by its predecessor. I would, therefore, submit that it is the bounden duty of the Government to adopt effective measures to put a complete stop to the ravages of the chos. I feel that the peasants and zamindars who have suffered a lot as a result of the erosion of their lands by the action of chos are too poor to bear the full cost of the works to be executed by the Government for overcoming the cho menace. I think that the recovery of the amount to the extent of 10 times the land revenue, as provided in the parent Act, is quite enough and that they should not be further burdened with any more taxes in this connection. I would further suggest that the small holders possessing 10 acres of land should be altogether exempted by the Government from the payment of any due towards the cost of the works. All other zamindars owing more than 10 acres of land may be made to pay at the rates laid down in the Land Preservation Act, 1900, for the measures adopted by the Government to safeguard their lands.

In the end, I would impress upon the Government the desirability of canalising the chos and building proper dams with a view to saving the lands from the depredations of chos. I hope that the suggestions put forward by me regarding the solution of this vital problem will receive due attention at the hands of the Government. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Thakur Dalip Singh (Kangra South, General, Rural) (Punjabi): Sir, this Bill has been discussed threadbare but I, too, would like to make a few observations about it. It goes without saying that the problem of erosion of lands by the action of chos has assumed alarming proportions in the State. The sooner it is solved, the better it would be for the good of zamindars in particular and the State in general. I appreciate that the Government has moved in the matter and put forward

[Thakur Dalip Singh]

this measure. But I do not agree to the proposal made therein regarding the recovery of total cost from the zamindars for the execution of works necessary to stop erosion. I have serious apprehensions on the basis of my past experience that the works to be executed through government agency would involve a heavy expenditure and less return as has invariably been the case. There is very little hope of any benefit accruing to the zamindars as a result of the steps intended to be taken by the Government under this measure.

Then, Sir, I may point out that a remarkable experiment is already being carried out for the last five years at different places in Kangra district with a view to combating the cho menace and protecting the lands from erosion. It is like this. The zamindars of each village whose lands had been subject to erosion by the action of chos have formed themselves into cooperative societies. These societies bear the whole cost for the measures intended to stop erosion and utilise the whole income accruing from the lands thus reclaimed for the general welfare of the people of the village. For instance, hospitals and schools are opened, roads are built and the sanitary conditions of the villages are improved and so on. I, therefore, suggest that the Government should take advantage of this experiment and try it in Hoshiarpur and Ambala districts where the cho problem has become very acute. In other words, the Government should instead of undertaking the work itself, entrust its execution to the hands of the zamindars themselves in the affected areas on cooperative basis. I am sure that the Forest Cooperative Societies thus formed, will be able to accomplish the task at a less cost with a greater efficiency and in the shortest possible time. Besides this the Government will be saved of much expenditure, which it will have to incur on the setting up of the new organisation to deal with the cho problem. I am, therefore, strongly opposed to the proposal that the Government should undertake the execution of works for dealing with the erosion problem and burden the zamindars with the whole cost involved in it. I would rather suggest and urge upon the Government to set up Forest Cooperative Societies in every village of the cho-affected areas to carry out the task of checking further erosion. Thus whereas the lands will be preserved effectively by the efforts of the zamindars themselves, Government will not be subjected to any financial burden in this regard. I hope the hon. Minister will pay due attention to what I have submitted to resolve this difficult problem.

Minister for Education (The hon. Sardar Nārotam Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I feel very grateful to the hon. Members who have put forward very useful suggestions for combating the cho menace. I assure my hon. Friends that these suggestions will receive my best attention and I will also get them thoroughly examined by the departmental experts concerned. I may tell the House that this Bill has been brought forward by the Government entirely for the benefit of the zamindars. It goes without saying that the Government feels very proud of its peasantry, which is the backbone of this State. It considers the interests of the zamindars as paramount and makes every endeavour to improve their lot.

I am glad to note that this Bill has the support of all sections of the House as no amendment to this measure has been moved. Let me assure the hon. Members that the views expressed by them on the subject will be fully considered. I hope that this Bill will be passed unanimously.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE EAST PUNJAB REFUGEES REHABILITATION (BUILDINGS AND BUILDING SITES) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Parliamentary Secretary : (Sardar Ajit Singh) : I introduce the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Buildings and Building Sites) (Amendment) Bill.

Parliamentary Secretary : I move—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Buildings and Building Sites) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, while enforcing the provisions of the main Act, certain difficulties were experienced by the Government which stood in its way of disposing of the new houses in the new townships which were built for our displaced brethren. These houses originally meant for our displaced brethren have remained unsold for a long time as a result of which these have been damaged. Government has invested huge amounts in the construction of these houses and it is proposed to facilitate the disposal of these very houses by throwing their sale open to non-refugees as well.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

The other point towards which I would like to draw the attention of the House is regarding the realization of rent of these houses and mud huts constructed by the Government. As there was no provision for leasing out these houses and mud huts on rent before, it has therefore been felt necessary to make the necessary amendment in the original Act.

Further, it has also been found necessary that rent in respect of these houses and mud huts should be realized as arrears of land revenue. This Bill has been brought forward to make up the deficiency which existed in the old Act.

With these words, Sir, I commend the Bill for the acceptance of the House without making any amendment therein.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved--

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Buildings and Building Sites) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Ujjal Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Sir, it is a matter for great surprise that at a time when thousands if not lakhs of refugees are without shelter and a good proportion of them are staying on pavements, government has thought it fit to bring forward this Bill. Does the Government believe that the housing problem of the displaced persons has been solved so that they may throw open all the plots and all the buildings that were meant for the refugees to non refugees? Does the Government think that the money and the evacuee land that was earmarked and meant to be utilised for the rehabilitation of refugees should be utilised for other purposes? I do not know why the Government has considered it advisable to bring in such a Bill. Has the Government gone into the reasons for the refugees not availing themselves of these buildings? Perhaps the Government has not cared to realise that those buildings have not been purchased or have not been utilised by the refugees for good reasons. Some buildings are not worth the price the Government has fixed for them and some buildings are situated in localities where the displaced persons cannot afford to live, and where there are no means of livelihood, for instance Palwal, Rewari and Khanna. (Interruption) I know of places where the Government has located these townships where they should not have done. In any case, if the buildings are not worth the

price which the Government has fixed for them, the Government should put these buildings to auction and make them open only for refugees. It is not necessary that all the extra amount that the Government has spent on these buildings should be realised from the pockets of the refugees. If a lower price is obtainable, let that lower price be accepted from the refugees. But these buildings should not be made a business proposition because they were not meant for that purpose. I, therefore, earnestly request that this Bill be withdrawn and placed again before the House after reconsideration.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker)

Another object of this Bill is that the mud huts and those houses which are not still occupied, probably on account of high rents, or for other reasons should be given on rent and the rent realised as arrears of land revenue. But why should the ordinary law of the land in the matter of realisation of rent be set aside in respect of these buildings? Why should not the arrears of rent be realised in the ordinary way? The majority of these buildings, particularly the mud huts, will be occupied only by refugees and there is no reason why the Government should resort to this extreme method of realising the rent? I, therefore, request the Government to consider the matter in a sympathetic manner. The refugee problem is a very acute one. There are thousands of people who want shelter and still the Government is proposing to throw open these houses for non-refugees. As I have already submitted, Government has spent much more than what these houses are actually worth and if Government is not able to realise the full amount that it has spent, the refugees should not be penalised. I, therefore, oppose the motion under consideration.

Shri Virendra (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I am really surprised to see this Bill being moved by a person who is a refugee himself. It has pained me to see that our Government which has been declaring in unequivocal terms that it would succeed in solving the refugee problem has not done anything substantial in this direction. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will excuse me when I say that by bringing forward this legislative measure our Government has given a clear proof of its failure in solving the refugee problem. My hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh has in the course of his speech pointed out that our

[Sardar Ujjal Singh]

Government has declared it more often than once that the housing problem is very acute in our State and that sufficient houses are not available to meet the needs of the people. As a matter of fact it goes without saying that there is hardly any day when we do not hear about the cut-throat competition in the urban areas for getting even one-roomed accommodation. When this fact is brought to the notice of the Government, it is repeatedly given out that the required number of houses for accommodating people is not available in the State. Mr. Speaker, you will see that the accommodation problem in the urban areas is so acute that people wander from place to place for want of accommodation. At many places in the urban areas, families of our displaced brethren are experiencing great troubles in the matter of housing accommodation, so much so that two families find themselves huddled up in one room.

Sir, I cannot understand why these houses which have been built for displaced persons are being thrown open to non-displaced persons. These houses are lying unsold not because there are no displaced persons who are willing to buy them, but the fact of the matter is that the price of these houses is excessive which no displaced person is willing to pay. The houses in these townships were built only two years ago but most of the houses leaked at many places even during the first rainy season. If we look at the construction of these houses, we will find that very inferior kind of material has been used and this is the reason that no buyer is coming forward to purchase these houses. In some townships neither any roads have been constructed nor have the promised amenities been provided. So if these houses are not bought by the displaced persons, it is not their fault but the Government is to be blamed for this. The Government of India advanced money for the construction of these houses for the resettlement of refugees. There would, therefore, be no justification in letting out these houses to non-refugees. The Government will do great injustice to refugees if it offers these houses to non-refugees and by doing so the purpose for which these houses were constructed with the help of Government of India will be defeated.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Rest assured, that nobody will purchase these houses.

Shri Virendra : I know that nobody will come forward to buy these houses at the price at which these are offered. It may be possible

that a few moneyed men may purchase these houses but built as they are, they will collapse after a few months. If the Government takes a sympathetic view of the situation and reduces their prices those houses may be bought by refugees. The fact that they are not being occupied is a clear condemnation of Government's planning and construction. I would, therefore, ask the Parliamentary Secretary who has moved this Bill to see why roads have not been constructed and other amenities not provided in the new townships. He should also examine whether the price that has been fixed for these houses is reasonable. The Government should be prepared to sell these houses to refugees even at lesser price. The displaced persons who were previously living in magnificent houses before the partition are now putting up in two rooms or so and the Government would do well if it offers these houses to them at lesser price even if it has to incur a little loss. I think we will not be able to evolve a solution of housing problem unless we show a bit of large-heartedness.

Secondly, I would submit, Sir, that a penal clause has been incorporated in the Bill that unrealised rent will be recovered as arrears of land revenue. We should behave sympathetically with the refugees as loss of wealth and property has broken their hearts. If in their financial embarrassment they are unable to pay rent of these houses regularly then we should give them some reasonable latitude. If they feel some genuine difficulty in the payment of rent they should not be dealt with under this penal clause. Without saying anything more on this point, I fully support the suggestion made by my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh that the Bill should be withdrawn and the whole matter considered afresh. The refugees should again be given an opportunity to buy these houses. I remember that about six months ago in reply to my question about these houses, the Government replied that these houses will be purchased by the refugees who were then in the Camps after the allotment of land was over. But may I know as to why these houses have not been bought by refugees when the allotment of land was finished long ago. It is, therefore, clear that these houses are worthless and nobody is prepared to buy them at this price. In these circumstances, I think that the only way to solve this problem is that the Government should reduce the prices of these houses and after removing other difficulties should again give an opportunity to refugees to buy these houses. If the Government acts in this way I think the problem will be solved satisfactorily.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing South East, Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hiudustani*): Sir, after the sad death of Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi, I think this Bill which has been introduced in the House is clearly indicative of the fact that urban rehabilitation problem requires right approach for its solution by the Government. This problem cannot be solved satisfactorily without putting heavy strain on Government Exchequer. It will, therefore, naturally be a losing proposition for the Government. If we cast our glance on the Budget speeches and His Excellency the Governor's Addresses delivered from time to time in this House we will find that Government has candidly admitted that the task of urban rehabilitation is stupendous and full of difficulties and that it has not been able to solve this problem satisfactorily. I think the Government should take up this task with straightforwardness and sense of responsibility and discharge its obligations in this matter in the fullest possible measure. But I am sorry to say that by introducing such a Bill before the House the Government has shown that it has scant regard for the welfare of refugees and that they should not henceforward look to the Government for the solution of their problems.

This Bill is thus a notice to the refugees that henceforth the Government will consider itself absolved of the responsibility of urban rehabilitation and that they should give up all hopes in this respect. Apparently, this Bill may appear to be innocent but its implications are of a far-reaching nature. Sir, what will those poor uprooted people think of this Government—those men, women and children who are forced to live in a huddled-up condition, eight to ten persons in a single room, when they will come to know that the Government has brought forward this legislation as a solution of their accommodation problem? Will they not think that the time has come for them also to lay no store by the professions of this Government and find out the course that they should adopt as a last resort to get their dues and have their legitimate demands fulfilled? So far as I think it is in Government's own interests to withdraw this Bill. This is my friendly advice to them. If a mistake has been committed in bringing this Bill before the House, it is not necessary to insist on its being passed. This is not statesmanship. If the Government will ignore the advice of its friends and well-wishers it will have to thank itself for the consequences.

It is manifestly clear, Sir, that the Government has had the temerity to bring such legislation before the House because of the fact that ever since the death of the late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi the Cabinet has been without a refugee Minister. I want to bring it home to the Government and especially the hon. Chief Minister that no Government can exist for long which does not look to the interests of all sections of the people. True, in a democratic regime like the present one we may not be able to have everything that we need for our satisfaction, yet it is also equally true that it is the duty of the Government to see that everybody's basic wants such as food, clothing and housing are at least fulfilled. I remember very well that when the problem of allotment of land had assumed a complex form the Government had of its own accord formed a broadbased advisory committee to help it and efforts were made to find a solution of the problem in consultation with the members of this committee. After all, those who are Ministers should not think that since they have been exalted to this high position they have come to have a monopoly of the intelligence of the State and therefore they need not consult any non-officials in any matter whatever. When the Government admits that the problem of urban rehabilitation remains still unsolved, was it not its duty to consult the representatives of the refugees, before taking such an important step as the bringing of this Bill embodying a proposal, fraught with far-reaching consequences, before the House? It is true that we do not represent any constituencies yet no one can deny that we have been co-opted as Members of this House for reason of our being refugees. While warning the Government not to show undue haste in this matter, I would like to make a few constructive suggestions.

Well, Sir, so far it has been the policy of the Government to sell the houses by auction giving them to the highest bidder in order to escape the possible charge of favouritism. In my opinion, this policy should not have been adopted as it has been responsible for discrimination between the comparatively rich and the poor displaced persons. When no such discrimination was made while evacuating the displaced persons from West Punjab why should it have been practised indirectly in the matter of providing accommodation to them? Moreover, before passing this Bill and selling the houses to the non-refugees the Government should also realise that whereas the prices of these houses are already high, the financial power of the refugees has also been dwindling

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

from day to day. And keeping this thing in view the Government instead of throwing open the sale of these houses to non-refugees should have reduced their prices in order to enable the refugees to purchase them as suggested by my hon. Friend Shri Virendra, or have allowed them to purchase these on more easy instalments by spreading them over a longer period. Several subordinate Government servants have told me that they are very keen on making some district their native place in East Punjab and would like to purchase the newly-built houses provided the Government gives them the necessary facilities. Therefore, Sir, I see no reason why these houses should be sold by auction making it possible for the comparatively rich to purchase them and ignoring the poor but deserving people who are willing to purchase them on instalment basis. I would urge the Government that these houses should be given to the subordinate Government servants departmentwise on instalment basis, since the financial position of every refugee is not such that he may be able to purchase it in the auction. It is only in this way that the Government can to some extent discharge its responsibility in the task of urban resettlement. That its policy of urban rehabilitation should be confined to the wealthier of the displaced persons is a matter for shame. In the end, I would again urge that these houses should go to the poorer class of displaced persons. With these words, I would request the Parliamentary Secretary to withdraw this Bill.

Sardar Ajit Singh: What are the other suggestions? The hon. Member has given only one suggestion.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana: First, that the Government should give these houses to subordinate Government servants; second, that it should give them on easy instalments spread over a long period; third, that it should reduce the prices and sell them to the poor section of the refugees; fourth, that it should give the houses to the refugees on long-term lease charging fair rent for them, fair rent to be fixed on the basis of prevailing rents in the towns.

Sardar Ajit Singh: This is nothing new.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana: For you there can be nothing new; you are incorrigible.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar. (Non-Union Labour) (*Hindustani*)

Sir, when my hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana was speaking, the hon. Parliamentary Secretary was taking notes. I ask why was he taking notes if nothing new was being said by the hon. Member. To me it appears that the Government while bringing such measures as the one that is before the House is guided only by the advice of its officers and cares a fig for the non-official opinion or for that matter for the opinion of the hon. Members of this House. When the original Act which is sought to be amended by the present Bill was under consideration, so many complaints and difficulties of the displaced persons were brought to the notice of the Government. Not only at that time but afterwards also the complaints of the displaced persons in regard to the houses were placed before this House by way of interpellations. But unfortunately no hon. Minister or Parliamentary Secretary has ever thought fit to tell the House whether they took any steps to remove the grievances of the displaced persons and if they did to what effect. I submit that if an hon. Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary cares to go to a township just for an hour he will come to know a multitude of difficulties which the people living there have to face. The houses are most improperly built and that is the reason why it is not possible to sell them to the displaced persons. The displaced persons want the houses very badly but they do not buy them as these houses do not serve their purpose. Here I may ask the Parliamentary Secretary as to why the houses built in Delhi sell so easily. There, the displaced persons are always prepared to pay the price of the houses in advance. Obviously, the reason is that the houses at Delhi have been properly constructed.

Sir, the Government now desires to sell these houses to non-refugees. In other words, it means that the housing problem of the displaced persons has been satisfactorily solved and these houses are no longer wanted by them. However it is far from the truth. The poor displaced persons are still lying in the fields without the shelter or roof over their heads. I ask the Government if it wishes to sell these houses to non-refugees, what alternative arrangement it was going to make for those displaced persons who are still shelterless. Does it intend to construct some new houses for them? However I have apprehensions that there are some non-refugee interests which are working behind this Bill. Some non-refugees who can exert influence with the Government wish to acquire these houses

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar]

with a view at any rate to use the sites for setting up new buildings. But I warn the Government that if it decides to sell these houses to non-refugees it will be guilty of committing a sin against the refugees. Under these circumstances, I submit that this Bill should not be rushed through with an indecent haste and its consideration should be postponed so that the hon. Members get an opportunity of thinking over it rather dispassionately. I am sure that if the Government thinks a little over this problem it will certainly hit upon some plan by which these houses can be utilized for the good of the displaced persons. The best thing in my opinion is to set up a committee of hon. Members of this House to go into this question.

I should also say a few words about the recovery of rent of these houses as arrears of land revenue. Such a step on the part of the Government will not bring it any good name. What is in fact wanted is this that the money due from the refugees should be realized in easy instalments as they are not in a position to pay lumpsum amounts. If the Government begins to attach their belongings for non-payment of rents etc. and subjects them to the severities of the Police authorities it may lose in them some very good Friends.

Shrimati Sita Devi. (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, my hon. Brother Shri Virendra was surprised to find as to why Sardar Ajit Singh Parliamentary Secretary should have brought forth such a Bill. I think there was no occasion for any surprise. My brother should have known that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary is now sitting on the Treasury Benches. When he used to sit with us in the past, I mean when the session was held in the Council Chamber of the Viceregal Lodge, he had every sympathy for the poor refugees. Now things have changed and I for one am not surprised to find that Sardar Ajit Singh has brought forth this Bill. Any how, I feel that when it was not possible for the Government to sell these houses to the refugees it should have inquired from proper quarters to find as to what was after all the reason. It should have inquired whether the houses could not be sold as good material had not been used or there was some other defect.

Instead of paying attention to this question, the Government came forward with this Bill which entitles local persons to purchase

these houses. Whereas it will be an encroachment on the rights of refugees and the money given for them will be used for the benefit of others it will give rise to another kind of corrupt practice. Local people will purchase these houses and then let out small rooms at high rents amounting to twenty or twenty-five rupees per mensem. I wonder why nobody has cared to examine this aspect of the problem. Those who are members of urban allotment committees know the condition of refugees. People are breaking each others' heads for getting a small room. A large number of persons in Jullundur are still without houses. The local residents of that place are charging from twentyfive to thirty rupees per mensem as rent for those small rooms for which they used to get not more than five rupees from Muslim tenants. This Bill will lead to increase in this corrupt practice. While reading the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Parliamentary Secretary stated that difficulty was being experienced in the realisation of rent of mud huts and other houses built by the Government. Only a blind man can be unaware of the fact that people are living in the mud huts like beasts. Two or three families are living in the same small room. There is no privacy in these huts and cases of delivery also are taking place there. When I saw these mud huts, I found that only ten or twenty of these consisted of two rooms each. I was told that when some sensible man first prepared the plan of these huts, he recommended the construction of two rooms for each family. One of these could be used as kitchen or store. But when our Ministers paid a visit to these huts, it was ordered that these should contain only one room each, so that there might be less expenditure on their construction. When refugees are living in these conditions, why should not the unsold houses be offered to them? Why should these be sold to local persons? Does the Government think that the refugee problem has been solved and that nobody has any difficulty in the matter of accommodation? If that is not the case, why should not those living in mud huts be accommodated in these unsold houses? The prices can be reduced and the refugees can be asked to purchase these at lower prices which they might afford to pay. This will solve the difficulty of those who could not purchase those on account of their high prices. I am sorry that the hon. Chief Minister is not in his seat. When he went to Jullundur, he paid a visit to Bhargava Camp in the company of Deputy Commissioner and other local officials and non-officals. He will perhaps remember the hardships narrated to him by the inmates of that camp. How can these persons living in mud huts and earning not more than eight annas or one rupee

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

a day which is not sufficient for feeding their families even, pay the rent of these huts? The Chief Minister promised to look into their difficulty but instead of giving them any relief those who do not pay rent up to the fifth of the month are being threatened with eviction. Instead of redressing the difficulties of poor refugees the Government has come forward with this Bill. Does our Government propose to take advantage of the fact that this is one-party Government and the Members can be prevented from opposing this Bill by issuing party whip. I shall request the Parliamentary Secretary to withdraw this Bill. If it is not withdrawn, it will mean great injustice to the refugees. It will have a bad effect on the public because they will feel that instead of solving the refugee problem, the Government is going to make it more difficult. I, therefore, hope that the Bill will be withdrawn.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal (South Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, I feel that it is no use standing in this House for drawing the attention of the Government to the difficulties of the public. When a serious measure like this is under discussion, the hon. Ministers who are in-charge of administration of this State, do not find time to sit in the House for hearing the views of people's representatives. Is this the feeling which our Government has for the people of this State? Why should we cry over shabby treatment being given to our displaced brethren in other States when our own Government is going to treat the men, women and children of this State in this manner? I wonder if there is any use of telling these things, but I wish to narrate to the House an incident which I came to know only last Saturday. An old lady of Muzaffargarh, one of whose seven sons named Shri Krishan Dev was the Secretary of District Congress Committee, narrated it to me. Muzaffargarh was one of those remote places where none of our eminent leaders went, but still the people of that place rendered meritorious services in the struggle for national independence.

That old mother got hold of me and began to cry. Her tears moved me and other ladies standing nearby. We also could not help shedding tears along with her. She told us that her young son who was only 37 years old was murdered when he entered a one-roomed house at Delhi to get possession of it. She reminded us of the happening of the time of British Government. These people belonged to Muzaffargarh where Government of the late Sir Sikander was defeated by these people. I had no reply to give. I would like to warn the Government that if it continues to squander away its

wealth i.e., its brave people in this way, it shall spell ruin for itself. God's retribution may be delayed but it cannot be stopped for all time. His justice is inevitable. My hon. Brother Shri Vidyalankar made certain remarks in his speech. I would like to tell him through you, Sir, that dishonesty is the order of the day and everybody wants to shirk his own responsibility. The houses at Delhi were not any better. The fact, however, is that the people over there were prepared to get anything, howsoever worthless it might be, to take shelter under it. I cannot blame the Public Works Department. It was the same here and at Delhi. We, on our part, cannot shake off our own responsibility. I would like to point out to the hon. Members through you, Sir, that the Government is our representative. If it does not follow the right path, we are to blame. As a matter of fact, we try to shift our own responsibility to others. I respectfully and earnestly request the Government to fear the wrath of God and thus give shelter to those who are without it. Let it be given to those who are living in mud huts and tents. The step-motherly treatment that is being meted out to these unfortunate people is regrettable. I, therefore, submit that the Motion moved by Sardar Ajit Singh should be withdrawn and the displaced persons should be settled in these houses.

Shri Durga Chand Kaushish (Ambala Division, Landholders) :
Sir, quite a bit of emotion and sentiment has been exhibited over this Bill. If you will permit me I would like to look at it a little dispassionately from a practical point of view. I, like the other people of the State, have the utmost sympathies for the refugees and no sacrifice on the part of individuals or on the part of the State would be big enough for them. But, unfortunately, one aspect has been ignored right from the beginning, and, that, perhaps, this Bill will make up. I don't know if that was the intention of the Government but this Bill certainly seems to go a long way to satisfy that. I, Sir, refer to the two distinct communities that people like to see in this State—refugees and non-refugees. This is happening particularly in the part of the State to which I belong.

Sir, unfortunately, the refugees have been segregated in such a manner that they have been given separate townships, they have been allotted those houses where Muslims lived and in my part of the State Muslim mohallas were situated at a distance from the Hindu abadis. The result has been that the refugees have not been able to mix up with us and show as one community and this has further resulted in the feelings of separation going rather far culminating at certain places in ugly scenes. The State has been divided into two parts—

[Shri Durga Chand Kaushish]

refugees and non-refugees. I strongly feel that this gulf should be bridged and the distinction which has set in should be removed ; to achieve this early steps should be taken. I don't want to see any one without proper accommodation, the Government must provide them with a shelter, against or without money, but provide in a manner that the distinction that has set in is removed and they feel that they are one of us. My head bows down in shame when I am told that these are refugee quarters. Why should this distinction be maintained ? The new townships should have been set up in a manner that there should have been at least 20 per cent non-refugee population. I would not mind if the houses given to non-refugees were given at a price four times higher than the price on which refugees got the houses and the difference was spent on the refugees. I am very much ashamed to hear today that Friends in the House are saying that it is a non-refugee conspiracy to deprive the refugees of their rights.

Hon. Members : No one said this.

Shri Durga Chand Kaushish : At least that was the impression that I got when I heard the speeches today. We do realise that you have suffered a lot due to the partition. But for God's sake think us your own, live with us as your own and we assure you that we shall never betray you. You will be our dearest and always. (*Hear, hear*).

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Sialkot, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir I don't know what the intention of the Government is in moving this Bill. But one thing is clear. It is this that the talk of compensating the displaced persons for the loss of their *urban* property is only an empty consolation. In spite of the claims put in by them nothing is intended to be given to them by way of substantial relief. The intention of the Government becomes quite clear from the present Bill. It has been stated by the Government that the object of this Bill is to dispose of those houses which have not been bought by the refugees, so that the Government may not have to suffer the loss which otherwise it would have to bear if they remain undisposed. As a matter of fact, this Bill is brought in to remove this danger. But did the Government ever think why the refugees did not buy the houses constructed by it ? There can only be two reasons for that. The first may be that the refugees are not financially in a position to buy them. The second reason can be that the prices of the houses are not in consonance with the value of the material

used in their construction. There cannot be any other reason. In fact, the refugees do want houses because, as yet, they have not been properly rehabilitated. The Government should consider ways and means to satisfy the needs of the displaced persons. It is not proper to dispose of these houses without first looking into the matter as to why the refugees are not inclined to take them. Their grievances should be removed and their view-point should be heard. When the Government has taken the trouble of constructing so many buildings at such a heavy cost for them and for them only, it does not look proper to treat the matter of their disposal so lightly and to dispose them of to whatever person they like. Is it not a fact that these houses were constructed primarily for the refugees? If they are not coming forward to buy them the proper course for the Government is to hold enquiry into the matter and see whether the houses are well-built or not. If there are any faults in their construction or in the material used, the persons concerned should be punished. Instead of carrying out any enquiry in the matter the Government is going to the other extreme and is trying to throw their sale open to others also, so that the amounts that it spent on their construction may be realised. If they were to be constructed and sold to others why were they constructed at all? Why was so much time and energy of the Government wasted? Is it not crystal clear that the Government of India provided money for rehabilitation? Is it rehabilitation of displaced persons that the Government is selling the houses to non-refugees also? My submission is that the houses which are meant for the displaced persons should be given to them only. If they are not willing to buy at the present high prices, the prices should be reduced. An agency should be constituted to assess the fair prices of these houses and it should make such recommendations as are reasonable and fair. If this is done, the Government will find that refugees will come forward to buy the houses and the prices may be realised in instalments. At present, the condition of the refugees is far from satisfactory. They have already exhausted their meagre resources and that is the main reason why they are not in a position to buy the houses which they so badly need. The question of their claims is still hanging fire. It is a cruel joke with them to say that the problem of rehabilitation has been completely solved. The actual state of affairs is that the displaced persons are crying for help. Those who are said to be living in houses are living under such conditions that only those who have a soft corner for them can actually imagine their plight. I hope our Government would not turn a cold shoulder towards them.

[S. Gurbachan Singh Bajwa]

It is a wrong reading of the situation that the refugees do not now stand in need of any more houses. The fact is that they do not find themselves in a position to afford to buy these houses at present and the material used in their construction was so rotten that the prices which have been fixed by the Government are too heavy and unfair. So the best way is to reduce the prices to a reasonably low scale. The money which the Government of India provided so generously for rehabilitation was used for the construction of these houses. So there appears to be no ground for not reducing the prices. The Government should not be too business-minded. As a matter of fact it was our money which the Government spent on these buildings. It is the fault of the Government that it has with our money constructed such houses which are not acceptable to us. For the fault of the Government the poor refugees should not be made to suffer. So my submission is that the sale of these houses should not be declared open to others. Another thing which the Government has stated is that there is a difficulty in the realisation of rent in the case of the houses and mud huts leased by the Government. So it intends taking the power of realising such rent as land revenue. I do not consider it fair on the part of the Government to take this power because to me it appears to be unnecessary. Why can't the Government realise the rent otherwise than as land revenue when the local bodies can do so? One of the hon. Members has stated that the sale of these houses should be made open to non-refugees because it is in the interest of unity that refugees and non-refugees should live nearer each other. As far as the question of unity is concerned, I quite agree with my hon. Friend that there should be close connection between refugees and non-refugees. But mere living near each other is not going to help very much. More important is whether the Government or as a matter of fact non-refugees themselves have been looking after us in a fair manner. When the refugees were given lands, a graded cut reaching even up to 95 per cent was imposed. Was there a non-refugee who volunteered to have such a cut on his big estates for the sake of the refugees? We have been living in small and congested houses for the last three years. Was there a non-refugee who offered accommodation in his big Kothis at Bombay, Simla and Delhi? What to say of offering the Kothis, advantage has been taken of the miserable plight of the displaced persons and rents have been increased and large amounts of puggies have been demanded. Under these circumstances, it is wrong to say that the sale should be made open for others also.

Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members is that the houses which the Government has constructed are built on evacuee land. The cuts that were imposed upon the refugees were due to the shortage of evacuee lands in the Punjab. The building of these houses has, in fact, contributed to this shortage. So the non-refugees have no right to have these houses which are constructed on the evacuee land. I am sure no land of the non-refugees has been acquired for such house sites anywhere in our State. It is sheer injustice if the Government makes the sale open to all. The hon. Minister-in-charge is not in his seat to hear what I wish to impress upon the Government. But still I hope my views will be conveyed to him. I would like the Government to withdraw this Bill because I think there is no justification for passing it.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Friday, the 9th March, 1951.

1957
The Government of Punjab
Department of Agriculture
Lahore

Subject: ...
Reference: ...

...

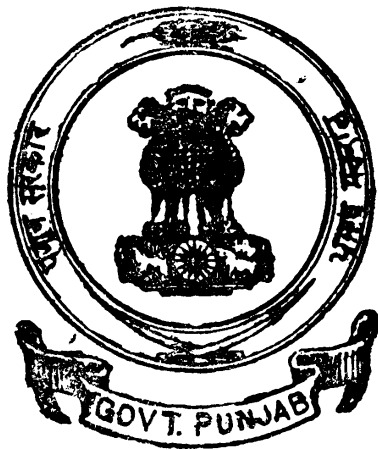
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

9th MARCH, 1951.

Vol. III—No. 6.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Third Session of the First Punjab Legislative Assembly

Friday, 9th March 1951

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 10 a. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC CURRENT IN JULLUNDUR CITY.

*2687. **Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that a greater part of Jullundur city is plunged into darkness almost every day due to the failure of the supply of electric current;
- (b) whether he is also aware of the inconvenience caused to the public in general and the student community in particular;
- (c) whether the Government propose to arrange to supply the city with regular current in future ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) No. The licensee had to cut off supply from certain feeders turn by turn up to June, 1949 on account of the transformers being overloaded. Thereafter, the licensee obtained additional supply of electric energy from the Public Works Department, Electricity Branch and stopped that practice ;
- (b) It is possible that some inconvenience may have been caused to the public in general and the student community in particular before June, 1949 ;

[Chief Minister]

(c) The position of supply at Jullundur has already sufficiently improved.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know what action the Government has taken against the electric supply company for the inconvenience that has been caused to the people of Jullundur so far?

Chief Minister: The areas lying outside the limits of Municipal Committee, Jullundur are supplied electric energy by the Mandi Hydro-electric Scheme. As regards the areas lying within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Committee, the Government will take over from the Jullundur Electric Supply Company.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know what the Government intends to do to remove the inconvenience of the people of Jullundur up till the taking over of the Electric Supply Company by the Government?

Chief Minister: We shall supply as much energy to the company as it demands.

PURCHASE OF BOOKS FOR THE USE OF PANCHAYAT LIBRARIES.

*2688. **Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:

- (a) the name of the officer responsible for the purchase of books like *Naqli Nawab*, *Qatil-ki-Beti*, *Prem Pujarin etc.*, for the use of Panchayat Libraries in the State;
- (b) whether the Government intend to issue instructions to officials not to purchase books of the kind referred to in part (a) above for the use of Panchayat Libraries;
- (c) whether the Government intend to withdraw the books referred to in part (a) above from the Panchayat Libraries forthwith?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh: (a) These books were purchased by a deputation comprising of:
(1) Ch. Jage Ram, Superintendent, Director of Panchayat's Office;

- (2) Shri Des Raj B.A., Translator; and
(3) Pandit Bishamber Sarup B.A., LL.B., Panchayat Officer (Educational), Ambala Division, Rohtak.

- (b) Since the defect from which the books are alleged to suffer have not been stated in Assembly Question, the question of stopping the purchase of such books does not arise at this stage. The Deputy Director of Panchayats has, however, been asked to peruse these books and take suitable action;
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know if the officers maintain some list of approved books out of which they can purchase books for the libraries?

Minister: I would like to tell the hon. Lady Member that if lists are maintained, they restrict the choice in the matter. In the absence of any lists, the officers are free to select books out of those available in the market.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the morals of the ignorant country-people will not be vitiated if they read books on western type of love and conspiracy which form the subject matter of the books referred to in my question?

Minister: I would like to submit that the officers who daily come in contact with the country people know their taste much better than the hon. Lady Member.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know whether the books like *Chand Sitare*, *Qatil-ki-Beti*, *Jungle Men Lash*, *Prem Pujarin etc.*, will not vitiate the morals of the country-folk?

Minister: Such books provide a little bit of entertainment to them and that produces healthy effect on their minds.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know if these books will not produce a bad effect on the people who know nothing?

Minister: The hon. Lady Member is labouring under a misconception when she says that the country-people know nothing. I may inform her that they know everything.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Does the hon. Minister agree with the view that the literature read by the people has its effect on their minds.

Minister: This Minister was also brought up in the countryside and he knows better about the country people than the hon. Lady Member.

Shrimati Sita Devi: - May I know if the books read for entertainment do not produce any effect on the morals of the people?

Minister: They do not produce any bad effect.

Chief Minister: That is a question of opinion.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH.

*2756. **Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the steps Government has taken to implement its decision to build the new Capital at Chandigarh?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: Kindly refer to answer Assembly Question No. *2639.†

NEW TOWNSHIPS IN THE STATE.

*2760 **Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state;

- (a) the number of houses lying vacant in the new townships in the state;
- (b) whether the Government has received complaints that the material used in the construction of these houses has not been according to specification; if so, the steps Government has taken against the contractors and officers responsible therefor?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh; (a) The number of houses lying vacant in the new townships in this state is 64.

- (b) Kindly refer to reply (c) to Assembly Question No. 2598 (starred) during the last Session.

† Vide page (5) 30 infra

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if these 64 houses are lying vacant at a single place or in the whole of the State ?

Minister: I said, in the State.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that about 50 houses are lying vacant at Palwal alone and similarly many houses are lying vacant at Khanna? Besides, is it not the statement of the Government that 500 houses are lying vacant?

Minister: I maintain that my statement is correct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether the statement of the Government is correct or that of the hon. Minister ?

Minister: My statement is correct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if the Bill introduced yesterday related to only 64 houses ?

Minister: There is a difference between unsold houses and vacant houses.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know the number separately of the vacant houses and unsold houses ?

Minister: For unsold houses I want notice. For vacant houses I have already answered.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if the Government has taken any action on the complaints of the people regarding bad material used in these houses by the contractors?

Minister: Yes, proper enquiries were made.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it a fact that two years ago it was brought to the notice of the Government that the material used in these townships was defective and yet no action has been taken so far?

Minister: Action was taken and most of the complaints were found untrue.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that the ex-Chief-Parliamentary Secretary brought to the notice of the Government that in the houses built at Hoshiarpur, Kacha bricks instead of pucca ones were used?

Minister: Yes, enquiries were made.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if any contractor was imprisoned or fined for using such bad material?

Minister: It is a matter for courts to decide.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if any cases were instituted against any persons in this connection.

Minister: Of course a case was challaned.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: How many persons were challaned?

Minister: I require fresh notice.

NEW HOUSES BUILT BY GOVERNMENT IN SOME TOWNS IN THE STATE.

*2947. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new houses built by the Government since the partition in the following towns:-
(1) Gurdaspur, (2) Batala, (3) Simla, (4) Ambala, (5) Jullundur, (6) Amritsar, (7) Ludhiana, and (8) Pathankot;
- (b) the number of houses requisitioned by the Government for Government Servants in the above mentioned towns separately;
- (c) the number of applications submitted to the Municipal Committees of the towns referred to in part (a) above by private persons for permission to build houses together with the number of those that have been rejected and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the population of those towns before and after the partition as well as according to the new census;
- (e) the facilities afforded by the Government and the Municipalities of the above mentioned towns, to the private persons, for building new houses?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh

- (a) (1) Gurdaspur-Nil (2) Batala Nil (3) Simla Nil.
(4) Ambala 26 under construction (5) Jullundur - 500
(6) Amritsar Nil (7) Ludhiana 473 and (8) Pathankot Nil.
- (b) (1) Gurdaspur 50 (2) Batala 5 (3) Simla 644
(4) Ambala 36 (5) Jullundur 189 (6) Amritsar 140
(7) Ludhiana Nil, and (8) Pathankot 10.
- (c) The time and labour involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.
- (d) Population before partition according to 1941 census was (1) Gurdaspur 16,641 (2) Batala 44,458 (3) Simla 18,348 (4) Ambala 44,964 (5) Jullundur 1,35,283 (6) Amritsar 3,91,010 (7) Ludhiana, 1,11,639 and (8) Pathankot 12,354. Owing to mass migration of population immediately before and after the partition no reliable figures of population for this period are available. Population figures according to 1951 census are not yet ready.
- (e) Government have decided to exempt houses built in 1951 and 1952 from the provisions of the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act 1949 for a period of five years from the date of completion of the Building. During this period Government will not requisition any such new building of the above places, Government have developed sites for houses only at Ambala, Ludhiana and Jullundur where new townships for displaced persons have been developed. 303 plots have been laid at Ambala, 594 at Ludhiana and 710 at Jullundur. Of these 249 at Ambala, 594 at Ludhiana and 679 at Jullundur have been sold to displaced persons. Building material such as bricks, cement and steel at controlled rate is being supplied to persons desiring to construct houses in the new townships. The Executive Engineers of the Development Divisions concerned have been instructed to give top priority to sanction the building plans submitted by the purchasers of the plot. In addition House Building loans amounting to Rs. 4,98,500

[Minister for Public works]

have been given to the purchasers at Ambala, Rs 5,82,476 at Ludhiana and 4,08,125. at Jullundur. More funds are available with the Commissioner for advancing such loans to the Deputy Commissioners.

DISMISSAL OF LAMBARDARS DURING THE BRITISH REGIME.

*2381. **Shri Ram Sharma;** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that some Lambardars were dismissed for becoming members or even sympathisers of the Congress during the British regime; if so, whether they have been reinstated by the present Government;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Lambardar Kallu Ram of village Kheri Khumar, Tahsil Jhajjar (Rohtak) was dismissed in July, 1931, by the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, on the charge of becoming a member of the Congress; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram): (a) First part, yes. Second part: The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(b) First part -- yes
Second part - The decision arrived at in Second part of (a) above will also apply to him.

Shri Prabodh Chandra; Is it a fact that a representative of some dismissed Lambardars waited upon the Government; if so, when?

Parliamentary Secretary; I require notice for this.

Shri Prabodh Chandra; May I know whether any action has been taken by the Government in the matter of reinstating such dismissed Lambardars?

Parliamentary Secretary; I have already replied that the matter is under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; Is there any limit to the use of the term "under consideration" ?

Parliamentary Secretary ; Consideration means consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; May I know the policy of the Government in the matter ? Should I take it that the Government does not intend reinstating such dismissed Lambardars ?

Parliamentary Secretary ; I have already replied that the matter is under consideration, I cannot add anything more.

ROUTES TAKEN OVER BY OMNIBUS SERVICE JULLUNDUR.

*2848. **Shrimati Sita Devi** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Satnam Transport Co. Ltd., and the Azad Nakodar Bus Service Ltd. of Jullundur City were plying their buses on the Jullundur-Nakodra route in terms of route permits held by them ;
- (b) whether these permits still continue to be in force ;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons why the Jullundur Omnibus Service was permitted to ply its vehicles on the same route since 22-8-1950 ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that a written undertaking was given to the above operators that the Government would not ply its buses on the said routes ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the fare tariff of Government buses has been greatly reduced as compared with the tariff of private buses on this route ;
- (f) whether he will lay on the Table the up-to-date monthly balance sheet of income and expenditure of the Omnibus Service, Jullundur ;
- (g) whether the Jullundur Amritsar route has also been taken away from Satnam Transport Co. Ltd ;

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

- (h) the alternative routes that have been given to the said company in lieu thereof ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram)

- (a) Yes
(b) Yes.
(c) The Jullundur Omnibus Service was already running up to Kang Sabu which was extended by 5 miles to Nakodar in order to provide facilities to the travelling public as these companies were unable to cope with the rush of traffic.
(d) No.
(e) No. The boot is on the other leg.
(f) The accounts of the Service are confidential.
(g) Yes.
(h) (1) Rohtak-Sonepat.
(2) Rohtak-Beri.
(3) Rohtak-Delhi.
(4) Rohtak-Bhiwani
(5) Rohtak-Hissar.
(6) Rohtak-Jhajjar.
(7) Rohtak-Dadri.
(8) Hansi-Jind.
(9) Jhajjar-Kosli.

Shrimati Sita Devi ; The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that there was no agreement with the operators in question. I have with me a letter written by the Government on 23rd February, 1950 to the Manager, Satnam Transport Co. Ltd. with reference to latter's representation dated the 17th February, 1950, it is stated therein that Jullundur Omnibus Service have not been sanctioned any extension beyond Kang Sabu on Jullundur Nakodur Route. I wish to state for the information of the House that Kang Sabu is at a distance of some miles from Jullundur towards Nakodar. The Government gave an undertaking to Satnam Transport Company that it would not ply its buses beyond Kang Sabu.

Mr. speaker : The hon. Lady member is giving information only.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to

state whether the Omnibus Service at Jullundur is running at profit or loss?

Minister : At profit.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the accounts of the Omnibus Service are checked; if so, when and how?

Minister : Yes, they are checked.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; When are they checked?

Minister : Whenever it is found necessary to do so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I seek the Chair's protection. The hon. Minister is giving vague and irrelevant answers.

Mr. Speaker : I am helpless.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Are there any rules for the guidance of those who audit such accounts or should I take it that matter has been left to their sweet will?

Minister : There are rules for their guidance and the accounts are, as a matter of fact, audited in accordance with those rules. The hon. Member is invited to my room and I can show him such rules.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether any complaints have been received by the Government from the public ever since it took over this route?

Minister : Fresh notice is required for this.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I think the Government should dispense with the question hour altogether. Every time a question is put they say that they require a fresh notice or try to evade it.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Member will please consult the rules and then make suggestions. He will find some remedies there.

SETTING UP OF A ROSIN FACTORY .

*2382. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

[Shri Ram Sharma]

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Director of Industries called for applications for setting up of a Rosin Factory in the Punjab in the year 1949;
- (b) whether 31st October, 1949 was the last date for submitting the applications;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Director in spite of a number of Government reminders did not take any action in the matter;
- (d) whether Sardar Sajjan Singh, M. L. A., put a question regarding this matter in the last Session demanding action against the said officer;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the Director sent only a few applications to the Government and destroyed the others;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the Secretary of the Government demanded explanation from the Director in connection with the matter set out in part (e) above when an officer of the Department brought it to his notice, but the Director has not replied so far;
- (g) whether the Government has decided to take any action in the matter; if not, why not?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : (a) Yes.

- (b) Yes. This date was subsequently extended to the end of November, 1949.
- (c) No. The Director of Industries forwarded applications to Government for final selection.
- (d) No.
- (e) Government are not aware whether some of the applications received by the Director of Industries, Punjab, were destroyed by him.
- (f) No.
- (g) Government are enquiring into the matter.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that in the last October Session it was stated by the Government that some of the applications were burnt by the Secretary, Development Board and that the case was under investigation by the Police? May I know what steps the Government has taken in this matter?

Minister: This thing has not come to my notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that twenty-nine out of the thirty five applications received for the Rosin Factory were not put up before the Board and that only six applications in which the hon. Ministers were interested were actually put up.

Mr. Speaker: No reflections, please.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: In the last Budget Session of the Assembly the Government stated that twenty nine applications were received but in the last October Session it was stated that only six applications were received. Which of these statements of the Government is correct?

Minister: I have replied to that during the course of reply to part (e) above.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it a fact that the Secretary of the Development Board did it with a view to oblige some one?

Minister: It is a baseless allegation.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Why is it that so far no decision has been arrived at in the matter of giving contract for the Rosin Factory?

Minister: The decision will be taken soon as the matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: When were the applications invited for the Rosin Factory?

Minister: In October, 1949.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that loss of thousands of rupees is borne by the Government in this matter?

Minister: No estimate is possible.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: When will the Government arrive at any decision in this matter?

Minister: Very soon

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know the definition of the word "very soon";

Chief Minister: The hon. Member should look up some dictionary.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Does the hon. Chief Minister know what a dictionary is? (Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: No insinuations please.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, the word *jaldi* (very soon) is very ambiguous. Three years back *i. e.* in 1947, we asked certain questions and reply given by the Government was that action would be taken soon. But the period indicated by the word soon never finished. Now it is the year of grace of 1951 and yet the same word is being used by the hon. Ministers in their replies to the questions.

Mr. Speaker: Then the hon. Member can very well understand and judge the meaning of the word *jaldi* (Laughter).

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether Government will take three months to decide the matter?

Minister: The word *jaldi* is not a foreign word for the hon. Member. I have already stated that action will be taken soon.

Chief Minister: The hon. Member should better refer to the dictionary.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if the hon. Chief Minister knows the meaning of the word 'dictionary'?

Chief Minister: I have more knowledge than the hon. Member.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

*2383. **Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Industrial Development Board which was set up in the year 1948 has not submitted any report upto this day, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Director of Industries has not circulated the minutes of the Board's meeting held in June, 1949, and has instead got printed the notes prepared by his office which were not approved by the Board;
- (c) whether he will lay on the table the minutes of the Board's meeting held in June, 1949 approved by the members?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : (a) A book entitled "Scope of Industrial Development in Punjab" by Mr. S. N. Kapur contains substantially the investigations of the Board

First part: Yes.

Second part: Enquiries are being made.

- (c) Yes, when the enquiries referred to above are completed.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES

*2384. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state,

- (a) whether it is a fact that an Officer of the Industries Department submitted a memorandum to the Government making grave charges against the Director of Industries;
- (b) whether any action has been taken by the Government to verify the charges;
- (c) whether he will lay a copy of the Officer's letter to the Government on the table.

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail (a) Yes

(b) No, because the charges are baseless.

(c) No. It is not in public interest to do so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know the nature of the charges made in that memorandum?

Minister: I am not prepared to divulge that.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Will the hon. Minister please tell us whether the enquiry held by the Government to find out the truth in the said charges was conducted by the same officer against whom allegations had been made?

Minister: No, that officer did not conduct that enquiry.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know which officer conducted that enquiry?

Minister: If the hon. Member gives notice, the required information will be conveyed to him.

Shri prabodh Chandra: I don't think any notice is required in this connection because an enquiry has already been made and the Government must be in the know of the officer who conducted that enquiry.

Mr. Speaker: But that is the view of the hon. Member.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that on the basis of these very allegations, the Director of Industries has been sent out of the State to take up some other job in some other State?

Chief Minister: It is absolutely wrong.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: If that is so, then will the hon. Chief Minister kindly state the reasons leading to the transfer of the Director of Industries?

Chief Minister: His transfer was brought about in view of certain administrative changes and the reorganisation of the department of Industries.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN STATE

* 2640 **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) the number of displaced persons living in various refugee camps in the State on the 31st December, 1950.

(b) the number of those who have since obtained gainful employment;

(c) the number of those who are receiving free ration and the reasons therefor?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :—

(a) Total No. of displaced person living in various Relief Camps, Women Homes and infirmaries of the state on 31-12-50	...	...	...	98, 118
(b) No. of person living in Relief Camps who have obtained gainful employment is not available. No gratuitous relief is being given in the general relief camps since 1-11-49, and the displaced persons are making their own livelihood.				
(c) No. receiving free rations:				
(i) Aged and infirms with their dependents in Infirmaries	...	...	...	2,503
(ii) Unattached Women and children in Women Homes	...	...	...	6,070
			Total	8'573

Reasons for issue of free rations:

The above categories of displaced persons are solely dependent on Government aid for their maintenance as they are destitute and have no earning male relative to support them.

Shri Virendra: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation kindly tell us whether Government maintains any record of the camp population regarding its means of livelihood?

Minister: Since the responsibility for the provision of livelihood of the displaced persons living in camps does not fall on the Government, the record regarding the means of their livelihood, therefore, is not maintained.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: How does the hon. Minister reconcile his statement that 98,118 persons are still living in the camps with the policy of the Government declared 1½ year ago that the camps were to be liquidated by the 31st December?

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

since no place of shelter was available to these Refugees, they were provided with mud huts on payment of a certain rent.

Shri Virendera: Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us the amount of rent charged from these Refugees for these mud huts?

Minister: The hon. Member should wait for the next question which deals with this subject.

HUTS BUILT BY GOVERNMENT IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE STATE.

*2641. **Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of huts built by the Government in the different Refugee camps in the state after the Partition;
- (b) the total number of persons occupying the huts at present;
- (c) the monthly rent which the Government is charging from the occupants of these huts at present;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government in building these huts?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail; (a) Completed 16,100
In hand 2,616

(b) Number of displaced persons occupying completed huts 73,000

(c) Re 1/- per hut per mensem. Exemption from the rent is given to destitute unattached women and aged/infirm persons living in the general Relief Camps.

(d) (i) Expenditure incurred on the construction of mud huts upto 30.9.50 Rs. 45,10,728/-.

(ii) Total Expenditure estimated to be incurred upto 31.3.51 including (i) above : Rs. 60 14,000/-.

Shri Virendra: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the amount of rent charged from the refugees occupying these mud huts?

Minister : I have already stated in my reply that rent is charged at the rate of rupee one per mensem.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that these huts had not been built according to the specifications approved by the Government ?

Minister : Not to my knowledge.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Minister aware that in Gurgaon, during the rainy season of 1949, a large number of mud huts collapsed ?

Minister : What to talk of these mud huts, even big and pucca houses could not withstand the onslaught of 1949 rains.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that the inmates of these mud huts at several camps represented to the Government that they were unable to pay the rent at the rate of rupee one even ?

Minister : I think rent of rupee one is not exorbitant and every body can afford to pay that.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that when he visited the Bhargava Camp at Jullundur, the refugees represented to him that they were too poor to pay the rent of the mud huts ?

Chief Minister : Those who are unable to pay have been exempted from the payment of the rent. Still I have the feeling that they can afford to pay the rent.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it within the knowledge of the Chief Minister that rent is realised compulsorily from the inmates of the Bhargava Camp and that in case of non-payment of rent, they are threatened with ejection from the mud huts ?

Chief Minister : It is but natural that rent should be realised from those who can afford to pay it but are unwilling to do so.

Shrimati Sita Devi : But my point is that those who are unable to pay should not be harassed for non-payment of their rent. In this connection may I know whether any instructions have been issued to the Camp Commandant for the recovery of rent ?

Chief Minister : Yes, the instructions on the subject are with the Camp Commandant.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly give us the number of those refugees in this Camp who have been exempted from the payment of rent for mud huts ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this.

AREA OF EVACUEE LAND.

***2642 Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total area of land which has been allotted to displaced persons in the State;
- (b) the total shortage of area needed to satisfy all the claims;
- (c) the manner in which the Government proposes to meet this shortage?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : (a) An evacuee area amounting to 20,17,850 standard acres has been allotted to displaced land holders in Punjab. In addition to this 4,14,967 standard acres have also been allotted in Pepsu.

- (b) An area of 99,677 standard acres is required to meet the unsatisfied demand.
- (c) By redeeming evacuee area mortgaged with possession with local residents and by utilizing by cancelling the allotments made to those persons who do not apply up to 31st March, 1951 for collecting their allotment orders and for taking possession of the evacuee area allotted to them.

Shri Virendra : May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to make up the shortage of land? By what date would they be prepared to satisfy all the claims ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if this shortage of area is the result of the carelessness on the part of the officials concerned who have not been able to maintain correct accounts etc? Have the Government taken any steps to provide land to those who are still without it ?

Minister : I require fresh notice for this question.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Have the Government taken any steps to provide those displaced persons with some livelihood who have not been allotted any land so far?

Minister: Steps will be taken as and when any such family applies for providing it with some livelihood.

Sardar Bachan Singh: May I know if the Government have received any applications so far to provide them with some livelihood?

Minister: No such applications has been received by the Government so far.

ALLOTMENT OF EVACUEE LAND

* 2643 **Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of displaced persons who have been allotted lands in the State but who have so far not taken possession thereof;
- (b) the total area of such Land which is still unoccupied;
- (c) the manner in which such Land is intended to be disposed of?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail (a) Upto 15th January, 1951 17,6,492 allottees (including mortgagages) did not take possession of their allotted Lands in Punjab.

(b) Possession of an area amounting to 16,7,532 standard acres has so far not been taken by the allottees in Punjab

(c) The area allotted to those persons, who have not collected their allotment orders and have not taken possession of their allotments by 31st January, 1951, will be reckoned as available for adjustment of allotments as a result of decisions taken on application for review. The allotments made to those persons who do not apply upto 31 March, 1951 for the collection of their allotment orders and for taking possession of the area allotted to them will be cancelled.

Shri Virendra: May I know the steps that the Government has taken to inform the allottees who have not taken possession of their land so far?

Minister: It was announced in the press for their information.

Shri Virendra: May I know the name of the newspapers in which the Government made this announcement?

Minister: It was announced in the Daily Ajit.

Shri Virendra: May I know if all these 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ Lakh allottees who have not so far taken possession of their lands read the 'Daily Ajit' only and no other paper?

Minister: Quotations for publishing this announcement were invited and it was found that the 'Daily Ajit' which I think is read by all the people in the State, quoted the lowest rates, which were ultimately accepted by the Government.

Shri Virendra: May I know if the Government has published this announcement in any of the English dailies?

Minister: I do not think those persons for whom this announcement was meant can read the English newspapers.

Shri Virendra: Has this announcement been published in any of the newspapers outside the State?

Minister: No.

Shri Virendra: In view of the fact that most of these allottees who have not taken possession of their lands so far are at present living outside the State, May I know if the Government has taken any steps to inform them about their decision. What is the number of such persons who are living outside the State?

Minister: It is not possible for me to give their number at this stage.

Shri Virendra: May I know if the Government has taken any steps to make their decision known to those persons who are living at present at different places outside the State, through some agencies other than the 'Daily Ajit, referred to by the hon. Minister?

Minister: No.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: May I know if the Government is aware of the circulation of the newspaper which has given publicity to this announcement?

Minister: It is not possible for me to say that off-hand.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: May I know if the Government have satisfied themselves that the channel through which it was intended to inform the persons concerned was quite sufficient to serve the purpose. Is the Government satisfied that the required information has reached the concerned persons by giving publicity to it in one paper only?

Minister: Government was in correspondence with the 'Daily Partap' so far as this matter is concerned. It was found that the circulation of this paper was not more than seven thousand. It was also the intention of the Government to give publicity to this announcement at a minimum cost.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: In view of the fact that the circulation of the different papers is not so much as to assure the Government about the information regarding the announcement having reached $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs allottees who have not so far taken possession of their land, was it not better to give publicity to this announcement through a number of different papers instead of only one paper?

Minister: It was the intention of the Government to give publicity to this announcement at a minimum cost and, therefore, it was decided to entrust this work to one newspaper which quoted minimum rates.

Shri Virendra: Is it a fact that a letter was sent to the Government on behalf of the 'Partap' saying that the 'Partap' is not interested in this advertisement.

Minister: Yes.

Shri Virendra: Did the hon. Minister make any efforts to get this announcement published in this paper for the information of the concerned allottees?

Minister: It was decided to entrust this work to one paper only.

Shri Virendra: I am not concerned with the decision, what I want to know is this whether there was no way to inform these $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakh

allottees other than the one already referred to by the hon. Minister.

Minister: 31st March, 1951. Government will re-consider the case of those allottees who will not receive the information in time.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: How much money have the Government set apart for giving publicity to this announcement?

Minister: No specific amount was set apart for this purpose by the Government. It was decided that this work should be entrusted to one paper only.

Sardar Srijan Singh: May I know if information to all the concerned allottees has been sent by post?

Minister: Information has been sent to them by post also.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Was this information sent under a registered cover? How many of these have been returned to the department without having been accepted?

Minister: I require notice.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know the reason why the allottees have not taken possession of their lands so far? Is it because they did not receive the information in time or is there any other reason for this?

Minister: The reason is that these allottees own very little land. Moreover, these allottees are earning fairly large amounts by following different professions.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know if it is also due to the fact that most of those allottees have not been allotted the land of that class to which they were entitled?

Minister: We can say this only when they refuse to accept the land allotted to them.

Dr. Bikram Chaand: May I know if those persons who had deposited money in the Imperial Bank before the Partition, have been given any land here in this State.

Minister: Land will be given to them as and when we receive the requisite information from the Punjab (Pakistan).

Sardar Bachan Singh: May I know the number of those allottees who have taken possession of land after the publication of the announcement in the 'Daily Ajit'?

Minister: I require notice for this question.

Shri Virendra: Are the Government prepared to take any steps in giving wide publicity to their orders as it concerns about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lakh allottees?

Mr. Speaker: Next question please.

HUSKING OF PADDY

***2712. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether any instructions were issued by the Government during 1950 to the effect that cultivators are allowed to get their paddy husked at the rice mills up to 3 maunds; if so, when;
- (b) whether this right of husking paddy at the rice mills (chakkis) has been denied to the non-cultivators; if so, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether Government proposes to remove this ban against the non-cultivators; if not, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail

- (a) Yes. Instructions were issued in December, 1949, and again in October, 1950.
- (b) Yes. It would be a hardship on rice-growing cultivators if they were not able to get some part of their paddy husked for their household consumption. In the case of non-cultivators quantity of paddy purchased by them from producers can easily be converted by them into rice by hand pounding.
- (c) No; for the reasons stated in (b) above.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Whereas cultivators are allowed to get their paddy husked at the rice mills, may I know the reasons why such facility is denied to non-cultivators?

Minister: Because cultivators have to work in the fields all the day long.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know why this right is denied to the Harijans in villages who work as labourers in the fields?

Minister: The cultivators have to traverse a long distance and it would be hardship on them if they are asked to pay.

TRANSFER OF LAND RECORDS FROM SIND AND BAHAWALPUR

* 2729 **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps, if any, taken by the Government to bring the Land records pertaining to displaced Land owners migrating from Sind and Bahawalpur and rehabilitated in the State;
- (b) the result of these steps so far achieved;
- (c) (i) the decision, if any arrived at by the Government regarding action to be taken against the displaced persons from the area referred to in part (a) above who had filed partly or totally false claims of Land;

(ii) whether any cases referred to in part (c) (i) above have been scrutinised so far; if so, what action has been taken by the Government against the persons concerned?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhall: (a) Repeated oral and written requests have been made to Pakistan authorities for the exchange of record pertaining to displaced landholders from Sind and Bahawalpur. Two conferences,

one at Lahore and second at Simla, between the Deputy High Commissioners of the Governments of India and Pakistan, Financial Commissioners of Punjab (I) and Punjab (Pak.) and other representatives of the two governments were held in April and June, 1950 in this behalf.

- (b) 605 out of 2017 Jamabandies, pertaining to displaced persons of Punjabi extraction (229 for Sind and 376 for Bahawalpur) have so far been received.
- (c) (i) Fresh staff is being recruited in March, 1951 to prepare *Chhant* of the Jamabandis so far received. Criminal proceedings will be lodged against those claimants, who have put in totally false claims for Land and deductions in accordance with the sanctioned scales will be made from the net allotable area of those claimants who have put in exaggerated claims.
- (ii) As *Chhant* Jamabandi has yet to be made, no case referred in para (c) (i) above has been scrutinized so far.

SCRUTINY OF FALSE CLAIMS OF LAND BY DISPLACED PERSONS.

* 2730 **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any cases of partly false (exaggerated) claims of Land made by displaced persons have been scrutinized in any districts of the State; if so, the number of cases in each district so far scrutinized;
- (b) whether any deductions from the areas allotted have been made according to law in each of the districts referred to in part (a) above; if so, the area so made available for allotment in each of these districts;
- (c) whether the cases of village Daudpura, tehsil Patti referred to in unstarred Assembly Question No. 395 put on 8/3/50 have been scrutinized; if so, what deductions

[S. Sajjan Singh]

have been ordered to be made in each of these cases; if not, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Muhjail : (a) The partially false (exaggerated) claims of the following districts have been scrutinized so far. The number of cases examined are given below against each district.

Hoshiarpur	2,186
Gurdaspur	313
Ferozepur	71
Ludhiana	19
Karnal	14
Amritsar	10
Jullundur	6

(b) Deductions have been made according to the Rules after hearing the claimants and area thus saved in each district is as under:-

Hoshiarpur	182 Standard acres
Gurdaspur	5 "
Ferozepur	105 "
Ludhiana	19 "
Karnal	39 "
Amritsar	22 "
Jullundur	102 "

(c) The cases relating to village Daudpur, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, referred to in unstarred Assembly Question No. 395 were sent to Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar for action. They are reported to be still pending with the Revenue Assistant (Rehabilitation). Deduction will be ordered after the parties have appeared before the Revenue Assistant (Reh.) and have been heard against the proposed action.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the parties were afforded an opportunity to defend their cases which have not so far been decided?

Minister : I think this was done.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that such cases are being scrutinised which are not more than six months old?

Minister : Such cases are kept pending till the village concerned is taken for this purpose.

DISTRIBUTION OF TACCAVI IN THE STATE.

* 2949. **Chaudhri Sunder Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to State:-

- (a) the total amount of money distributed amongst the refugees in the rural areas of the State during the year 1950-51 in the shape of taccavi for purchasing seeds, Chana, persian wheel material and oxen etc :
- (b) the amount distributed amongst the landless refugees in the rural areas for the purpose referred to in part (a) above district-wise ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : (a) Rs. 78,30,575/ were distributed upto 31st January, 1951, during the current financial year as taccavi for various purposes. Information about loans distributed after 31st January, 1951 is not available as yet.

- (b) No taccavi has been distributed amongst the landless displaced persons in the rural areas of the State during the current financial year.

Dr. Bikram Chand : May I know if taccavi loans have been sanctioned for carrying out repairs of the houses ?

Minister : I require notice to reply to this question.

COTTON AND CLOTH MILLS.

* 2938 **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to State:-

- (a) the estimated cotton crop of the following varieties in the State (i) American or long Staple (ii) Desi ;
- (b) the portion of the estimated yield of cotton allocated for each of the yarn and cloth mills in the State;

- (c) whether he is aware of the fact that the Textile Commissioner has appointed Messrs. Volkart Brothers, and Patel and Co. as sole nominees to purchase cotton of the whole State; if so the reason why no concern of this State had been appointed for the purpose;
- (d) whether the Government has received repeated complaints from the yarn and cloth mills of the Punjab that they are not getting their due share of the Punjab cotton and that they are obliged to purchase cotton from outside the State, while the Punjab Cotton that can be made easily available to them at a lesser cost, is being exported outside;
- (e) whether he is aware of the fact that the present arrangement has led to the mixing of the inferior and superior qualities and seed of the Punjab Cotton;
- (f) the steps, if any, which the Government propose to take in the matter?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail: (a) Estimated Cotton production of:-

- | | | |
|---------|--|------------------------------|
| (i) | L.SS. American or long staple cotton | 81,55 bales. |
| (ii) | Desi cotton | 72,500 |
| (b) (i) | Technological Institute of Textiles,
Bhiwani | 9,400 |
| (ii) | Punjab Cloth Mills.
Bhiwani. | 3,600 bales
(approximate) |
| (iii) | Seth Spinning Mills, Amritsar | Nil: |
- (c) Yes. Messrs Volkart Brothers and Patel Cotton Co., have been appointed sole Government nominees in "A" Sub-Zone (Ferozepur district) only and not for the whole of Punjab State. As control over cotton is exercised by the Central Government the two nominees have been appointed by the Textile Commissioner to the Government of India, without consulting the State Government and no reasons have been stated therefor.
- (d) Yes, only from Technological Institute of Textiles, Bhiwani.

- (e) No. The present arrangement has nothing to do with the mixing of inferior with the superior varieties of kapas. However, the existing trade practice is responsible for this abuse.
- (f) The matter is receiving active attention of the Government both in the Departments of Civil Supplies and Development.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: May I know whether the Punjab Government sent any representation to the Government of India pointing out to that Government why the State Government was not consulted while appointing Messrs. Volkart Brothers and Patel & Co. as sole nominees in Ferozepore district?

Minister: The Punjab Government has written to the Government of India now that it has come to know about the appointment of these firms as sole Government nominees.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: May I know why the Government took up this matter after such a long delay?

Minister: When the Government came to know of this nomination, it lost no time in bringing it to the notice of the Government of India.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: May I know how much commission these firms would get?

Minister: I can't say.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: Is the Government aware of the fact that mixture of inferior with superior varieties of kapas is being made in Hissar?

Minister: I think business community might be doing so.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: Is the Government taking any steps to prevent the mixture of inferior with superior varieties of kapas?

Minister: Yes.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: Has the Government received any representation from the cotton mills that their work is suffering and they are obliged to purchase Cotton from outside the State.

Minister: The Government has received a representation from only one cotton mill of the Punjab.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it within the knowledge of the Government that Ludhiana district also produces L.S.S. quality of cotton?

Minister: Yes; but it is grown in some other places also.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that the nominees in question have purchased cotton at comparatively much cheaper rates from the growers of Ferozepur district?

Minister: Control over cotton is being exercised by the Government of India and the rates are fixed by the Textile Commissioner appointed by them. This Government has no hand in it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that it has been purchased from them at rates which are lower than rates prevailing at other places by ten rupees a maund?

Minister: It has been purchased by the nominees at controlled rates.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: If there is control over cotton prices why is it being sold at much higher prices at several places in the State? What steps does the Government propose to take to stop black-marketing?

Minister: We have written to the Government of India in this connection.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is not the control over cotton prices applicable to the whole State?

Minister: No the control operates in one district only.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: Why doesn't the Government stop the export of cotton to the extent to which it is needed in this State?

Minister: This matter comes under inter-State trade and is therefore a subject for the Central Government.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: Is the Government prepared to make a representation to the Central Government in this behalf?

Minister: If the public feels any difficulty on this matter

and makes a representation to us, we shall certainly take up the matter with the Central Government.

TEXT BOOKS

*2321. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

- (a) the procedure in which the Text Books for schools are got prepared by the Text Book Committee or the already published books are approved as text books;
- (b) whether the syllabi and curricula of study are being frequently changed from year to year?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) The Text Book Committee was abolished several years before the partition. The new scheme to prescribe text books was not put into operation during the war or subsequently owing to difficulty of obtaining paper, so the old books approved by the Text Book Committee years ago continue in use up to now. On the advice of the Provincial Advisory Board of Education set up in this State, Government is now taking up the question of prescribing new books according to our new requirements.

- (b) The curricula of study and syllabi for boys and girls schools up to Middle were revised in the united Punjab in the year 1938-39 but were not put into effect owing to difficulties created by the war. The curricula and syllabi have again been revised this year by the Provincial Advisory Board of Education and accepted by Government. Now the books will be prescribed according to the new syllabi and the old prescribed books are being changed after period of 14.15 years.

REPRESENTATION FROM DISTRICT BOARD TEACHERS IN THE STATE

*2644 **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

[Shri Virendra]

- (a) whether the Government have received any representation from the teachers of the District Board Schools in the State, to the effect that many District Boards are not paying to the teachers employed by them regularly;
- (b) the action, if any, taken by the Government in the matter?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh:

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.

ARTS SCHOOL IN THE STATE

*2662 **Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether there is any Arts School in existence in the State; if not, whether the Government is considering to start one in the near future, if so, when?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail: There is, at present, no school of arts in the State. Punjab Government are taking steps to establish such a school in the near future. Provision for this scheme has been made in the Schedule of New Expenditure for 1951-52 and the school is likely to start functioning during this year.

Shri Durga Chand Kaushish: What are the arts that will be taught in this institution and what arrangements have been made in this connection?

Minister: Same that used to be taught in the Mayo School of Arts in the united Punjab.

TRANSFER OF THE PROVIDENT FUND ACCOUNTS OF THE STAFF OF SHRI GURU NANAK KHALSA HIGH SCHOOL, NANKANA SAHIB

*2758. **Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Provident Fund Accounts of the staff of the Shri Guru Nanak Khalsa High School, Nankana Sahib, have been transferred to the Provincial Co-operative Bank, Simla;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the members of the staff applied to the Inspector of Schools Jullundur in August or September, 1950 for the issue of necessary permits to enable them to withdraw their provident funds;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the necessary permits have been issued to some of them; if so, the reason for not issuing to the others so far?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The necessary certificates have since been issued in favour of all the teachers who applied for the same

NON-PAYMENT OF ARREARS OF PAY OF TEACHERS
OF DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS OF GURGAON
DISTRICT

*2823. **Sardar Bachan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether any representation by S. Sajjan Singh Margindpuri, M.L.A., Patti, was made to him, vide his letter No. 1779, dated the 24th December, 1950 (Registered) regarding the non-payment of arrears of pay and other grievances of certain teachers of District Board Schools of Gurgaon District; if so, the same be laid on the Table;
- (b) whether any inquiry was ordered by the Government in the matter; if so, to what extent the facts narrated in the representation were found to be correct;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh. (a) Yes. It has been received.

[Minister for Education]

(b) No, it is a local affair between the District Board, Gurgaon and its ex-employees.

(c) Chairman, District Board, Gurgaon has already been asked to pay the claims under advice to D.P.I's office.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that the matter relates to a local affair. May I know if the District Boards are not subject to the control of the Government?

Minister : They are autonomous bodies.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : How are they autonomous in such matters if they have no freedom in matters such as the nomination of Pandit Faqir Chand?

Minister : Representation was received from the hon. Member and the matter was brought to the notice of the District Board concerned. What more should we have done?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When I have supplied the full facts of the case to the Government and controverted its statement, is the Government prepared to take any action in the matter to remove the injustice?

Minister : Whatever action can be taken under the law will be taken.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If a District Board is at fault and the matter is brought to the notice of the Government, is it or is it not the duty of this Government to take action?

Minister : The matter is dealt with in accordance with the rules.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If in a certain matter, this Government issues directions to a District Board is it or is it not obligatory for it to comply with them?

Minister : The hon. Member should consult the relevant rules in this connection.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know when the Government wrote to the District Board, Gurgaon, about this matter?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall let him know the date.

Sardar Sujjan Singh : Does the Government consider it sufficient to draw the attention of the Board to the complaint without further ascertaining whether this Board takes any action in the matter or not ?

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Thakur Pancham Chand) : I beg to present the Report of the Estimates Committee on Supplementary Estimates (II Instalment) for the year 1950-51.

PUNJAB PREVENTION OF BLACK MARKETING BILL

Mr. Speaker : A message has been received from His Excellency, the Governor which runs as follows :-

Message of His Excellency the Governor of Punjab, returning the Punjab Prevention of Black Marketing Bill, 1950 :-

The Punjab Prevention of Black-Marketing Bill, 1950, which was passed by the State Legislature on the 1st of April 1950, has been returned by the President of India with the direction that the House be requested to reconsider and drop the Bill in the light of his observations, *vide* copy enclosed. The Honourable Speaker is accordingly requested to place the President's directive before the House for reconsideration of the Bill within a period of six months from the date of receipt of this message.

Barnes Court, Simla-2.
January 2, 1951.

C. M. TRIVEDI,
Governor, Punjab,

Copy of Directive No. 17/55/50-Judicial, dated the 29th November, 1950, from the President of India, to His Excellency the Governor, Punjab.

I, Rajendra Prasad, having considered the Punjab Prevention of **Black Marketing Bill, 1950**, which was reserved for my consideration under the provisions of Article 200 of the Constitution of India, do hereby direct in pursuance of the proviso to Article 201 of the Constitution that the Bill be returned to the State Legislative Assembly with a message requesting that the **Assembly will reconsider and drop the Bill in the light**

[Mr. Speaker]

of the observation that the enactment of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Amendment Act, 1950. (Central Act LII of 1950), and the promulgation of the Supply and Prices of Goods Ordinance, 1950. (Central Ordinance XXVI of 1950), meet the objects of the Bill and make separate enactment unnecessary.

In order that the motion be before the House for discussion I will ask the hon. Chief Minister to move it. I am of the opinion that during the discussion of this motion some time-limit be fixed for the speeches and I have decided to fix 10 minutes for every speaker.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, generally there is no time-limit when the House is discussing legislative measures and I request that no time-limit be fixed but the hon. Speaker instead, should strictly see that there is no repetition and the speeches are not unnecessarily lengthy.

Mr. Speaker : I wish the hon. Members observed the rules but I find that, in different forms and shapes, they repeat the same things over and over again.

Sardar Swaran Singh : This is repetition *ad absurdum*.

Mr. Speaker : According to rule 20, I can fix time-limit for consideration of this motion but if the hon. Members do not want me to do that they should see that they do not repeat their arguments and do not make unreasonably lengthy speeches.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, it is a directive from the President of the Union. Is it possible to make it a debatable point? Is the House competent to reject it? I want your ruling on this point.

Mr. Speaker : The House is competent to reject or approve any motion which is before it. The Bill has been sent to us for reconsideration with a directive from the President. The House can discuss it and come to a decision on it.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, I move:

That the Punjab Prevention of Black Marketing Bill, 1950, passed by the Assembly on 1st April, 1950, be dropped in the light of the observations contained in the Directive dated the 29th November, 1950, from the President of India.

Sir, according to the provision of our Constitution the Punjab Prevention of Black Marketing Bill, 1950, could only become an Act if it were assented to by the President of India. This Bill was therefore sent to the President with the request that he may very kindly give his assent. But in the meantime the Central Government passed an Act and promulgated an Ordinance on this very subject and these measures contained all the provisions which were contained in our Bill. This Government has consulted legal advisers and also its Legislative Department and they are of the opinion that in the presence of the central measures there is no necessity of passing a State Act. According to this advice our purpose is adequately served by these measures. And then even if we pass this very Bill again in some other shape or form it is not likely to obtain the assent of the President. In these circumstances, I respectfully submit that the Punjab Prevention of Black Marketing Bill, 1950 may be dropped.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved:

That the Punjab Prevention of Black Marketing Bill 1950, passed by the Assembly on 1st April 1950, be dropped in the light of the observations contained in the Directive dated the 29th November 1950, from the President of India.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (Hindi): Sir, when this Bill, *i.e.* the Punjab Prevention of Black Marketing Bill 1950, was passed by this Assembly it was seriously felt that the disease of black marketing was eating into the vitals of our State and there appeared a likelihood of its endangering the very independence of our country. It was also felt that perhaps under the provisions of the Indian Constitution it was necessary to obtain the approval of the President before we were to pass such a Bill. It would have been better if at that stage we had ascertained from the Government of India as to the form in which this Bill could be passed by us. I am not at all at one with the hon. Chief Minister when he says that this Bill will not get the approval of the President if we reconsider it and submit it in another form. I most respectfully submit that the Central measures referred to in the message of the President do not go a long way in meeting our purpose and we should impress this fact on our President. I have every hope that considering our special circumstances he may give his assent. I know that there are persons who may not agree with me and may say that black-marketing has been greatly reduced by the enforcement of

[Mr. Speaker]

the Central measures but so far as this House is concerned I feel that there will not be two opinions when I say that these are the people who are benefiting by the black-market through the high officers and even the Ministers.

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am very keen that no personal attacks should be made in the House against anyone. I find that personal attacks are made, not only against Ministers and other Members of the House, but against the officers of the Government who are not in a position to defend themselves in the House. While going through the proceedings of the day when the Address of His Excellency was being discussed, I was not present in the House at that time, I found that an hon. Member had made certain remarks against an officer, which to say the least, were most objectionable, undesirable and against all parliamentary convention. I would expect from the hon. Members that in their observations they would avoid making personal attacks on the officers. No doubt the hon. Members have freedom of speech in the House but that privilege should not be exercised against the persons or officers who are not present here to vindicate their position. I will appeal to the hon. Members to raise the level of debate and not to say things which tend to lower the prestige of the House in the estimation of others. I am sorry to make these remarks but I cannot help it because, I find that every day instead of discussing administrative matters and discussing things dispassionately hon. Members make personal attacks against Ministers and officials of the the Government. I am always prepared to give latitude to hon. Members for reasonable criticism. I appeal to the hon. Ministers and the Members sitting on the Government Benches that in giving replies to questions and debate they will observe the same rules which I expect from other hon Members of the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out that I am not referring to any Government official or Minister. When I see an evil, I have to examine its causes also.

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** I know that there are many privileges but these are circumscribed by certain duties, parliamentary etiquette and parliamentary convention. I therefore, wish that no such references be made.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I wish to assure you, Sir, that I shall not refer to anybody. It is the responsibility of all the officers of the

Government from the hon. Chief Minister to the police constable to endeavour to put an end to black marketing in this State. I find that under the two Central Acts referred to in the President's directive no case can be instituted against a black marketer without departmental sanction. In the Bill passed by this House, the definition of the term "black marketing" was very comprehensive. Black marketers are very clever persons. They always take shelter behind the loopholes in law. They can very easily evade the provisions of the Central Acts. As I stated when this Bill was passed, the definition of the term black marketing in our Bill was ideal. It would have been difficult for the offenders to escape its provisions. The definition of this term in the Central Acts is not so exhaustive. I wish that instead of being returned by the President our Bill should have served as a model for other State Governments, which wished to put an end to this evil. According to our Bill black-marketing had been a cognizable offence. If a person found a shopkeeper indulging in this malpractice, he could go to the police station and get the first information report registered there. In that case it became incumbent on the police to make an enquiry into the case and get the offender punished. The Central Acts do not give such powers. Even when a great hue and cry is raised against some black marketer, the Government sometimes does not institute proceedings against that person for its own reasons. This leads to increase in this crime. Black-marketing is sometimes done with the connivance of Government officials. Under the provisions of the Bill passed by us, the police investigation could lead to the conviction of offenders. During investigation the police usually does not care for the position or status of the offender. In that case a culprit could not escape scot-free. This is not the position in the case of the Central Acts. It would be remembered, for example, that when Shri Bhim Sen Sachar became the Premier of this State, some cases, popularly known as steel scandal cases were, instituted. A great agitation was carried on that these cases were instituted against the members of a particular party. It was said that only those who could not please the Government in power were being proceeded against. After sometime there was again a change of Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: May I know if these cases are still pending in the courts?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I am not referring to any particular case.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

Mr. Speaker: May I know if these cases are still pending?

Chief Minister: The cases are *sub judice*.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should avoid making reference to cases which are pending in courts of law.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Afterwards our Chief Minister issued a statement that some persons had not been proceeded against for certain reasons. We expected the new Government, on its coming into power, to institute cases against others also. That would have shown the extent to which their statements were true.

Chief Minister: Which cases is the hon. Member referring to?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I am referring to steel scandal cases. It was said that these had been instituted against the members of a particular party.

Chief Minister: Sir, I shall ask the hon. Member to place before the House any speech or remark that I made to this effect.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I was submitting, Sir, that if the public have the right to go and report to the police against anybody indulging in black-marketing, the conditions would change easily. In the Bill passed by this House, it was made a cognizable offence. Under its provisions, the police would have investigated into a large number of cases on the receipt of first information reports and hundreds of offenders guilty of the offence of black-marketing in steel or some other commodity would have been convicted irrespective of their financial status or connections. But I would like to point out that under the two Central Acts these powers are vested in the heads of departments. That is why black-market has not been ended so far. If the Government wants to end it, it must pass this Bill because the Central Acts are not sufficient to cope with this problem. After all, how much action has the Government taken under these Acts so far against the black-marketers and how far black-market has been reduced in the State? The fact is that the black market is even now very much rampant. It is a different thing that the people who indulge in it are influential people and they are protected by authorities at the top. So long as they are protected, black-market will continue to flourish. Nobody, however highly placed he may be, should get protection if he indulges in black-market

It is only then that it can be ended. In this Bill, the term black-market has been most admirably and exhaustively defined. It is so good that I cannot help congratulating the mover of this Bill. This definition does not leave any scope for the black-marketers to be free to indulge in their nefarious activities. According to this Bill, the refusal to sell any controlled goods is also a cognizable offence. At present, the position is that when any commodity is controlled, the dealers refuse to sell it even though they may have got hundreds of maunds of it in their shops. Such dealers keep their agents and they sell things through them in black-market. People are in great trouble on account of the black-marketing prevailing now. Under this Bill any dealer who refuses to sell any controlled commodity can be arrested by the Police Sub Inspector after the search of his shop. I, therefore, submit that this Bill should be passed if we want to end the black-market. The President of the Indian Union for whom I have every regard, has not written that this Bill is *ultra vires* of the Constitution. He has said only this much that it is uncalled for in the presence of the two Central Acts. The fact is that the Congressmen have lost contact with the people. So the public feelings have not reached the President. For instance, only the other day, a meeting of the Cabinet was held at Ludhiana and the common people were not permitted to see the Ministers. If the President had got the right information, he would have known that the masses who have no approach to the Government are groaning under the black-market. With these words, Sir, I submit that we should pass this Bill and request the President to give his assent to it because the two Central Acts are not sufficient to end this disease which is eating into the vitals of our State. If it is not ended, it will destroy our independence and the present set up, which is the creation of vested interests, will not be able to survive.

Sardar Bachan Singh : (Ludhiana, Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, on the day when this Bill was brought before the House last year, it was tried that it should not be discussed and the Government was inclined to refer it to a Select Committee or to circulate it for eliciting public opinion thereon. But we clearly brought it to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister that we attached the greatest importance to this Bill in that Session. At this, we arrived at a "gentleman's agreement" that the Government should get this Bill passed. Speeches were made on it wherein it was said that this Bill would end a number of the ills the public was suffering from. But at that time the hon. Member, connected with the trade, who has led a number of

[S. Bachan Singh]

Beopar Mandal Movements, remarked that this Bill should not be passed, not because it had any defects but because it would not be approved. This created fears in us. Now we realised that our fears were not unfounded. When this Bill was passed, the Central Government had not passed the two Acts on this subject by that time. If we were to refer to the proceedings of the House of that day, we would see that it was said that in the Punjab this Bill could not be enforced.

There are two things which are rapidly increasing in our State. Firstly, the prices are rising higher every day and secondly, the inflation of currency is on the upward trend in spite of the declaration of the Central Government to check it. Every effort so far made to check the rising tide of prices and inflation of currency has only aggravated the situation.

Another thing is that the shortage of foodgrains has gone to such an extent that the poor labourers are suffering on that account. The hon. Members can well imagine the plight of the Punjabis from the fact that the unit of the wheat ration has been reduced to four and a half Chhatanks. Those who are familiar with the diet of the Punjab, which is famous for its stalwart and strong people and is known as the sword-arm of India, can easily see the impossibility of pulling on with such a meagre quantity given as food ration. I can believe that rich people may pull on with this quantity because they can afford to supplement their diet by taking enough quantity of milk, ghee and fruits, but the labour class in the urban areas and other poor people living there cannot afford these things. The result is that such people are forced to employ other means to get wheat, maize and gram atta. It is these circumstances, which compel the man in the street to resort to dishonesty. What we find is that black-market in foodgrain is prevalent every where. There are many parts of the State where there is an extreme shortage of foodgrains. I have received a letter from Hissar in which it is stated that barley is selling at more than twenty rupees a maund in that district. In Una the price of foodgrains is above twentyfive rupees a maund. As regards sugar the less said the better. Even the Central Government has been forced to accord tacit approval to the sale of this article in black-market. The control price of sugar is about twelve or thirteen annas a seer but the

people are purchasing it in black market at rupees two or even more per seer. Nobody is checking this open black-marketing in Delhi. As regards cloth, the facts can be seen by noting the figures for 1946 and comparing them with those of this year. In 1943 the production of cloth in India was four billion eighty crore yards. In 1950 the production is 366 crore yards. As a matter of fact, the vested interests in this industry are exporting crores of yards of cloth to foreign countries. They are sending it abroad at whatever price they can get so as to exploit the scarcity then created in the home country itself. If we look to our neighbouring State, I mean the Uttar Pradesh, we shall see that there is no difference between a black-market and a white-market. The hon. Members who read the 'Tribune' must have seen two categories of prices mentioned in the column relating to the Hapur market.

An hon. Member: Sir, how is Hapur market or U.P. connected with the message of the President?

Mr Speaker: He is stressing his point that black-market should be put an end to.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Sir, the hon. Member should not get impatient. When I come to the point which I want to stress he will understand the purport of my speech. I was saying that the rates of Hapur Mandi for wheat, gur and such other things are given separately for controlled and open markets. On the one side, control price are given and on the other side prices on which such articles are selling in the open market are given. This shows how bold the traders are. They have the courage to publish black-market rates by calling them open market rates in the newspapers. It is of utmost importance that steps should be taken by the Government to root out black-market altogether from the Country. If they could not do anything else they should at least leave the black-marketer to face the onslaughts of a strong public opinion. But it is a matter of great disappointment that neither of these two things has been done by the Government. Ever since the Congress came to power four years back, it has been complaining that the people are not co-operating with it. But on the other side, it is a general complaint with the people that whenever any person comes out with a complaint against black-market and supplies some information to the Government for taking action on it, the person supplying the information himself is allowed to face the wrath of those who are in power. The person against whom the information is supplied is informed of the

[S. Bachan Singh]

person who supplies it and no action is taken against him. On the basis of my experience for the last so many years and as a member of the Advisory Committee on Civil Supplies, I can say that black market cannot be eradicated so long as the officers and others in Civil Supplies Department go on taking bribes and indulging in other forms of corruptoin. I know how they work and the way in which they tamper with the records. Sir my submission is that the officials of the Civil Supplies Department are as much to blame for the prevalence of black-market as the black marketers themselves. Unless they are honest the Government cannot put an end to black-market.

The machinery through which the Government works is itself not functioning properly. So first of all, the Government should mend its own department. It is only by doing so that any good to the man in the street can come. At present the public face many a difficulty. Wheat is not available at controlled rates, cloth, iron and sugar are not available to the ordinary people. The most difficult problem for the people is whether to inform the Civil Supplies Department or the Police in any case of black-marketing. When they go to the police they are told that the police is not empowered to move in the matter. As a matter of fact, the people should be given the right of informing the police and the police should be authorised to move in the matter directly and immediately. Consulting the higher officers and Ministers causes delay and the case cannot be executed properly, so in my opinion the police officers should be empowered to move in the matter on the report of an ordinary person and to carry out investigations promptly and if they feel that a case of black-market exists they should be authorised to challan it immediately. This is a fundamental question. If the Government really wishes to solve this problem it should tackle this fundamental question of giving the right to the people to move the police in this matter.

Now let me tell the hon. Minister the difficult position in which the people find themselves at present on account of the black market rampant in the State. Never were the people at any time in the history of the Punjab so much worried by the black marketers as they are being worried and harassed by them now. In good old days this eventuality did not arise because there never was experienced any scarcity of commodities required for maintaining life and soul together. Now in view of the scarcity of the necessities of life, it is natural that the

black market should flourish. It is common knowledge that the black marketer takes full but undue advantage of the sufferings of the Public. Now the question is whether any way should be left open to him to carry on his unsocial activities or all doors should be closed upon him so that it may become well nigh impossible for him to indulge in black-marketing. But one way is always open to him because he is ever in collusion with the officials of the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is indulging in repetition.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Well, Sir, I was going to submit that there was yet one way open to the black market to flourish unchecked and that no pains should be spared by the Government to seal off that opening and put an end to this evil. Now we have to see as to how far Government efforts to exterminate black marketing during the past few years have been crowned with success. None can gainsay the fact that since the attainment of independence all endeavours made by the Government in this direction have met with signal failure because it has adopted all those old and hackneyed methods which were employed by the previous regimes. The exigency of the situation demands that drastic measures should be adopted to deal with the black-marketers. I think exemplary punishment should be inflicted upon them so that it may prove a deterrent and should serve as a lesson to others. But as the Government has failed to root out this evil, I would like to suggest that it should give an opportunity to the public to give a battle to the black-marketer in full co-operation with the police. I am sanguine that if both the public and the police make joint effort to fight out the black-market they will certainly make its existence difficult. In this connection I may point out that after the partition of the Punjab, police had to shoot down dacoits and other armed gangs in order to restore law and order in the State because dacoits are a menace to the peaceful existence of the society and that no Government can and should tolerate such unsocial elements. But the black-marketer even outdoes the dacoit in his wickedness, because whereas the latter openly comes into conflict with law and order and can be dealt with comparatively more easily than the former who is a wolf in the garb of a lamb and thus dodges stringent action on the part of the police against him. I am of the opinion that the black-marketers who suck the blood of the public are a veritable incarnation of wickedness, moving about under the protection of certain dignitaries.

Then, Sir, what will be the repercussions of the withdrawal of this much-needed measure on the public? Whereas it will adversely affect the morale of the public and encourage the black-marketer, the Government will lower itself in the estimation of the people at large. The hands of the black-marketer will be strengthened and he will begin to fleece the public with still greater vigour. Besides, I feel that if this Bill is withdrawn without replacement by an improved and a better piece of legislation, then this will result in the public being thoroughly demoralised. I am of the opinion that the Government should have shown wisdom and courage by requesting the President again to give his assent to this Bill because without such a measure drastic action cannot be taken against the black-marketers. It is necessary to strengthen the hands of the executive to remove the curse of black-market from this State. I am sure, the whole House would whole-heartedly support the Government in this step. But it has acted on a proverb which goes-

बिल्ली के भागों छीका टूटा ।

घिँली भातों हिँवा टूटा ।

The Government wanted a pretext to withdraw this antiblack marketing measure. It has taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by the President of India in his advice to withdraw the Bill. It needs no mention that since the inception of the regime of this Government this was the solitary measure whose enactment was hailed and applauded by the people. Now the Government by dropping this Bill, is going to lose the co-operation of the public as also the very wide powers it enjoyed under it for suppressing the black-market ruthlessly. It is obvious that after the withdrawal of this Bill, black-marketing will increase enormously and the plight of the public will become all the more worse. I would, therefore, counsel the Government to think ten times before it withdraws the Bill.

Before this bill is dropped, I would like to warn the Government that it is high time that it devised ways and means to safeguard the interests of the general public. What I wish to point out is this that it is the bounden duty of the Government to save the people from the systematic loot that is being carried on by the blackmarketers in every nook and corner of the State these days. If adequate steps are not taken to uproot the evil of black-marketing in the State, I am afraid, conditions will go from bad to worse and the responsibility for this state of affairs will rest upon the Government.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Parliamentary Secretary) (Punjabi) :—

Sir, I think my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has not gone through the Directive of the President. So far as I am concerned, I have studied it carefully and minutely. If he had also taken the pains to do the same thing, I am sure, he would not have thought it fit to make such uncalled-for remarks in the course of his speech on the motion now before the House. The hon. Member has only tried to appeal to the sentiments of the hon. Members of this House without making any constructive suggestions in this matter. I would once again repeat, Sir, that if he had studied the Directive of the President, I am sure, he would not have made baseless allegations against the Government on the floor of this House. It is really a pity that my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has not been able to understand the idea underlying the dropping of this Bill. However, I would like to read out a few lines from the Directive of the President for the information of the hon. Member. It is laid down therein :—

that the Bill be returned to the State Legislative Assembly with a message requesting that the Assembly will reconsider and drop the Bill in the light of the observation that the enactment of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers Amendment Act, 1950 (Central Act LII of 1950), and the promulgation of the Supply and Prices of Goods Ordinance, 1950 (Central Ordinance XXVI of 1950), meet the objects of the Bill and make separate enactment unnecessary.

It is crystal clear from the above that in the presence of the Central Acts, the Bill which it is proposed to be dropped is quite unnecessary. It appears to me that my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has not taken any pains to study the Central Acts. If he had studied these Acts, I am sure, he would not have opposed the motion, now before the House. As is clear from the Directive the Central Acts contain all the provisions which we had proposed in this Bill. I therefore, fail to understand why my hon. Friend tries to oppose the dropping of this Bill. Further, we find an elaborate definition of the term 'Black-marketing' in the Central Acts. We also find in these Acts provisions for taking action against the offences committed by the corporations. All these provisions which we had proposed in this Bill are to be found in the Central Acts.

Further we have not made any separate provisions for awarding punishments to people for selling essential articles and foodgrains in the black-market. Under the provisions of the Central Acts a person

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selling an essential article in the black-market will be awarded 3 years' imprisonment while a person selling foodgrains at black-market rates will be awarded 7 years' imprisonment. No such provisions exist in this Bill. On the other hand the Central Acts cover all the sections of the Bill which it is proposed to be dropped. Here I would also like to add for the information of my hon. Friends in general and my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh in particular that provision for summary trials has been made in the Central Acts whereas this offence has been made only a cognisable offence in this Bill. So under the provisions of the Central Acts there is no necessity to record evidence etc., and the cases can be tried summarily.

It is really a matter of deep regret that my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has not taken any pains to study the Central Acts. I do not know how he has arrived at the conclusion that the dropping of the Bill will give fresh impetus to black-marketing in the State. I have no hesitation in saying that the arguments advanced by my hon. Friend in support of his contention are quite baseless and devoid of any force. Here I would like to bring this point to the notice of my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh who is out to oppose the dropping of this Bill that the most effective provisions in these Acts are regarding the food-grains, as according to one of these provisions a person who is proved guilty of hoarding food-grains will be awarded 7 years' rigorous imprisonment. Further, we also find provisions in these Acts for forcibly entering any premises and also for awarding severe punishments to those who refuse to comply with the summons. Under the circumstances I am of the opinion that the Bill in question is quite insufficient to meet the needs of the hour and will not therefore serve our purpose. It is really a pity that my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh who claims to be a staunch supporter of ending black-marketing in the State should oppose the dropping of the Bill by advancing baseless arguments and by appealing to the sentiments of the hon. Members of this House. As a matter of fact it seems that he is not in favour of severe punishment being awarded to those who indulge in black-marketing, under the provisions of the Central Acts.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not impute motives.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, what I wish to point out is that my hon. Friend has not cared to study the Central Acts. If he had

done so, I am sure, he would not have opposed the Motion now before the House. I would like to add for the information of the hon. Friends that this Motion has been moved by the Government on account of the fact that in view of the existence of the Central Acts, this Bill is quite unnecessary. Moreover, the enforcement of the provisions of the Central Act will surely strengthen the hands of both the Government and the public in stamping out black-marketing. Therefore, it is but meet and proper on our part to place reliance on Central Acts and drop this Bill.

In the end I would request my hon. Friends to support the Motion. If this is done, I am sure that by strictly enforcing the provisions of the Central Acts, we shall succeed in putting an end to this menace of black-marketing for all times to come in the interests of our State.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar (Non-Union Labour) (Hindi):
 Sir, I am sorry to say that it so appears to me that my hon. Friends who have just preceded me have not carefully studied the Central Act. I also regret to point out that the hon. Member sitting on the Government Benches, who has just spoken, and who possesses a copy of that Act seems to have studied that act in a most superficial manner. If all those Friends who have spoken before me had compared the Central Act with the present Bill which is before the House they would have found lot of difference between the two. The Central Act applies to certain specified articles that are mentioned in the schedule such as bicycles and their accessories, non-ferrous metals, soda, soda ash, tanning material etc., whereas our Bill covers all articles. Although the Central Government is empowered under this Act to make any additions in the schedule of articles by notification, but it is obvious that our State Government loses all initiative in the matter and will not be independent in the matter. In case this House decides to drop its own Bill, there might be many occasions when we would feel utterly helpless, and would know that we have lost the power to take any independent course and to effectively check black-marketing in the entire field of trade.

In addition to this a provision has been made in our Bill that the Government may order any person convicted of an offence under our law to exhibit a notice on a prominent place at his shop containing particulars relating to the offence and also may require such person

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar]

to print at the top of every letter such particulars relating to his conviction. This will serve as a deterrent for the people and in case of conviction under this law public opinion would turn against person guilty of an offence. Such provision does not exist in the Central Act. Some of my hon. Friends have remarked that the maximum penalty provided for commission of an offence in the Central Act is seven years' rigorous imprisonment but I have not been able to find such a provision in that Act. That punishment might have been prescribed for the offence committed with regard to food supplies. According to the provision contained in our Bill the person who commits black marketing is punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to six years whereas the Central Act provides a maximum penalty of three years' rigorous imprisonment only. But on the other hand the Central Act penalises 'boarding' also, which offence remains uncovered in our bill. Under the Central Act any dealer or a particular class of dealers may be required to produce their accounts for examination by the Government inspectors specially deputed for the purpose. There are many useful and desirable provisions in the Central Act which we could usefully adopt and incorporate in our Bill. But our Government has acted with undue haste in putting forward such a motion before the House. It would have been better if the Government had compared our Bill with the Bill which is before the Central Parliament and studied the legal implications involved in both. The Central Government had first promulgated the Supply and Prices of Goods Ordinance and now that ordinance is in the form of the Bill before the Central Parliament. That Bill has not been passed so far by the Central Assembly. So, if we drop this Bill at this stage there would naturally be a gap till such time as the Bill is passed by the Central Assembly. It would have been better if the Government had waited for sometime and brought this motion after the Bill that is before Central Parliament had been passed. It is just possible that some amendments may be made in that Bill and the penalty for such offences may be reduced from three years to one year. In case of amendments that may be made in that Bill we will have then to consider our Bill in the light of those amendments. Therefore, the right course for us would be to wait till such time as the Bill of this nature is passed by the Central Parliament so that after comparing our Bill with that we may be able to adopt the better provisions of that Act. I do not agree with my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh that there are many

drawbacks in the Bill which is before the Central Parliament and that our Bill is an ideal one for preventing black-marketing. There is need for improvement in the Bill after comparing it with the Central Act. The hon. Chief Minister has remarked that black-marketer is a potential enemy of the State but the present Bill instead of ending black-marketing effectively leaves loophole for the offenders to escape from the penalty of law. We must think seriously of ways and means to check black-marketing which is taking the society to the verge of ruination. We must adopt practical attitude with a view to eradicate this evil. If I were to discuss as to how we can eradicate this evil that discussion will perhaps be irrelevant at this stage. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government to wait till such time as the Central Act is passed and then in the light of that Act we should consider whether we should drop this Bill or to pass it with certain amendments.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*):

Sir, I have risen to support the motion that has been made by the hon. Chief Minister. Much of the criticism that has been made by our friends is due to misunderstanding. In my opinion, Central Legislation is quite sufficient to check black-marketing. The real cause why it has not been possible to eradicate this evil is not the existence of any inadequacies, weaknesses or lo p-holes in the enactments on the subject but lies in the fact that it has not been possible to enforce and implement them properly. I doubt very much if in the absence of Central Legislation, it would be feasible for individual States to check black-marketing. This argument has more point when applied to the Punjab, because several parts of it are hemmed in by pockets of Himachal Pradesh, Pepsu and Rajasthan and if such legislation is in force only in the Punjab, it would fail in its object to eliminate black-marketing. Past experience shows that eradication of evils such as smuggling has been presenting great difficulties for these very geographical reasons in the absence of similar legislation in the adjoining States. As you know, Sir, a certain place in Pepsu called Gobindgarh is even to-day regarded as the greatest centre of black-marketing in steel in the whole of India. So it is very essential that there should be uniform legislation for the whole of the country for prevention of evils such as black-marketing, in order that 'black spots' such as Gobindgarh should not be able to come into existence.

If, however, the Government is convinced that the Central Legislation has any defects or is rather lenient in any respect, it can

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address the Central Government for making necessary suggestions and my friends whose anxiety to end black-marketing is manifest should entertain no doubt whatever that the Government of India will not agree to make the desired amendments in the particular Acts to tighten up the measures against the black-marketers. So I would like to make a submission to my friends who are anxious to see the end of the evil of black-market not to be led away by sentiments and lose sight of the fact that the Central Legislation will prove more effective in this matter than any measure passed by this Assembly.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Question may now be put, Sir.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (Hindi) : Sir, I regret to have to say that even in this matter of withdrawing the Prevention of Black-marketing Bill under the directive of the President of India the *bona fides* of the Government have been questioned and effort to make personal remarks and casting reflections on me has been made during the discussion. So far as I think, there should not be even an iota of doubt in anyone's mind about the sincerity of Government's intentions to end black-marketing. If the motives of the Government were not good, it would never think of bringing such a measure before this House. The very fact that it took pains to get such a Bill prepared and then piloted it through the House and got it passed should have been sufficient to convince its worst critics. In view of the Central Legislation on the subject, the President of India has returned it for reconsideration it is surely not a matter for which this Government is to blame. And since it has become unnecessary, it is but proper that we should withdraw it. Even if the President of India were to give his assent to it, the Central Acts would have precedence over it and it would lose much of its importance.

We have no hesitation in admitting that black-marketing is being indulged in and so also it is a fact that murders and thefts are being committed. The fact that a law has been passed to check a crime is no guarantee in itself that it will put a stop to that

crime. Daily we hear of cases of persons guilty of murder being sentenced to death but don't we also read and hear about fresh cases of murder almost every day? And so is the case with other crimes such as theft. Then, is it not a fact that only those criminals are tried and punished who are detected and caught? What I mean to say is that so long as blackmarketers are not caught they will continue to defy the law. And they can be caught only if public co-operates. I am also of the view that more than the legal provisions, such anti-social evils can be stamped out by the moral pressure of society. If an evil is really regarded as an evil by society and is therefore looked down upon nobody will dare to commit it. So what we need most is the creation of a moral atmosphere in which black marketing is regarded as a social evil.

Then, Sir, it has been said that black market is flourishing because all commodities, I mean consumers' goods, are in short supply. Well, if this is so, how can any legislative measure remove this paucity? If you want that every person should be able to get all the necessaries of life at fair rates, you will have to increase their production. So long as they are in short supply, there will be a competition to get them and hence their availability will become difficult in the open market even at very high rates. If the supply is greater than the demand, there can be no black-marketing as it will then meet a natural death. And this shortage of consumers' goods justifies the continuance of controls. Controls have been introduced so that every one should be able to have his basic wants satisfied. Last time when I attended the meeting of the Planning Committee this question of controls came under heavy fire but it was decided that so long as production did not sufficiently increase controls should not be lifted. The Parliament had appointed a Committee to go into this question. In the report that it has submitted to the Parliament and which has also been published it has recommended to the Government of India not to remove the controls. Past experience shows that it would not be in the interests of the people to lift the controls. When in 1948 control on foodgrains was lifted, their prices had shot up to Rs 40/- to 50/- a maund and the policy had to be reversed. The chief cause of the rise in prices of foodgrains lies in the fact that they are in short supply. Some of our friends who criticize the Government in season and out of season create disaffection in this manner. When they are in towns they tell the people that Government's procurement scheme is faulty and that is why the prices are rising. When they go to villages, they

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advise the zamindars not to sell the produce at the rates fixed by the Government and conceal it.

Whenever there is scarcity of necessities of life controls have got to be imposed and the Central Government is of the opinion that for the present we cannot do without them and therefore they should be continued. It is not our State or our country alone which has been subjected to controls; controls these days are to be found in other countries as well. But the difference is that in other countries controls are taken by the people in the right spirit. There the people feel that controls have been imposed by the Government in the interests of the country as also of the individuals and therefore nobody takes an undue advantage of them. This is the spirit which we and our people should emulate. We should educate our citizens on these lines so that they realise that black-marketing is an anti-social act and that they have some duty towards each other. Unless and until this is done and the right-thinking persons make an effective propaganda in favour of the controls, I think no Act or law can check the continuance of black-marketing. I may also say that it is quite wrong to point out that this Government does not favour the idea of passing an Anti-Black Marketing Act. The hon. Members have themselves remarked that we passed a Bill which if enforced would have been more useful than even the Central measures. So we were prepared to do and actually did whatever was possible for us to do under the circumstances. It so happened that the Bill passed by us failed to get the assent of the President. And now even if we manage to get the assent of the President somehow our Bill will not be in a position to override the Central measures under the Constitution. Therefore, I respectfully submit that the House should very kindly pass the motion which has been moved by me.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Prevention of Black Marketing Bill, 1950, passed by the Assembly on 1st April, 1950, be dropped in the light of the observations contained in the Directive dated 29th November, 1950, from the President of India.

The motion was carried.

THE EAST PUNJAB REFUGEES REHABILITATION (BUILDINGS AND BUILDING SITES) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now resume discussion on the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Buildings and Building Sites) (Amendment) Bill.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the Bill under consideration has been brought forth with the intention of converting an Ordinance into an Act. I ask the Government as to how many houses have been sold after the promulgation of the Ordinance. The figures will themselves show whether there is any need of passing this Bill or not. I am informed, but it is possible that my information may not be very correct, that the Government has not been able to sell even a single house ever since the Ordinance was promulgated. I submit that if the Ordinance has not proved to be of any avail what useful purpose will be served by the passing of this Bill into an Act.

Sir, I wish to deal with this Bill from another point of view as well. I ask, has the Government made any inquiry as to why after all have all these houses remained unsold? What was the defect in the houses which stood in the way of their sale? Had bad material been used in the construction of these houses as that the people did not like to purchase them? And above all has the Government satisfactorily solved the refugee problem that it now wishes to sell the houses originally intended for them to the non-refugees? I want a reply to these questions to understand the implications of the Bill which is now before us. Sir, according to my information about four thousand houses were in all built in the whole of the Punjab where as about ten lakhs of the urbanites who had come from the West Punjab after the partition had to be accommodated. I am sure that these ten lakhs of displaced persons have not been properly provided in the East Punjab. In my town of Ludhiana small houses left by the Muslims have been allotted to the displaced families which on the average contain 11 members each. It is nothing short of cruelty to these families. When these families are facing such inconvenience and hardship nobody should ever think of giving these houses away to non-refugees. But to me it appears that there is something of which this Government wants to make a secret. It is this that the Punjab Government borrowed necessary funds from the Central Government for the construction of these houses and that

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Government now wants its money back which this Government cannot return as it has not been able to sell the houses to the refugees. So in order to return the loan this Government desires to sell them to the non-refugees and it is here where the shoe pinches. But I wish to tell the Government that selling these houses to non-refugees is not a wise act and no useful purpose will be served by concealing the defects of the houses. As a matter of fact, the Government should hold an enquiry and severely punish all such officers who have been responsible for these defects. I can definitely say about the Khanna township that it has been built on such a low ground that rain water which collects there in rainy season has to be taken away by means of drains. Here one also finds that cement has been mixed with soil, a mistake which can be committed only in India and no where else.

Our country is well known for doing strange things. The central Government has wasted about a crore of rupees on a factory set up for manufacturing 'prefabricated' houses. Why does our Government not give the unsold houses on rent? In reply to a question, the Government told the House today that about sixteen thousand mud huts had been constructed at a cost of forty or fifty lakhs of rupees. These have been leased out at the rate of one rupee per mensem each. If these mud houses could be given on rent, why can't the five or seven hundred unsold houses in the new colonies be also given on rent? Question arises whether the refugee problem has been solved to such an extent that the displaced persons do not require these houses. The Government knows that in some cases Municipal Committees are getting four or five rupees per mensem for places for which they formerly received only one rupee. If these five hundred or seven hundred houses are now sold out to local residents, the latter will charge rents from poor refugees at black-market rates. I wish to know if our Government is really serious about rehabilitating the displaced persons. If it is serious about it, it should give these houses which could not be sold on account of their defective sites or construction to the displaced persons on lesser rent. It is the duty of the Government to offer these houses which could not be sold for one reason or another to those refugees who are without shelter. I remember that refugees from Bahawalpur were brought to Khanna, in Ludhiana district, and settled there. If this could be done, may I know if there is no displaced person in need of a house? Why does the Government wish to sell these houses? To me it appears that the Government

is feeling the weight of sins committed by it in the construction of these defective houses according to some worthless plan. They want to get out of this situation so as to be able to say that all the houses constructed by it have been sold. Are these houses being sold to remove housing shortage in the State? If one goes to different parts in the State, he will notice that except in border towns, there is an acute shortage of houses everywhere. If the Government seriously wished to remove this shortage, they should have prepared some scheme and put it into effect. At present there is no such scheme before it. Sometimes it says that one and a half lakh refugees would be rehabilitated at its new capital near Chandigarh. Now we have been told that Assembly Chamber and other Government buildings will be constructed there first. The question before us, at present is whether the step proposed to be taken by the Government will help in the rehabilitation of refugees. This Bill proposes to give to others the houses which were built for the benefit of refugees. While purporting to deprive the refugees, it has been named the Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation Bill. The Government should have rehabilitated those displaced persons who are still without shelter in these houses. Now there is another scheme before the Government for which funds have been provided by the Central Government. This is called 'cheap housing scheme for the refugees'. New schemes are being prepared but the existing houses are not being given to the displaced persons. Our Government sometimes says that it is trying to bring back those displaced refugees who have gone to Bihar, Orissa and other States. Why did these people go to other States? They went to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Dehli and other States, because they could not get suitable accommodation here. Now look at the mode of realisation of rents. In the case of a private land-lord, if a tenant does not pay rent, he has to go to a court of law for its recovery. The Government has placed itself in a special position as a landlord. I wish to point out in this connection, that since partition the condition of displaced persons has been getting worse. It is very bad now. In Ludhiana, about thirteen thousand labourers are engaged in hosiery industry. But on account of the wrong policy of the Government, this industry is going to dogs for want of proper aid. About half of these hosiery labourers are refugees who live from hand to mouth. There is no alternative means of livelihood open to these persons. Rural people got some lands under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme but ten or eleven lakhs of urban refugees have got nothing in lieu of properties left by them. No arrangement has been made for these people. Those

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persons who were connected with Ministers or Members of the Assembly or some high-placed officials got good houses but others who were poor and had no influence in official circles had to be content with mud huts. How can these people pay the rent of these mud huts? They can do so only if they have some means of earning their livelihood.

Now the position of employment in the State is such that even the Industries Department of the Government has declared that in the Punjab unfortunately the position of some of the industries has grown worse than before. It was these very industries which provided employment to the people living in huts. But now these local industries are facing a serious crisis. How can the industrialists run their factories under the present system of quotas, under which they ask for bread and get stone. For instance, if the persons engaged in the hosiery industry ask for yarn of low count, they are supplied that of higher count. If others ask for iron sheets, they are given iron bars. And then the Government alleges that people are not co-operating with it. It says that public opinion should be created against the black market. How can any favourable public opinion be created under these circumstances? The position, at present, is that the industrialists engaged in the hosiery industry indulge in speculation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Please speak to the motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I would like to submit that the Government has inflicted the heaviest blow on the poor refugees by providing in this Bill that the rents will be realised as arrears of land revenue. On the one hand, the people are without any livelihood; they don't know how to get food for themselves and their children; they cannot give any education to their children. And on the other hand, Government tells them that if they fail to pay the rent of their houses, they would be evicted from them. They have been called refugees and the Government has agreed to give them 'refuge'. And yet it is being said that if they do not pay the rent, they would be turned out and the dues on account of rent will be realised as arrears of land revenue. Naturally, their belongings will be auctioned in that case. Now what have they got except their clothes? The Government would take them off and strip them naked. Whatever the Government does, it only makes the confusion worse confounded in the State. And when we criticise it, it is said that we talk in a

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sentimental strain and we do not study the relevant papers. I would like to point out that whatever we say, we say with full responsibility and after studying every thing. The Government members have not got the sole monopoly of studying ; we also study. We, most of all, try to transact the business of the House on right lines.

The speeches delivered on the floor of the House yesterday were, one and all, against the Government. If it had been sympathetic towards the refugees all the Government Members would not have spoken against it. In England, the Government appoints advisory committees of the Members of the legislature for every department of the Government. These committees scrutinise every legislative measure before it is brought before the House. And here the legislators do not know what Bill is being brought before them by the Government. If our Government had been a really representative and popular Government, such a strong voice of protest would not have been raised against it yesterday. This voice was raised even by the front benches as my learned Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal has pointed out ; the Opposition Members did not get the opportunity to do so. All the Government Members said with one voice that this Bill is not in the interest of refugees. It will create conditions not for the settlement but for the displacement of the refugees. Even Shri Virendra who moved the motion of thanks to the Governor remarked that the refugee question is an explosive matter which, if left unsolved, would create uncontrollable conditions in the State. If such a Bill had been moved at the time of the late Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan and the late Sir Chhotu Ram, the hon Members would have waxed eloquent against it. No doubt, speeches are made even now ; but in this State people's actions are quite different from their professions. The result is that the Government brings ever more repressive legislative measures, because it knows that it can get them passed on the strength of its votes. But, Sir, I may point out that, the Government is responsible not only to this House but also to the public at large. This Government did not come into power by wielding any sword. It shall have to answer the people outside. Let it agree to elicit public opinion on this matter ; I am prepared to pay any penalty if even 2 per cent of refugees are found in its favour. But the difficulty is that it has not the courage to face the people. It sits here and praises itself for its deeds. Even last year when the late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi introduced the Bill for the levy of Rs. 10/- as electricity and

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water charges on the refugees living in the townships, there was an uproar against it. But now more Bills are being brought which surpass previous ones in their repressive character.

What is happening is that the Government of Punjab is paying no attention towards the important problem of rehabilitation. As an old story goes, there was once a girl whose mother asked her to sit and see that the sparrows might not spoil the barley crop standing in the field. In the evening when her mother came the girl told her that while she was awake many sparrows came and went but when she fell asleep none of the sparrows would come. Similar is the condition of our Government. It is fast asleep on all matters of importance to the State and it says that no such problems exist. There is a general cry that the arrangements in the matter of rehabilitation are not satisfactory and that there is a further danger of the situation deteriorating. There is a need for stringent measures but our Government puts forward the excuse that funds are not available and that, as a matter of fact, the problem has been solved and the displaced persons have been nearly rehabilitated. I think that the Government is closing its eyes to the real facts. As far as this Bill is concerned I am constrained to remark that it is not a step towards rehabilitating the refugees but on the other hand, by taking the power of realising the rents as arrears of land revenue the Government is perhaps making arrangements for their rehabilitation in the jails of the State. This new arrangement may be acceptable to some displaced persons also because not only will it provide them accommodation in jails free of any charges but their problems of food also will be solved thereby. That is perhaps what the Government intends to do. If that is the intention, then I congratulate the Government on its wise policy. The Government is making arrangements for those poor people who have no money, no clothes, no food and no houses by taking them to the jails. So, I think, these refugees will surely bless such a benevolent Government. Such is the state of affairs. In fact, I strongly oppose this Bill because the realising of rent as land revenue will amount to empowering the Government to make arrests of these who are unable to pay immediately arrears of rent due from them. I appeal to the hon. Members not to give their assent to this measure as it is detrimental to the interests of the poor. The House will be guilty of a criminal

act towards the poor if such a Bill as this is passed. The poor refugees will never forgive them for this.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Is it not an infringement of the rights of the hon. Members to use moral intimidation to make them cast their vote on any side. He is saying that anybody who casts his vote in its favour will be doing a criminal act.

Mr Deputy Speaker : He can make an appeal to the hon. Members.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the hon. Member is not a minor that he can be thus influenced. I am a member of the Opposition and as such I am not in a position to influence the hon. Members by bestowal of favours etc. upon them.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Is it not a personal insinuation ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, it is a strange thing that even when I explain my limitations the hon. Member misunderstands me. I am simply saying that as a member of Opposition I am not in a position to influence votes by frowns or favours. Sir, I was saying that we should not pass this Bill. By raising my voice against this Bill I am exercising my right of speech. It is a fact that the refugees are not in favour of this Bill at all. Even most of the hon. Members of this House have spoken against it. Does the Government not realise the force of the arguments advanced by most of the speakers on the floor of this House? I have every right to say here that the refugees are against this Bill. As a matter of fact, as a result of this measure the poor refugees instead of getting rehabilitated will have to go to the jails because, at present they are not in a position to pay the whole of the amounts of rent which are being demanded from them. To realise the amounts as arrears of land revenue will mean putting them in a difficult position. It will increase dissatisfaction among them. Dissatisfaction will compel them to leave the houses which they are at present occupying. Making them vacate houses does not mean their rehabilitation. It is the essence of the problem of rehabilitation that the Government should treat them sympathetically. Simply saying that the refugees are our kith and kin and we are their sympathisers is not going to mend matters. What is required is action. Without suitable action on the part of the Government there

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can be no satisfaction among the refugees. The Government should try to understand the difficulties of the people and it should see what opinion the people hold with regard to the steps which it takes. It is another thing to indulge in self-praise. As a matter of fact, there are two important defects in this Bill. In the first place the houses, which were essentially constructed by the Government for the refugees with the grants and loans given by the Centre for the purpose of rehabilitation only, are going to be given to others also. In the second place, the manner in which rents are going to be realised under this Bill from the occupants of mud huts is quite unsatisfactory and unfair. It will lead to dissatisfaction. So I hope the Government will withdraw this measure because now it has before it the opinion of most of the hon. Members the consensus of which is definitely against this Bill. With these words I resume my seat.

Chief Minister: (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, before I say anything in support of this Bill, I would like to explain to the House the back ground of the scheme of houses referred to in this Bill. So long as such a background is not before the hon. Members, it is difficult to decide whether this Bill should be passed or not. When the displaced persons came from Pakistan they were accommodated by closing the schools and colleges in the State and utilizing their buildings for the purpose. When the Central Government provided us with tents the displaced persons were accommodated in them. After the evacuee houses became vacant their allotment was started and the displaced persons were gradually shifted to them. In the villages also such allotment of evacuee houses was made to the refugees settled there. This Bill is concerned with the urban areas only. The Joint Rehabilitation Board after considering the difficulties of the displaced persons living in tents decided to make other and better arrangements and so the question of constructing houses was taken up. It was decided that such houses should be constructed and such conditions should be prescribed that those who wanted to buy them may find it easy to do so. Accordingly, schemes of construction were got approved by the Rehabilitation Board. The Government of India and the Rehabilitation Board agreed to the building of new townships on new sites. Another thing that was decided at that time was that in place of tents, mud huts should be constructed. An ordinary mud house costs about three hundred rupees. If the outer wall is to be made of pucca bricks the cost of one hut increases by another hundred rupees. Thus the

cost of constructing a mud hut is about four hundred rupees. The Government of India while giving approval to the construction of mud huts also desired that proper amenities should be provided and expressed its willingness to bear the expenditure on amenities such as sanitation and provision of water supply etc. After some time, however, the Central Government declared that it would not reimburse the expenditure on these amenities. This meant that the Government of the Punjab would have to bear the burden of this expenditure. On calculation, it was found that such expenditure came to about rupees two per mud hut per mensem. The Government considered this expenditure too heavy for the poor refugees to pay. So it was decided that instead of two rupees a month, one rupee per month should be charged for them

The rent so realised just covers the interest on total investment made in the construction of a mud hut excluding the provision of amenities of life. Then, Sir, the Government felt the necessity of setting up Invalid Homes for the widows and the infirm persons as also the destitutes who were without any means of livelihood. It was decided to shift them to the Invalid Homes when they were ready and in the meantime not to realise any rent from them for occupying the mud huts. The inmates of the Invalid Homes were given free rations. It was endeavoured to provide them with work to enable them to eke out a living. For this purpose Vocational Centres were opened at certain places and they are being run efficiently. Besides this, Work Centres were started with a view to enabling the displaced persons to stand on their legs. At the time of launching the scheme of Work Centres, the refugees in the Camps were asked as to which trade they preferred to learn and adopt as their profession for the purpose of earning their livelihood. Under this scheme, residential arrangements were also to be made for those refugees who volunteered to learn some industrial craft. It was decided to send them to the work centres as soon as the centres were fully equipped. It was decided that when these displaced persons would be able to make a decent living, the work centres would be converted into Industrial Cooperative Societies, with these refugees working in the Centres as the members. But I regret to say that when these Work Centres were opened, many a displaced person who had first offered to learn a certain craft did not keep his word and failed to join the Centre. I may, however, point

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out that Government decided to give some concessions to the refugees intending to join the Centres. For instance, they were promised stipends the amount of which was to be reduced gradually as their own income arose. Then, Sir, all the refugees were told that the supply of free ration would totally be stopped except in the case of inmates of the Invalid Homes. They were asked to do some work and arrangements were made to provide them with work. They were detailed to work as labourers in connection with the Bhakra Dam Scheme. They were also given a subsidy in the form of a higher payment for an amount of work much less than the maximum that could be taken from them in lieu of the wages paid to them. The House will agree with me that this is a commendable help that has been rendered to the camp population by the Rehabilitation Department. It has been impressed upon them to work, earn and continue to live in the mud huts. As regards amenities of life, which were provided by the Government of India, they were stopped by the latter when they found that the refugees had begun to earn their livelihood. But with a view to continue the provision of these amenities, it was decided to fix the rent of the mud huts at rupee one per month. With the increase in the income of the refugees, I don't think this paltary sum of rupee one can prove a burden on them.

Then, Sir, objection has been taken to the use of stabilised soil in the construction of the mud huts. I may point out that in every country mud houses have been erected and found to last for a century. Why go far; in our own State in the tehsil of Una, mud houses are generally built and for years they give no cause for complaint. I may tell the House that the stabilised soil which has been used for the construction of these mud houses was duly tested in the laboratory. Since the intention was that the life of these mud huts should at least be from forty to fifty years, stabilised soil was found to be most suitable for this purpose. Besides, the experts from other places commended the use of this material.

Then, Sir, arrangements were made to build 4000 houses at different places and along with them 6,800 plots i.e. open sites, were offered for sale to the displaced persons, so that they could build houses of the design and specifications of their own choice and pay back the price of houses as well as the sites in easy instalments. The conditions laid down for the purchase of the houses and open

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sites for building were like this. A reserve price was fixed for the houses as well as the sites and it was announced that the purchasers were required to remit five per cent of the price in the first instance i. e. at the time of auction, and then pay the remainder in thirty equal instalments within fifteen years. It will be interesting to note that a great number of purchasers made full payment during the auction of the houses. Those houses which did not find ready sale were sold on the condition of payment of first instalment of five per cent of the price. I may also tell the House that, barring places like Khanna and Palwal, everywhere the houses and sites sold like hot cakes. Now may I ask, if these houses were not as good as the hon. Members think, why did they find ready sale? As regards houses at Khanna, I have no mind to go into the reasons on account of which they have not been purchased by the refugees. It is incorrect to say that people did not buy them because they were not built of good material. It is also improper to say that houses at Khanna could not be sold because they were carelessly constructed by the engineers.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is the hon. Chief Minister aware of the reasons why the refugees purchased these houses? I may tell him that they bought them not because they liked them very much but because they had no shelter for themselves. They were rather compelled under the duress of circumstances to go in for these houses. Is the hon. Chief Minister in a position to adduce any figures to show the number of refugees who purchased the houses out of pleasure and liking?

Chief Minister: This question is irrelevant. If the hon. Lady Members wants figures, I will certainly supply her the required data. But she knows the real position as she is also in the habit of collecting the figures. The Lady Member will agree with me when I say that when a person is asked to make a choice, then it is for him to see whether or not he should enter into the bargain. Similarly, if our displaced brethren who have purchased these houses at their own choice feel that they have made a wrong selection and that they should not have entered into the bargain, then the best thing for them would be to dispose them of. Our displaced brethren have bought houses of their own free will. They have bought these houses according to their own choice and have not been forced by the Government

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to do so. It goes without saying that people do not buy houses without fully examining the conditions of sale. I am sure the people who purchase houses do so with open eyes.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Even though they may have to buy at black-market rates.

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend who has made these remarks is in the habit of saying such things. I cannot do without saying that whenever he speaks his own conscience holds a mirror in front of his eyes.

Mention has been made about the houses in the New Townships in the Jullundur District. Here, I would like to make this point clear that adequate arrangements for providing water supply have been made for the people living in these townships. My hon. Friends know it full well that we have provided more amenities to our brethren living in the new townships than those living in the main towns. For instance, arrangements of water-supply which do not exist in Jullundur city have been made for our displaced brethren in the new townships built near it. We have repeatedly been asking our displaced brethren to buy these houses but all our efforts in this direction have proved futile. We placed the whole position before the Government of India and requested them to permit us to throw the sale of these houses open to non-refugees. But we were not permitted to do so and were further instructed to continue offering these houses for sale to our displaced brethren for whom these were actually meant. I am really constrained to remark that our displaced brethren have been made to believe that if they did not buy these houses they would be able to get these at lower prices. Here I would like to add for the information of the hon. Members that rupees two crores which we got as loan from the Central Government were spent on the construction of these houses in the new townships. The condition precedent to the receipt of this loan was that in the event of any loss in this investment both the Punjab Government and the Central Government would share the loss equally. We constructed these houses for our displaced brethren to buy them. If they do not come forward to buy these, who is to blame for it? We do not want that these houses should continue to remain unoccupied. There is every likelihood of these houses being damaged if these are not occupied. After all, we did not construct these houses only to get them damaged. A landlord would never want his newly-constructed house to remain un-

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occupied for long. In fact he will make an all-out effort to let it out and the sooner it is occupied the better it would be in his interests. Similarly, if we have constructed these houses, we do not want that these should remain unoccupied for long. I do not think there should be any objection to our throwing open the sale of these houses, which our displaced brethren do not want to purchase, to non-refugees so that Government may not suffer any loss on account of these remaining unsold for a long time. By disposing of these houses Government will get back the amount which it has invested in this scheme, and also the development charges etc. It is just possible that the amount thus realized may be utilized for constructing cheap houses or for providing more amenities for those living in the townships and mud huts. I do not think that my hon. Friends who are unnecessarily opposing the Bill now before the House should have any objection if I assure them that the amount thus realized is to be utilized by the Government for paying off the debt and thus be relieved of the interest which otherwise would go on multiplying. I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friends who have opposed the present legislative measure that if it is their intention to stop people from purchasing these houses by making them believe that if they did not buy these houses they would be able to get these at lower prices, then they are doing a great disservice to the people as it is the people themselves who will suffer the loss and none else.

Further, my hon. Friend made a mention of the Sikandar Ministry. It is really a matter of deep regret that even after the attainment of Independence some of the hon. Members continue to maintain their old attitude of the late Sir Sikandar's days even towards our present Government. Perhaps they lose sight of the fact that now that we have achieved Independence, anything and everything that is done by the Government is done for the good of the people. It will not be out of place to mention here that during Sir Sikandar's days when we had not achieved Independence the Government was not doing anything for the good of the people or in other words the Government then was not the real representative of the people. At that time everything was done for the benefit of the Britishers. If after the attainment of Independence there is no appreciable change in the attitude of some of my hon. Friends towards the Government which is the real representative of the people, then who is to blame

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for that? The remedy for this does not lie with us. It is an open secret that if these unsold houses are not disposed of, it will result in a heavy loss to the revenues of our State. Government is already hard-pressed for money. It is abundantly clear that in the event of any loss to the ordinary revenues of the Government adequate sums would not be available for the beneficent works.

Further, it has been said that it is the intention of the Government to sell these houses at higher prices to non-refugees instead of making these available to the refugees at cheap rates. After all, what harm is there in it? Even if these houses are sold at higher rates than those fixed at present and the amount thus realized is utilized for the good of the State, it is the people who will be benefited.

It has been stated that the passage of the proposed legislative measure will result in the shortage of houses in the State. This argument advanced by some of my hon. Friends is not sound. I may assure the House that there will be no shortage of houses. We have constructed the houses in the new townships and have thus made these available for sale to the people. We have also repeatedly been requesting our displaced brethren to purchase the sites for constructing houses according to their own choice. Loans have also been offered to them for purchasing the building material etc. In fact, Government is prepared to afford all possible facilities to our displaced brethren if they want to build their own houses. I may assure my hon. Friends that by throwing open the sale of the houses to non-refugees there will be no shortage of any housing accommodation in the State. If the non-refugees buy these houses in townships they will naturally come to occupy these and the result would be that their houses would be available for our refugee brethren. It will be seen that our accommodation problem would thus be solved to a great extent as more and more houses would be available for occupation. It goes without saying that if they themselves construct the houses, even then our purpose regarding accommodation would be served. It is evident that the more the buildings the lesser the congestion.

Last year in the month of December in one of the meetings held at Delhi in connection with the rehabilitation matters, it was decided to devise schemes for constructing houses to accommodate those displaced persons who are at present living in camps and

Dharamshallas. Government has already prepared a scheme known as the Cheap Housing Scheme according to which it is proposed to construct about 1400 houses. Besides, it was also decided that the provisions of the Urban Rent Restriction Act would not apply to those persons, for a period of 5 years, who would construct their houses in the urban areas. It was also decided that such newly-constructed houses in the urban areas would not be requisitioned by the Government for the same period. Under the circumstances, it is not right to say that people do not construct new houses simply because they feel that under the provisions of the Urban Rent Restriction Act fair rent of their houses would not be fixed and that their houses would be requisitioned. As I have already stated arrangements have been made to relax these restrictions in the case of newly-built houses.

It has also been stated that the refugees would refuse to make the payment of rent when demanded by the Government. It has also been stated that the realization of rent as arrears of land-revenue is not justified and that the refusal to make these payments would result in their arrests. In fact, some of my hon. Friends have gone to the extent of saying that all such steps of the Government would be detrimental to the interests of the refugees. Does this mean that our displaced brethren should be provided all amenities free of any charges? Here I cannot do without saying that our refugee brethren will not tolerate the very idea of receiving anything free of charge or in charity. I think my hon. Friends are not justified in saying that houses should be made available to the displaced persons free of any charges or in charity. If we give houses to the displaced persons gratis, other people, I mean the non-refugees, most of whom are as poor as the former can also demand the same concession from the Government. What I wish to point out is this that it is well-nigh impossible for the Government to make houses available to people free of any charge. Moreover, it has been seen that things received in charity or free of any charge are not valued so much as things which are paid for. A tenant always keeps the portion he is occupying in a neat and well-kept condition. In fact, he will look after his portion in such a way as if it belonged to him. On the contrary a person occupying a house for which he has not to spend even a penny will not take any pains to keep it in order. He will ask the Government to make all the repairs and will not do anything himself. Under the circumstances, those hon. Friends who demand

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houses for our displaced brethren, gratis are really doing a great disservice to them.

Many displaced persons have been resettled in the rural areas. There was a time when they could not cultivate lands for want of bullocks etc., and had no money to buy foodgrains for themselves. The Government at that time came to their rescue by advancing *taccavi* loans to them. It goes to the credit of these people that they wanted to work hard to earn their livelihood instead of depending upon the charity of the Government. After having been shifted from the camps they have been provided mud-huts and they have to pay only Re. 1/- per month as rent. If they were to build these houses by getting land on lease they would have paid at least this much as rent of the land. Apart from charging such a nominal rent, the Government has provided all amenities there. The sum of Re 1/- could as well be treated as being a charge for providing amenities. There is no reason why this nominal rent should not be charged from them. It is also natural that we have made necessary provision for the realisation of rent. It is not an easy task to enter into litigation with these people and realise the amount of rent after obtaining decrees from the civil courts. In order to facilitate the recovery of rent it is necessary to provide for its realisation as arrears of land revenue. The people would not refuse the payment of rent in this way. This is the only way that we can make them good members of society. We want to impress upon them the dignity of labour instead of allowing them to depend upon the charity of the Government. It can be said that the rent may be reduced if it is excessive but the rent which is being charged is already nominal. Besides building mud-huts, the Government has provided all possible amenities. These mud-huts were built in order to make accommodation available for refugees and not with any motive of deriving profit out of them. These people who occupied these mud-huts did so on the clear understanding that they will have to pay rent for them. Those people who occupy houses on rent know full well that they will have to pay rent for the same. There seems to be no reason why this rent should not be charged from them. If any person with all his senses intact enters into any contract its conditions are naturally binding upon him. The question of making any concession, therefore, does not arise. The common human desire to get things free cannot always be fulfilled. The Government cannot set such an example. After

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partition when the displaced persons came to this side they occupied big houses belonging to evacuees in the hope that they will not have to pay any rent. But when the time for realisation of rent came they left those houses and shifted to smaller ones. It is obvious that if rent is not paid it will result in a loss to the Government. I cannot say when the final adjustment of rent of evacuee property will be made. But so long as the present agreement between the two Governments is in force the Custodian must realise the fair rent of the evacuee property. This rent will go on accumulating and necessary adjustment will be made in due course. This fair rent has to be paid to the displaced persons who are owners of houses left in West Punjab. Whatever amount of rent is collected will be paid to Pakistan Government for payment to the evacuees. Supposing, if no adjustment is made and no money is received from the Pakistan Government then the total amount of rent that has been collected for each evacuee house will be paid to the person to whom that house is allotted. If we do not recover the rent of these houses it will result in a loss to the displaced persons to whom these houses will have to be allotted in future. Moreover, it is with a view to get adequate return of the amount spent on these mud-huts that we are charging a nominal rent of Re. 1/- per month. In this way, there will be no loss to the Government exchequer. Besides this, the Government of India has built one colony at Faridabad and a workers' colony at Nilokheri. The fine experiment made at Nilokheri has attracted notice of all visitors to India. There the workers have paid for houses built for them. In Faridabad, displaced persons coming from Frontier side and Dera Ghazi Khan have been rehabilitated. They are required to pay the prices of these houses by instalments in these colonies. Those people who say that they will not be able to pay the prices are not allowed to occupy these houses. If Government gave free houses to some people others may as well demand that Government must build houses for them. I do not know why it is said that it is not for the benefit of refugees. If these houses are sold to non refugees they will not get the same facilities as refugees are getting. We want to help displaced persons as much as we can. We have tried our utmost to help them and have considered it as our top-most duty. People should realise why we are throwing open these houses to non-refugees and should not be misled by mere sentiments.

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Then, Sir, it has been alleged that these houses have been constructed in a very defective manner and so the engineers responsible for their construction should be taken to task. Objection has been raised to the use of stabilised soil because in the opinion of some hon. Members it has not proved better than ordinary 'Kacha' soil and the little amount of cement used in the formula has been wasted. My submission is that these are unwarranted presumptions and it is wrong to say that the Government is anxious to dispose of these houses in some way or the other with a view to cover the mistakes of their engineers. Government could have been suspected of shielding the errant Officers if it had come forward with a proposal to reduce the prices of the houses. Only then could it be alleged that it was anxious to wash its hands off the sorry business. But when we think that the price fetched by them will surely meet the entire cost involved if their sale is thrown open to the general public, how does the question of white washing the affair arise? I wonder how the hon. Members have anticipated that even if the sale is thrown open to non-refugees, no house will fetch a price equal to its cost. And then if any defects are discovered we shall have them set right and take action against the officials concerned if they are proved to be at fault in the matter.

So far as the objection to the use of stabilized soil is concerned, I want to assure the House that it was after a good deal of experimentation in the laboratory at Karnal and after having ascertained that it compared favourably with cement in strength that it was decided to use it in the construction of houses. In fact, Sir, experiments had shown that stabilized soil walls would be as durable as those made of pucca brick. Stabilized soil has been used along with concrete and lime in the construction of lining of canals and it has quite served the purpose of cement. As regards its use in the construction of roads, it is already of unquestionable value. Then, Sir, who can say that experimentation is bad and should not be practised in any case? If the Government conducts experiments to find out cheaper methods of constructing buildings and roads, surely it displays a progressive and not a retrogressive spirit. And then, Sir, if we cannot afford to have houses made of pucca bricks and cement, why should we be ashamed of utilizing soil for this purpose? It was about twenty years back that Miraben had built a 'Kutiya' for herself near Oel Ashram at

a cost of Rs. 17 only by erecting mud walls and using a thatched roof. The 'Kutiya' is still intact to teach us a lesson how to solve the problem of housing shortage. When the soil of this country is so good, why should we not use it for building purposes? People in villages are already living in *Kacha* houses but they are not experiencing any difficulty. Their houses look more neat both from their exterior as well as interior, because every year they are given a fresh coating of mud all over. A house doesn't look beautiful merely because it is plastered with cement. And then the life of mud houses is not less in any case than the 'pukka' houses. Then it has been stated that since the refugees consider the Government built houses defective, it has therefore been decided to sell them to non-refugees to cover up the misdoings of the staff responsible for building them. I fail to understand this kind of logic. If the houses are really defective, how are the non-refugees going to purchase them? Will they shut their eyes while going in for them? Let the House pass this measure. We shall then see if any of the houses remain unsold and then inquiry will be made into the matter. Why fore-judge the issue?

Then it has been asked as to how many houses the Government has been able to sell since the promulgation of the Ordinance. Do my friends think that the sale should have commenced as soon as the Ordinance was signed by His Excellency without any publicity or advertisement? When it was decided to sell the houses to the displaced persons, were not the conditions, terms and the time of sale notified to the public for some time? And when it was found that sufficient publicity had not taken place, were not the terms re-advertised? If this is so, how do our friends think that in this case the houses should have been sold without taking any such action? Naturally, it will be some time before the terms, the date and place of sale can be fixed and advertised. Meanwhile, the Government will have time to improve the value of these houses by electrifying those which are not electrified, by making arrangements of water supply where they do not already exist and by developing the localities by building roads etc., as the Improvement Trusts do with a view to attracting customers. So, Sir, my submission is that the hon. Members of this House should not be in a hurry to foresee the results

[Chief Minister]

of this Bill. They should give us a chance and if we fail then they will have any justification for criticising the Government. With these words, I commend this Bill for acceptance by the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Buildings and Building Sites) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 2 to 7.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 1.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Preamble.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the preamble be the preamble of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) : I move—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Buildings and Building Sites) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Buildings and Building Sites) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, now that it has become clear that the Government is bent upon the passage of this Bill and it will certainly be put on the Statute Book, I would like to make a few submissions in regard to its enforcement. Firstly, the Government should at least give preference to the refugees in the matter of sale of these houses even if the price offered by them is somewhat lower than that offered by a local customer. As far as possible, the Government should see that priority is given to the question of resettlement of refugees and so it should not mind incurring a little loss while selling these houses.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : The question of reducing the prices does not arise because the houses will be sold at fixed prices.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I know the whole situation. I know that the houses have a fixed price. What I was referring to was the initial percentage of the price which was paid by the purchasers. I think I should illustrate myself. I say that if a house is priced at Rs. 10,000 a refugee may offer to pay 5 per cent of this price in the first instance whereas a non-refugee who has lot of money may offer to pay 25 per cent of the price as first instalment. This was what I meant by difference in the prices payable by the refugees and the non-refugees. So I wished to say that if a refugee offered to pay less money in comparison with the money offered by the non-refugees, refugees should be given preference. In the past, if I remember aright, houses have been sold to the refugees even though they had offered to pay only 5 per cent of the price at the time of the purchase and I think that if a departure is now made from that practice it may give rise to a heart-burning among the refugees who may intend to buy these houses:

Chief Minister. Sir, I accept this suggestion of the hon. Member and in order to give effect to this suggestion I think it would be better to appoint a Committee of non-officials for the purpose of recommending such displaced persons to whom the houses may be sold.

Sardar Bachan Singh. Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Chief Minister for the assurance he has very kindly given about selling these houses to the refugees. Now I advert to another very

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

important matter. It is in regard to recovery of rent as arrears of land revenue. I have to offer a suggestion in this connection as well. My submission is that before any drastic step is taken against a person from whom rent is to be recovered, it should be ascertained whether or not he is in a position to pay the rent. If that man is in a position to pay and is wilfully avoiding payment nobody should have any sympathy for him. But if he is unable to pay the rent owing to some circumstances which are beyond his control, for example if he is out of job or if he is unable to attend to his work owing to disease or if he has some other sufficient reason for non-payment, he should not be treated so harshly as has been provided for in the Bill. It is my experience and perhaps it is the experience of us all that particularly the lower officers carry out the Government orders very ruthlessly. I have fears that the provisions of this Bill also, unless and until some scope is left for treating the deserving cases rather leniently, may be very strictly enforced. It is for these reasons that I feel that somehow or other arrangement should be made to relax the severity or the rigour of the letter of the law that we are going to enact lest we should be perpetrating cruelty and injustice on those displaced brethren of ours who have every intention to pay the rent but are precluded from doing so not by any bad motive but for reasons which they cannot help. We should not always have the realization of the rents uppermost in our minds. We should have sympathy for those honest refugees who are with us in the form of unattached women or old and incapacitated persons. Here I don't mean to suggest that absolutely no rent should be charged from them. The Government may charge rent from them by all means but there is no harm if the recovery is made by easy instalments or it is postponed for some time. And I submit that such a thing can be managed by making the necessary rules or issuing some executive instructions or orders. I do not for a moment plead the cause of those refugees who deliberately avoid payments out of mischief. They should be treated as harshly as is possible under the law that we are going to pass. I also do not mind if we people who are non-refugees are not shown any soft corner by the Government. I believe in strong Governments and I think that a Government is not worth its name which cannot get its laws or orders obeyed and observed. But the honest refugees deserve some special treatment and that we should liberally give them. The cases of refugees are abnormal cases and it does not appear very

REFUGEES REHABILITATION (BUILDINGS AND BUILDING SITES) (AMENDMENT) Bill (6) 79

wise to treat them in the normal course. So I feel that as the hon. Chief Minister was kind enough to accept my previous proposal he will be good enough to agree to this suggestion as well and take all necessary steps to relax the rigour of the provision of this Bill which relates to the recovery of rent as arrears of land revenue so far as honest and poor refugees are concerned.

Chief Minister : With respect to the suggestion made by my hon. Friend, I wish to assure him that his point of view will be accommodated so far as it is consistent with the Government Rules regarding financial matters.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Buildings and Building Sites) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE EAST PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL PESTS, DISEASES AND NOXIOUS WEEDS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister For Education (The hon Sardar Narotam Singh) : I introduce the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds (Amendment) Bill.

Minister For Education : I move—

That the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Mr Speaker, I am glad to say that so far as agriculture is concerned our State leads all other States. The legislation enacted in this State with regard to agriculture has served as a model to other States. This is one of those subjects in which the Punjab has been a pioneer. When I move among the public I take pride in telling

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

them that our State occupies the foremost place in the matter of laws governing agricultural matters. I am, however, sorry to point out that we have already passed an Act regarding pests and noxious weeds but it has not been properly acted upon. Sometime back I had the opportunity of going to Hissar. There, a gentleman asked me as to what the policy of my party with regard to monkeys was. I told him that our policy was with regard to men and not with regard to monkeys. Human life is more precious than the life of animals and if monkeys destroyed food which was required to keep men alive, they had to be destroyed. Later on, I read in the news-papers that some 'banias' of Hissar and Rohtak met the hon. Ministers and also His Excellency the Governor. I was pleased to know from the news-papers about the reply which His Excellency gave them. He told them if that they were prepared to pay the necessary amount of money he would consider the question of importing food from outside instead of getting monkeys killed. A few days later, I was surprised to learn that the shooting squads which the Government had recruited for killing monkeys were disbanded. Only a few days back the hon. Shri K. M. Munshi, Food Minister of our Central Government, stated that either we could save the lives of human beings or those of monkeys. The latter destroyed the food which was badly needed for human beings and they had to be destroyed to save the lives of people. Our Government suddenly stopped the killing of monkeys. A very responsible officer told me that there were about ten lakhs of monkeys in our State who were damaging foodgrains. When I asked him if this figure was not exaggerated, he said that the number of monkeys might be more than ten lakhs, it was not less than that. I was glad to know from an official report that from four to six thousand monkeys had been destroyed in this State. For saving people from starvation it is necessary that monkeys, wild bears, wild deer and such other wild animals who destroyed food crops should be killed. Wild cows which destroyed these crops should be sent to Goshalas, where these should be chained. At the same time we should take proper steps for the removal of noxious weeds and pests. We have already passed a Bill on this subject but the Government has not made full use of its provisions. A few days back when I went to Ferozepore district, I noticed that there was a heavy growth of 'pohli' in Tehsil Jalalabad.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS, DISEASES AND NOXIOUS WEEDS (6) 81
(AMENDMENT) Bill

Chief Minister : I shall give full facts and figures and the hon. Member shall have an opportunity of discussing all these things during general discussion on the Budget. At present, we are faced with the problem of destruction of locust. Hoppers are coming out of the eggs laid by the locusts and the Government requires powers under this Bill to deal with this problem effectively. I shall therefore request the hon. member to defer his speech till the general discussion on the Budget, so that this Bill may be passed today.

Sardar Bachan Singh : As the Government is anxious to get powers under this Bill for fighting the locust menace I shall wind up my speech. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that even when we had an Act on this subject on the Statute Book, we did not make proper use of it. Several complaints in this connection are being received from the Public. I shall request the Government to give full effect to the provisions of the present Bill so that it might lead to real good of the people.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 2 to 6

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister For Education : I move—

That the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB DEVELOPMENT OF DAMAGED AREAS BILL

Minister For Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) : I introduce the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill.

Minister For Public Works : I move—

That the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Dr. Sant Ram Seth
Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur
Sardar Ujjal Singh
Chaudhri Lahri Singh
Sardar Swaran Singh
Shri Dev Raj Sethi.

2. That the Select Committee be instructed to report within a week.
3. That the quorum of the Select Committee shall be 5.

The motion was carried

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Monday, the 12th March, 1951.

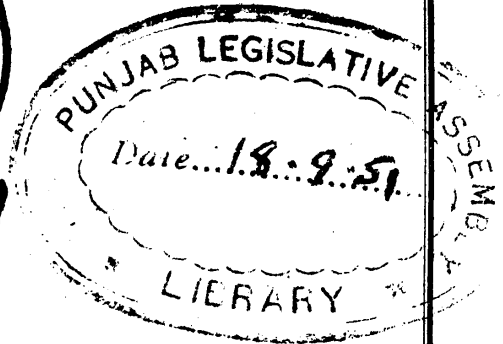
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

12th MARCH 1951

Vol. III—No. 7.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, the 12th March, 1951.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker (The Hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

QUESTION No. 2699.

Mr. Speaker : Question No. 2699 appearing on Page 4 in the list of starred questions for 2nd March was not called by mistake. Does Shri Prabodh Chandra like to ask it to-day ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Yes, Sir.

REMOVAL OF SHRI K. B. DUTTA FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, AMBALA.

*2699. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the reasons why Shri K. B. Dutta has been removed from the membership of Ambala Municipal Committee ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : Shri K. B. Dutta was removed in the public interest because he adopted dilatory tactics to preclude

[Minister for Public Works]

the lawfully-appointed President of the Committee from discharging his functions.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the grounds on which such an action was taken against Shri K. B. Dutta ?

Minister : He broke open the locks, he prevented access to office records, did not call the meeting of the municipal committee and did so many other things which he ought not to have done.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether any warning was given to Mr. K. B. Dutta before action was taken ? Was any notice given to him to explain his position ?

Minister : The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner tried to bring him round to the right path but failed in their efforts to do so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Was any warning given by the Government itself ?

Minister : A Government always functions through its officers.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Was any notice given to Mr. K. B. Dutta through any of such officers?

Minister : This has already been replied to.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the position of Shri K. B. Dutta when he broke open the locks and refused to hand over the papers? Was he not acting as President of the Municipal Committee and also Executive Officer at that time; if so, where lies the question of his breaking open the lock of his own office and whom should he have given the papers when he himself was acting as the President and Executive Officer at that time?

Minister : Details can be given on fresh notice only.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister as to whose lock Mr. K. B. Dutta broke open ?

Minister : He broke the lock of the office of the Executive officer and he refused to hand over the papers to him.

Shri Ram Sharma : Did the Executive Officer inform the police about this matter ? And who was Executive Officer at that time?

Minister : It was not the lock of the house of the Executive Officer which was broken but of the office of the Municipal Committee.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know on what charge Mr. K. B. Dutta was removed from the membership of the Municipal Committee ?

Minister : I have already stated it above.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Why is it that no case was registered with the police against Mr. K. B. Dutta ?

Chief Minister : It was not considered proper to do so.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether any civil suit has been instituted against Mr. K. B. Dutta ?

Mr. Speaker : That does not arise out of this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that Shri K. B. Dutta brought certain things to the notice of the Government which the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of that place were doing unlawfully ?

Minister : I require notice for that.

**RESTORATION OF THE GRANTS-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS IN THE
STATE.**

*2910. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the schools in the State whose grants-in-aid were stopped by the Government on political grounds in the pre-partitioned Punjab;
- (b) the names of such of those schools whose grants-in-aid have been restored since August 15, 1947;
- (c) whether N. D. Victor High School, Jullundur Cantonment is included in the list referred to in part (b) above ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) Information is not available for want of records, relating to pre-partition period, nor has any representation in this respect been received from any school.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Does not arise.

**FACILITIES TO SCHEDULED CASTE POST-GRADUATE
STUDENTS IN THE STATE.**

***2944 Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any facility or privilege with regard to fee and scholarships has been afforded to the scheduled caste post-graduate students in the State; if so, the total amount of scholarships so granted?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

Yes The scheduled caste post-graduate Arts students are eligible for concession under the Harijan Welfare Scheme. Two M. A. Scheduled Caste students have been awarded stipends at the rate of Rs.25/- plus exemption from tuition fees under the scheme.

Postgraduate Science students are, however, given financial help by the Government of India.

SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS IN KHALSA COLLEGE, QADIAN.

***2946. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of scheduled caste students studying in the Khalsa College, Qadian, District Gurdaspur ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

The number of scheduled caste students studying in Sikh National College, Qadian is eight.

AGE OF RETIREMENT OF ALL CLASSES OF MINISTERIAL SERVANTS.

***2322. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government has fixed the age of retirement of all classes of ministerial servants at 55 ;
- (b) the date when this decision was arrived at ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that at the time of the partition, the services were guaranteed their then existing terms and conditions of service?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Orders in this behalf were issued on the 11th July, 1949.
- (c) Yes, as far as changed circumstances permitted. But the ordinary age for retirement even before the issue of the orders of the 11th of July, 1949, was fixed at 55 with the provision for a ministerial Government servant to be retained in service upto the age of 60, if he continued to be efficient.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether any conditions or terms were guaranteed to the officials at the time of partition ?

Chief Minister : The Gazetted Officers were guaranteed certain conditions and terms and they have been retained on those terms, while in the case of non-Gazetted staff no conditions were settled.

SUPPLY OF DRAIN WATER TO THE CULTIVATORS OF VILLAGE GHIR DISTRICT KARNAL.

***2379. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether a Congress social worker of village Ghir had drawn the attention of the Government that supplying of drain water to the cultivators has given occasion for exacting bribery from the cultivators by the Government servants concerned ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. One Shri Din Dayal of village Ghir made allegations of bribery and the complaint is under investigation.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the investigation is carried out by the Irrigation Deptt. or by the Police Department ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say that off-hand. I can let the hon. Member know about it after enquiry.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know when the complaint was lodged and how long the investigation will take ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for that.

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE CRIMINAL COURTS OF MAGISTRATES AT ROHTAK.

*2437. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Bar Association, Rohtak in their memorandum to the hon. Chief Justice on his recent visit to Rohtak complained that the criminal courts of the Magistrates were being dominated by the Police and the people had lost faith in the justice administered there ; if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

First Part : Yes.

Second Part : The complaint was enquired into by the Commissioner, Ambala Division, who has found the allegations to be "only general and not material". The Bar Association could not cite concrete instances before him. The Commissioner has, however, given "wholesome advice" to the Magistrates of the District.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know in what manner did the Commissioner conduct the enquiry ? Did he interview any of the representatives of the Bar Association of Rohtak ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say anything in this connection.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the Commissioner, during his talk with the President and two other representatives of the Bar Association, told them that the Magistrates were not like the Judges as besides administering justice, they had to keep in view the administrative exigencies also? May I know if this fact has come to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister?

Chief Minister : This is not to my knowledge as I am neither a member of that Bar Association nor has that body written to me anything on the point.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Commissioner has submitted a detailed report of the incidents which came to his knowledge during the enquiry? How did he conduct the enquiry and arrived at the conclusions that the allegations were of a general nature?

Chief Minister : The officer conducting enquiry never writes the manner in which he carried out his investigations. He generally writes his impressions and conclusions to the Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that the complaint of the Bar Association, Rohtak, was to this effect that the courts presided over by the Magistrates were being dominated by the police and that they did what the Prosecuting Inspector wanted them to do in the matter of administering justice and also that the lawyers in their court were not offered any seats, while ordinary constables could get themselves cosily seated?

Chief Minister : The report submitted by the Commissioner merely indicates that the charges were only general and not material and that the Bar Association could not cite any concrete instances before him.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Commissioner found the allegations, stated to be of general nature by him, to be correct or otherwise? If so, what steps he took to set things right?

Chief Minister : He warned the Magistrates.

**GRANT OF REVOLVER LICENCE TO CHANDRA MOHAN OF
VILLAGE JHAROT, DISTRICT ROHTAK.**

***2438. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is satisfied that the district authorities in the State and particularly those of Rohtak are following the policy laid down by the Government in issuing the fire-arms licences?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Government have no reason to believe that the policies and orders of Government about the issue of arms licences are not being followed in the districts. The hon. Member had brought a complaint about Rohtak district and the result of enquiries made by Government has since been communicated to him.

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell me whether it is the policy of the Government to issue licences to such people as have criminal propensities as is clear from the fact that two heinous murders were committed with the same weapons which were issued under licence by the district authorities?

Chief Minister : It is not the policy of the Government to issue licences for arms to bad characters or murderers.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that when a person whose father had been murdered in cold blood applied for the license of arms for self-protection, his application was rejected by the Deputy Commissioner while licences were issued to such persons who are absconders in certain criminal cases? Is he aware that I brought this case to his notice?

Chief Minister : I may tell the hon. Member that action was taken in that case.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it the result of that action that suspects are granted licences for arms while other applicants in whose houses untoward incidents occurred as a result of the activities of bad characters, were refused the grant of the same?

Chief Minister : The list of names sent to him for grant of licences were sent to the Deputy Commissioner for scrutiny and those recommended by him were granted the licences.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it in the knowledge of the hon. Chief Minister that in Rohtak licences for arms have been issued to those persons who afterwards committed murders?

Chief Minister : How can I say anything unless the hon. Member reveals the names ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it the policy of the Government not to dispossess those persons of arms who were under detention ?

Chief Minister : It is possible that the detention may be for reasons other than criminal activities.

SUSPENSION OF I. C. S. OFFICERS IN THE STATE.

*2636 **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of I. C. S. officers in the State who have been suspended since 15th August, 1947, or against whom enquiries are pending ;
- (b) the number of P. C. S. officers in the State who have been suspended since the 15th August, 1947, or against whom enquiries are pending ?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Two. The enquiry in one case is still in progress.
- (b) Eight. There is no inquiry pending against any of them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether any action has been taken against any P. C. S. Officer who was found guilty on enquiry or whether all of them against whom enquiries were pending have been proved to be innocent ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I will collect the necessary information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it within the knowledge of the hon. Chief Minister that Government had to pay lakhs of rupees to the officers of the P. C. S. after their re-instatement ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for supplying that information.

Metha Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to tell us the nature of charges framed against those officers of the P. C. S. who were placed under suspension ?

Chief Minister : This does not arise out of the main question.

Sri Ram Sharma : May I know what action has been taken against an I. C. S. officer against whom departmental enquiry was held ?

Mr. Speaker: That is *subjudice*.

Shri Ram Sharma : I am enquiring about that I. C. S. officer who has already been punished ?

Chief Minister : Why is the hon. Member putting this question when he is already in the know of it ?

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us at what stage are the cases of the two I. C. S. officers against whom enquiry has been instituted ? If the enquiry has reached the final stage, then what punishment has been awarded to them ?

Chief Minister : It is dangerous to say anything off-hand about this matter.

Shri Ram Sharma : Will he kindly just give an approximate information on the point ?

Chief Minister : I cannot hazard anything merely on the strength of memory.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is he not aware of anything regarding this matter ?

Chief Minister : As I have already stated, I am not prepared to say anything off-hand. The hon. Member may give a proper notice to elicit this information.

— — —

CASES TAKEN UP BY THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE IN THE STATE.

*2637. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of cases taken up by the Anti-Corruption Committee during the year 1950 ;
- (b) the number of cases in which on the recommendation of the said Committee disciplinary action has been taken by the Government so far ;

- (c) the total number of officers dismissed or suspended and the number of Class I officers among them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) 464.
 (b) 26.
 (c) (i) Dismissed (ii) Suspended (iii) Class I officers
 10 7 Nil

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly state how is it that despite the number of complaints of corruption against the officers being very large, only a very few cases are proved to be correct ?

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend knows the reasons himself very well.

Shri Ram Sharma : Since I cannot get correct information regarding the Government officers against whom complaints have been made, may I ask the hon. Chief Minister to tell us the reasons why only a small number of cases against the officers are proved while a large number of complaints are made against them ?

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend knows full well that when investigation is conducted, the law does not differentiate between an official or a non-official. Whatever is correct, is proved.

COMMUNIST DETENUS IN THE STATE.

*2638. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of Communist detenues in all the jails of the State ;
 (b) the number of those detenues who are given family allowances and the amount thereof in each case ;
 (c) the special facilities that are being given to these detenues which are not enjoyed by the ordinary convicts in jails ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 81 (1st February 1951).

(b) Part I—21.

Part II—The allowances range between Rs. 25 P. M. and Rs. 115 P M

(c) Special facilities are provided in relation to accommodation, diet, bedding, clothing, toilet articles, furniture, funds, interviews, correspondence, newspapers and periodicals, etc.

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us how the amount of allowance is decided upon for the purpose of granting it to a particular Communist prisoner, because he has stated that the grant of allowance ranges from Rs 25 to Rs. 115 p.m. ?

Chief Minister : While deciding the grant of allowance to a particular Communist prisoner, the number of dependents and his financial position are kept in view.

Shri Virendra : May I know whether the Communist prisoners in the Punjab get more facilities as compared with other States ?

Chief Minister : I think, it is so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Communist prisoners in the Uttar Pradesh are receiving greater facilities than the Communist prisoners in the Punjab ?

Chief Minister : I think the information of the hon. Member is not correct. In my view, they get better facilities in the Punjab.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the reply of the hon. Chief Minister that Communist detenus are accorded better treatment in all the jails of the State, may I know if he is aware of the fact that the Communist detenus are comparatively treated in a better way in the States of West Bengal and U. P. ?

Mr. Speaker : Comparisons are odious; better avoid them.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know in what respects do the communist detenus receive better treatment at the hands of our Government than those in the other States ? What are the concessions which are given to these detenus in addition to those already enjoyed by them in other States ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives fresh notice, I shall make the detailed information available to him.

Shri Ram Sharma : On what grounds does the hon. Chief Minister say that these detenus receive better treatment in our State ?

Mr. Speaker : Very good cross examination.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the Communist detenus are afforded more facilities by our Government than were enjoyed by them before August 1947 ?

Chief Minister : Yes, they are enjoying more facilities than before.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that majority of those detenus who resorted to hunger strike have been placed in the C class ?

EXISTENCE OF WATERLOGGING IN THE STATE

*2665. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that waterlogging and thur exist on an extensive scale in different parts of the State ; if so, the extent of such area district-wise ;
- (b) whether the Government propose to set up a permanent department for reclamation of such areas ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) No. A statement of thur and sem-affected area is placed on the table.†
- (b) A Land Reclamation Department exists in the Punjab State and the staff will be made permanent as found necessary.

†Kept in the Library.

CONSTRUCTION OF BHAKRA DAM.

*2666. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) how far the construction of Bhakra Dam has been completed and what remains to be done ;
- (b) the further time likely to be taken to complete the Dam ;
- (c) the total amount spent on the scheme so far ;
- (d) how much more amount is required to complete it ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) The work on the Diversion Tunnels of the Bhakra Dam is in progress. Approximately 40 o/o of the entire enlargement on the Diversion Tunnels has been completed to date.

The Township for housing the Construction personnel at Nangal has been completed. Road and Rail communications from the Rail head at Rupar to the Dam site have been established.

- (b) The project is expected to be completed by the year 1957-58 provided funds are available to the extent required for each year during the course of its construction, which has been planned to be completed by 1957-58.
- (c) The total amount that will be spent by the end of the current year will be rupees 22·6 crores.
- (d) Rs. 85·4 crores.

Sbri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the township for housing the construction personnel at Nangal has been completed, may I know if arrangements of water supply for the people living in Kosan Camp have been made by the Government ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this question.

Sbri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it a fact that there exist no arrangements for latrines and urinals in the factories at Nangal required under the Factories Act ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member knows it himself as he often goes there.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, is that the reply we are expected to get ?

Shri Ram Sharma : He is free to give any reply.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know if it is not necessary for the hon. Chief Minister who has in his reply already given some details about the Nangal Project to know whether or not people working in the factories are provided with the primary necessities ?

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it a fact that the people living in the residential quarters at Nangal are facing great inconveniences on account of the corrugated sheets fixed on their roofs which become very hot during the summer ?

Chief Minister : Thank you for this information.

Shri Ram Sharma : In view of this reply in part (b) that the project is expected to be completed by the year 1957-58, may I know if the whole project would be completed or the Dam only ?

Chief Minister : The whole project.

Shri Ram Sharma : What time will it take the Dam to complete ?

Chief Minister : The construction of the Dam is the last item to be taken in hand. As already stated the project will be completed by the year 1957-58.

Shri Virendra : Will that Project be dammed by that time ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the hon. Chief Minister prepared to take any steps to remove the inconveniences of the workers in the factories and camps as referred to by my hon. Friend Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar ?

Chief Minister : It is a request for action.

DACOITIES AND MURDERS COMMITTED IN THE STATE.

*2667 **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of dacoities committed in the State during the year 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 district-wise ;
- (b) the total number of murders committed district-wise in the State during the above mentioned periods ;
- (c) the number of burglaries committed in the above mentioned period ;
- (d) the total number of arrests made in connection with the three classes of offences mentioned above together with the number of cases and number of cases finished ;
- (e) the total number of out-laws killed during the periods mentioned in part (a) above ;
- (f) total number of policemen injured and killed in apprehending criminals referred to above ;
- (g) the compensation or pension given to the dependents of those policemen who lost their lives in maintaining law and order in the State ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table.†
- (d) Total number of arrests made in connection with dacoities murders and burglaries during 1947-51, is 23319.
Number of cases pending is 1565.
Number of cases finished, untraced etc. 35538.
- (e) Total number of out-laws killed during 1947-51 is 89.
- (f) Ten injured and 13 killed.
- (g) A statement is laid on the table.†

†Kept in the Library.

DETENUS.

***2672. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of detenus in all the State jails at present ;
- (b) the number of Communist and non-Communist detenus amongst them separately ;
- (c) when their cases were last reviewed?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) 103 (1st February 1951.)
- (b) Communists—81 (1st February 1951.)
Non-Communists—22 (1st February 1951).
- (c) December, 1950—January, 1951.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : What is the criterion for reviewing the cases of detenus for their release ?

Chief Minister : That is for the members of the Tribunal and not for me.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the recommendation of the Tribunal binding on the Government; if not, does the Government release the detenus according to its own sweet will ?

Chief Minister : So far it is an advisory body.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the advisory body recommended the release of about 69 detenus to the Government after duly examining their cases? Is it also not a fact that Government did not release even half the number of these detenus ?

Chief Minister : I will verify the information given by the hon. Member.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if besides the advisory body there is any other agency which recommends the release of the detenus ?

Chief Minister : I have told him that there is an advisory body only.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if in view of the changes in the Preventive Detention Act, Government has effected any changes in the machinery of reviewing the cases of detenues to the effect that the recommendations of the advisory body should be mandatory and not advisory ?

Chief Minister : The advice of the advisory body shall have to be followed.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Can the Government reject the recommendations made by the advisory body in the matter of the release of the detenues; if so, on what grounds can it do so ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that it could reject in the past.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know who are the members of the Advisory Committee ?

Chief Minister : Mr. Jagan Nath and Mukerji. Both are retired Sessions Judges and the 3rd appointment is yet to be made.

**PERSONS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH KISAN SATYAGRAH
MOVEMENT IN HOSHIARPUR AND HISSAR DISTRICTS.**

*2673. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of convicts and other prisoners in all the State jails separately who were arrested in connection with the kisan satyagrah movement in Hoshiarpur and Hissar Districts ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Government has released all other prisoners arrested in this connection except those who belonged to Socialist Party ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :—

- (a) Convicts—325.
other prisoners (detenues)—34.

(b) All prisoners have been released.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : The hon. Chief Minister will recollect that I sometime back sent a list of prisoners who were arrested in connection with the Kisan Satyagrah movement. May I know whether they have been released ?

Chief Minister : I can't say about any particular prisoner but all those prisoners who were arrested in connection with the Kisan satyagrah movement have been released.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : The hon. Chief Minister has mentioned certain names of the persons who were not satyagrahis but were charged with the offence involving violence. I had pointed out to him that these persons had not been charged or convicted under sections involving violence. In these circumstances, may I know whether he has personally satisfied himself after going through the judgments of the courts that these persons had been charged of any acts of violence ? If not, why not ?

Chief Minister : It is a matter of opinion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that satyagrahi prisoners have all been released, may I know why one Om Prakash is still undergoing imprisonment ?

Chief Minister : If he is a satyagrahi prisoner he must have been released.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know what is the definition of a satyagrahi prisoner ?

Chief Minister : I do not know individual cases.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that satyagrahi prisoners were released after they had undergone full term of their imprisonment ?

Chief Minister : They were released much before the expiry of their term.

STEEL SCANDAL CASES.

*2674. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the special courts have pronounced their judgments in the steel scandal cases that had been pursued in these courts as test cases ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to take up all other such cases that had been kept pending so far; if not, the reason therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The 75 cases, which had been put in court but had not been proceeded with, and the 4 cases in which investigation had been completed, are being examined by the special public prosecutor. Government will take a final decision on these cases, after the same have been scrutinised by the Special Public Prosecutor and the L. R.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know whether the Government consulted the Legal Remembrancer and withdrew these cases on his advice ?

Chief Minister : I always consult the Legal Remembrancer before taking any action.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : If these cases were withdrawn on the advice of the Legal Remembrancer may I know as to when the remaining cases will be decided ?

Chief Minister : They will be decided when a detailed report of the Legal Remembrancer is received by the Government.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know when these cases were sent to the Legal Remembrancer ?

Chief Minister : I do not remember the date.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether these cases were withdrawn after the decision of the test cases ?

Chief Minister : Yes, after that.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know that after the decision of test cases the Government came to the conclusion that these cases were not likely to succeed ?

Chief Minister : Thirty one cases did not come under the mischief of law, hence they were withdrawn.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know how many cases are still pending ?

Chief Minister : After excluding those cases that have been withdrawn there are 44 cases which are still pending.

APPOINTMENT OF ZAILDARS IN THE STATE.

*2675. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has decided to revive the posts of the Zaildars under the name of the Ilaqadars ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) the number of protests received by Government against the revival of these posts ;
- (c) the reasons why a decision on this subject was arrived at without previous reference to this House ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beji Ram):

(a) First Part.—Yes.

Second Part.—The main reason which led Government to take this decision was that by abolishing the zaildari agency a gap had been created in the administrative machinery of districts and the district officers felt handicapped in the efficient discharge of their duties.

(b) Certain Congress Committees including the Punjab State Congress Committee were opposed to the revival of this agency.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

(c) The Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance, 1951, is being replaced by a regular amending Act in the State Legislative Assembly.

Pandit Faqir Chand : May I know whether the rules regarding the appointment of ilaqadars will be published and objections invited ?

Chief Minister : The rules are under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Government considered the desirability of ascertaining the views of the Members of the House before arriving at a decision of appointing ilaqadars ?

Chief Minister : We suspended the existing law in force. The appointment of ilaqadars was considered necessary in the interest of administration.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know why the Government did not care to ascertain the opinion of the members of this House before taking that decision ?

Chief Minister : This is my duty to look to the point of view of administration as well.

Shri Ram Sharma : I would like to know whether the hon. Chief Minister considered it necessary to ascertain the views of the majority of the Members of this House or not ?

Chief Minister : I would not like to answer this question.

Thakur Dalip Singh : May I know whether before partition institution of Zaildari existed in Kulu ?

Chief Minister : Zaildari agency did not exist in Kulu.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I know whether the Government propose to appoint as ilaqadars those persons who were previously zaildars ?

Chief Minister : We have abolished Zaildari system. The Government does not propose to appoint as ilaqadars such persons who were zaildars before.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : When there is no change in the previous rules may I know the reasons why the old zaildars have been removed?

Chief Minister : This is a matter of opinion. I think we have made radical changes and we think those changes are necessary.

Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the fact that the hon. Chief Minister has declared so many times in public meetings that his Government is following the Congress principles in every matter and also in view of the fact that the State Congress Committee and District Congress Committees have expressed opposition to the revival of this institution, is the Government prepared to scrap it ?

Chief Minister : I do not want to bring in the Congress organisation while replying to this question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Chief Minister please say if he has felt any weakness in the administration in the absence of this institution ?

Chief Minister : Yes, difficulties were felt in the work of administration.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does the Government want to persist in having this institution regardless of the fact that most of the Members of this House and the Congress Committees of the State are not in its favour ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : Has any decrease in the incidence of crime been felt since the revival of this institution ?

Chief Minister : I can't say off hand.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Is the Government aware of the existence of a strong feeling against Zaildars in Kulu ?

Chief Minister : No, we have no such information.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Will the Zaildar agency continue in Kulu or when will it be replaced by (negi) agency ?

Chief Minister : I can't say at present what will be done. When the time comes, the matter shall be carefully examined.

Shri Amar Nath Vidylankar : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary if the letters opposing this institution received from the State Congress and District Congress Committees are thrown in the waste paper baskets ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Is it not a fact that in reviving this institution the Government was actuated by political rather than administrative considerations ?

Chief Minister : No, it is for administrative reasons that this institution has been revived.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Does the Government propose to consult the House in this matter ?

Chief Minister : The Government will act in accordance with law.

BYE-ELECTION IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

*2678. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to any specific cases where Government employees took active part in the last bye-election in the Hoshiarpur District, and tried to use their official influence in favour of one of the candidates ;

(b) the action taken by the Government in these cases ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Has any representation from the State Congress been received by the Government in this connection ?

Chief Minister : I require notice to reply to this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has it not been brought to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister, the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspector of Schools that in the last bye-election the District Board teachers were compelled to canvass votes for Rai Hari Chand ?

Chief Minister : This question relates to the Government employees and not the District Board employees.

Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that 75% of the pay of District Board teachers is paid by the Government and to that extent they are Government servants ?

Chief Minister : They are not.

REPORTING OF SPEECHES DURING THE BYE-ELECTION.

*2689. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government had issued instructions to the authorities concerned to take down the notes of the speeches delivered by the protagonists of the different candidates during the bye-election to the Legislature from the Una Constituency ; if so, whether they took down the notes of the speeches made by the supporters of the Communist and the Independent candidate respectively ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Part 1-No.

Part 11-Does not arise.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that the Government had issued instructions to the C. I. D. to report the speeches delivered by the President of the State Congress, Sardar Partap Singh ?

Chief Minister : No.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that the C. I. D. has sent notes of his speeches to the Government ?

Chief Minister : I can't say whether the hon. Lady Member has been receiving them. So far as we are concerned, no such notes have been received by us.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government has not given standing instructions to the C. I. D. to report the speeches of leaders of all the political parties ?

Chief Minister : They generally do so but we have not issued instructions to them to take notes of the speeches of any person in particular.

Shri Ram Sharma : If the C.I.D. takes notes of speeches, what does it do with them since they are not sent to the Government ?

Chief Minister : It is not necessary that they should send the notes of every speech to the Government.

RESOURCES AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE REPORT.

*2691. **Shrmati Sita Devi :** Will the hon Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee has been published by the Government ; if so, when do the Government intend to implement the Committee's recommendations ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The report of the Committee has been printed and circulated to hon. Members. Some of the recommendations of the Committee have already been implemented while others are under consideration.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know when those recommendations of the Committee which are still under consideration will be implemented ?

Chief Minister : When the consideration will be over.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is there any time limit for this ?

Chief Minister : No time limit can be fixed in such matters.

Shrimati Sita Devi : But surely the hon. Chief Minister can say whether it will take one year, two years or three years to finish consideration.

Chief Minister : It is a matter for regret that though the hon. Lady Member has information about this matter yet she is putting supplementaries on it. Many recommendations of the Committee have been referred to the departments concerned for report. Final decision will be taken on receipt of replies from them.

Shrimati Sita Devi : But is there no rule specifying the time limit for the various departments to reply to various matters ?

Chief Minister : I don't think any date can be fixed in this connection.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Are they free to take any time they like in replying to matters referred to them ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it a fact that in spite of the recommendation of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee that expenditure on account of T. A. of the Ministers should be reduced it has all the more increased ?

Chief Minister : Thanks for the information.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if any recommendation was made by the Resources and Retrenchment Committee regarding the salaries of the Ministers ?

Chief Minister : I refer the hon. Member to the report.

HUNGER STRIKE IN DISTRICT JAIL, JULLUNDUR.

*2706. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any of the accused (under-trial prisoners) or convicts of Sharnarhi Muzaria (tenants-at-will) Satyagrah of Hoshairpur including Baba Nand Singh (Kama Gatta Maru fame) went on hunger strike in the months of May or June 1950 in the District Jail, Jullundur ; if so, their list together with their full home addresses ;
- (b) whether the persons referred to in part (a) above submitted any representation to the Government regarding their demand before launching the hunger strike 'morcha' ; if so, the copy of it be laid on the table ;
- (c) (i) the dates on which the hunger strike was launched by each of the persons referred to above ;
(ii) when the hunger strike was given up ;
(iii) the periods of duration of hunger strike by each of them.

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (d) (i) the weight and the condition of health of each of the persons on his admission as an under-trial prisoner and convict respectively in the District Jail of Jullundur ;
- (ii) whether any of the hunger strikers was released from Gurdaspur District Jail on or about 26th August 1950 ;
- (iii) the weight and the condition of the health of each of them at the time of release ;
- (iv) the age of each of them at the time of admission and release respectively ;
- (v) the reasons for release ;
- (e) (i) whether any of the persons referred to above was awarded any punishment by a court of law ; if so, what ;
- (ii) whether the Government is aware that one of the persons referred to in part (d) (i) above died on 6th September 1950 at Jullundur as a result of the after effects of the hunger strike ; if so, what steps Government propose to take to avoid such incidents in future ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) Do not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Was Baba Nand Singh not a 'sharnartha muzara' Satyagrahi''

Chief Minister : No.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the definition of 'sharnartha muzara Satyagrahi''

**ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT VILLAGE KACHA PAKKA,
DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

*2707. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) (i) what was the number of the crimes at village Kacha Pakka, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, during 1950,

on the basis of which the district authorities of Amritsar proposed quartering of the additional police post in the said village ;

- (ii) the period during which the crimes referred to above were committed ;
- (b) (i) the population of the village either according to the last census or the sugar ration cards ;
- (ii) the number of the persons of this village arrested during the period of three years prior to the posting of this police post for the various offences ;
- (iii) the number of the persons convicted during the period of 3 years prior to the location of this police post together with the punishment awarded to each of those persons ;
- (c) (i) whether any persons of this village were arrested in connection with the murder of a police officer which took place there on 19th March 1950 ;
- (ii) the number of the persons referred to in part (c) (i) above who were acquitted and convicted respectively ;
- (iii) the punishment awarded to each one of them ;
- (d) (i) the number and nature of the crimes registered against the inhabitants of this village since the location of this police post upto 11th January 1950.
- (ii) the number of the persons of this village arrested for the offences referred to in part (d) (i) above ;
- (iii) the number of the persons convicted and the punishment awarded in each case for these offences ;
- (e) whether any representation was received by Government from the inhabitants of this village before 15th January 1950, for the withdrawal of this police post and reduce its cost ; if so, the decision arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) (i) Six cases—One (457) ; one (307) ; three (20/11/78) and one (302/332, 395/397, 109/353).

[Chief Minister]

- (ii) From 21st February 1950 to 29th March 1950.
- (b) (i) 1436 (according to sugar ration cards).
- (ii) 14—Dacoity (2); Burglary (9); Attempt to murder (1); Theft (1) and Vagrancy (1).
- (iii) 12 (List attached).
- (c) (i) 7 persons.
- (ii) 5 acquitted and 2 convicted.
- (iii) Transportation for life to both the convicted persons.
- (d) (i) Four cases—Two (457), one (392) and one (379).
- (ii) Nil.
- (iii) None.
- (e) Yes. The matter is under consideration of Government.

List of persons convicted during the period of 3 years together with the punishment awarded to each prior to the location of Police Post, Kacha Pakka.

S. No.	Name and parentage	Punishment
1.	Hazara Singh s/o Bhagat Singh Jat.	Rs. 25/- fine u/s 19,11/78 Arms Act.
2.	Harbans Singh s/o Sunder Singh Jat.	Security for Rs. 100/- for one year u/s 110 Cr. P. C.
3.	Gura s/o Jowala Mazhabi.	-do-u/s 109/55 Cr P.C.
4.	Gopal Singh s/o Arjan Singh Jat.	-do-
5.	Gopal Singh s/o Labhu Mazhabi	-do-
6.	Bachan Singh s/o Natha Singh Jat.	Security for Rs. 500/- for one year u/s 109/55 Cr. P. C.
7.	Kundan Singh s/o Baghail Singh Jat.	Rs. 50/- fine u/s 61/1/14 Excise Act.
8.	Gurbux Singh s/o Mula Singh Jat.	Fined Rs. 50/- u/s 69 and security for Rs. 1000/- for one year u/s 694 of the Excise Act.
9.	Surat Singh s/o Banta Singh Jat.	Rs. 75/- fine u/s 69 and security for Rs. 1000/- for one year u/s 694 of the Excise Act.
10.	Harnam Singh s/o Sant Singh Jat.	-do-
11.	Bachan Singh s/o Natha Singh Jat.	6 month's R. I. u/s 457 I. P. C.
12.	Karmun s/o Lachhman Singh Mazhabi.	One year's R. I. u/s 411 I. P. C.

PERSONAL ASSISTANTS TO HON. MINISTERS.

***2708. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State :—

- (a) the names of the Personal Assistants attached to each of the hon. Ministers of the State Government ;
- (b) academic qualifications of each of them ;
- (c) (i) the date of recruitment of each of them ;
(ii) the starting pay of each of them ;
- (d) (i) whether any of them was recruited directly by Government ; if so, their names together with the reasons for their direct recruitment ;
(ii) whether any of them was recruited through the Public Service Commission ; if so, their names ;
- (e) (i) the present pay of each of them ;
(ii) whether any of them was holding job in a private concern or under a private person before his recruitment to the post of P. A. ; if so, what salary he was getting there.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information asked for is given in the enclosed statement. †

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Should not the matter have come up before the Public Service Commission when the individuals concerned were promoted to posts carrying salaries of more than Rs. 150 ?

Chief Minister : Appointments are made by the Public Service Commission if a post carries a salary of Rs. 150, or more at the time of the recruitment and it is not to be consulted when an individual is to be promoted from the post of a stenographer to that of a P. A.

† Kept in the Library.

**ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT VILLAGE MIANI,
DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

*2709. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State :—

- (a) the evidence and the fact taken into consideration before quartering the additional police post at village Maini, Police Station Jhabbal, District Amritsar during the year 1950 ;
- (b) (i) the nature of the crime regarding this village sent up by the district authorities of Amritsar, to the Government along with their proposal for posting the police post referred to in part (a) above ;
(ii) the period to which this crime statement related ;
- (c) (i) the details of the evidence put up before the Government to enable it to arrive at the conclusion about the misconduct of the inhabitants of this village ;
(ii) the number and nature of the cases registered at Jhabbal and other police stations against the inhabitants of this village since the location of the police post upto 11th January, 1951 ;
(iii) the total number of persons of this village who were arrested for different offences between 12th May, 1950 and 11th January, 1951 ;
(iv) the total number of persons of this village who were convicted for these offences together with the punishment awarded in each case ;
- (d) (i) whether any of the inhabitants of this village was arrested and sent up for trial in connection with the murder of a police officer at village Kacha Pakka, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar on 19th March, 1950 ;
(ii) whether any of them was convicted ; if so, the nature of the punishment awarded to each of them ;
- (e) whether a representation dated 26th January, 1951 by the inhabitants of this village was received by the Home Secretary to Government Punjab, on or about 31st

January, 1951 regarding the withdrawal of the police post or reducing its cost ; if so, the decision arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Additional Police Post Miani was located because the area in question was in a disturbed state and on account of the misconduct of the inhabitants of the area. It is not in the public interest to disclose the evidence taken into consideration before quartering this Post.

(b) (i) Offences under sections :—

457/1, 376/366/511-1, 324/1

380/1 of the I. P. C.

(ii) 1947, 1948 and 1949.

(c) (i) As already stated it is not in the public interest to disclose the evidence.

(ii) F. I. R. No. 234/50 u/s 19/11/78 Arms Act P. S. Jhabbal.

F. I. R. No. 347/50 u/s 448 I. P. C. P. S. Jhabbal.

F. I. R. No. 94/50 u/s 457 I. P. C. P. S. Khalra.

(iii) Five.

(iv) Two—One sentenced to 1½ years R. I. u/s 19/11/78 Arms Act and the other 3 months R. I. u/s 457 I. P. C.

(d) (i) Yes, six inhabitants.

(ii) None.

(e) Yes, the matter is under consideration.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What are the various factors besides the crime statement which are taken into consideration by the Government when it holds the inhabitants of a certain village guilty of misconduct ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member is referred to the relevant rules.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : As it has been said that the police post has been quartered for a year with effect from the 12th May, may I know whether this post will be removed on or before the 11th May next or afterwards ?

Chief Minister : I am not in a position to say anything about that.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has referred me to the rules but I am sorry to say that the rules fail to help me in this matter. The rules say that a police post may be quartered in a particular area if and when peace has been disturbed in that place and they do not say anything beyond that. In the area under reference there have been no crimes at all for the last two or three years and that was why I asked the hon. Chief Minister to let me know factors other than crime which had necessitated the quartering of the police post ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member should make a closer study of the Police Manual.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Why should the police post have been quartered at all in that area when there had been no disturbance of peace with the exception of a case under Section 480 I. P. C. that occurred two or three years ago and which remains untraced still ?

Chief Minister : I am not prepared to take the hon. Member or the House into confidence about the reasons or the evidence on which Government decision is based.

**AUTHORISED ACCOMMODATION OF DISTRICT JAIL,
AMRITSAR.**

*2713. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the authorised accommodation of District Jail, Amritsar on 1st August, 1950 ;
- (b) the number of the prisoners confined in this jail on the 1st each of August, September, October, November, December, 1950 and January, 1951, respectively

- (c) whether there has been constant overcrowding in this jail during the last 3 years; if so, the steps, if any, taken by the Government to meet the over crowding of this jail, if not, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 264

(b) 1st August, 1950	—	—	—	655
1st September, 1950	—	—	—	602
1st October, 1950	—	—	—	585
1st November, 1950	—	—	—	467
1st December, 1950	—	—	—	662
1st January, 1951	—	—	—	643

- (c) Yes. A scheme for the extension of the District Jail Amritsar to provide additional accommodation for 500 prisoners has been taken in hand. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 25,69,000. It is proposed to spread the work over 3 years. Work shall begin when the Assembly approves of the expenditure.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Why was this over-crowding in Jails permitted at all ?

Chief Minister : It is nowhere laid down in the rules that over crowding in Jails will not be permitted in any case.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Ever since I have learnt from the Government that the Jails are 300 per cent over-crowded I have been crying myself hoarse for more accommodation for the prisoners and should I take it that the Government does not mean to do anything in this connection ?

Chief Minister : We shall try to save some amount from the constructions of the Ferozepore Jail and spend it on extending the Amritsar Jail.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Does it mean that two hon. Ministers have been taken from Amritsar because crime is on the increase there ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member knows better.

MOTION OF THANKS

Mr. Speaker : I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor wishes me to convey to the House his gratefulness for the motion of thanks passed by the House on the 7th March, 1951.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Sir, I have given notice of an adjournment motion. I have risen to ask the leave of the House to move it.

Mr. Speaker : Yes I have received a notice of an adjournment motion from the hon. Member regarding the application of Section 144 of Cr. P. C. at Simla. I may inform the hon. Member that his motion is out of order.

HOURS OF SITTING ON TUESDAY, THE 13th MARCH.

Mr. Speaker : It has been suggested to me that tomorrow instead of meeting at 2 p. m., the Assembly might meet at 11 a.m. From 11 a.m. to 12 noon we may take up questions and thereafter Budget may be presented so that the House can adjourn at 1 p. m. or so.

Hon. Members : Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (2ND INSTALMENT) , 1950-51.

Mr. Speaker : Does any hon. Member want to raise discussion on the estimates of the expenditure charged on the revenues of the State ?

(No Member rose to speak)

Mr. Speaker : The House will proceed with the next item on the agenda, *viz* voting of the demands for supplementary grants.

STATE EXCISE DUTIES

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I move-

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3, 49, 490 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of

payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of State Excise Duties.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved--

That a supplement sum not exceeding Rs. 3, 49, 490 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of State Excise Duties.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana, Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) :
Sir I beg to move :—

That the item of Rs. 3, 49, 370/- on account of D-Cost of opium supplied to provincial Excise Department be reduced by Rs. 100/-

The Government has asked for a supplementary sum of Rs. 3, 49, 490 under the head 'State Excise Duties'. Opium is purchased from the Government Opium Factory, Ghazipur, at the rate of Rs. 37/7/- per seer but the manner of its sale in this State is highly objectionable. Everybody knows that there is a general complaint of black marketing in the sale of different commodities. What is happening in the case of opium? The Government purchases it at the fixed price but it has imposed no control on the price at which it is sold by the licensees. If we look at the figures of revenue under this head, it will be found there has been regular increase in it during the last three years. This shows that our Government is concerned with nothing except increase in its revenues. Under an international agreement, the Government of India has decided to completely stop the sale of opium within ten years. After 1958-59, opium will not be sold in the country. To attain that purpose, ten per cent annual reduction is made in the amount of opium supplied to each State. Instead of devoting its attention to reducing the consumption of opium by the public, our Government is concerned with increasing its revenues only. I find that people offer higher bids for obtaining opium licenses now than they used to offer before. When the supply of opium is being gradually reduced, why do these people offer higher amounts? This question deserves close examination. I learn that some kind of poisonous substance is being mixed with opium by the licensed vendors. With the reduction in the amount of opium, the Government should have reduced the number of licensees. When the amount of opium supplied to the State has been reduced to seventy per cent, there should have been a corresponding reduction in the number of opium vendors. On the contrary, I learn that their number has increased. This is due to the fact that some poisonous substance is mixed with opium

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

sold to the consumers. It must have been noticed that when wines became very costly, some people took spirit and it resulted in several deaths. What is the reason of increase in excise revenue when the quantity of opium has considerably decreased? The licensees earn more by adulterating opium with some very dangerous substance. The question naturally arises whether our Government is following the policy of the Central Government for bringing about a gradual reduction in the consumption of opium. If it desired to do so, the number of opium licences should have been reduced in the same proportion in which the quantity of opium received by it was reduced. It appears to be concerned with its revenues only. It does not care about the bad effect its policy is having on the health of the people. Our Government claims to follow the principles of the Congress. When Madras and Bombay Governments introduced prohibition, our Government also tried that experiment in Rohtak. It was expected that prohibition would be extended to other districts also, but it appears that our Government is concerned with increasing revenues only. It wishes to get the maximum revenues from excise duties.

Now the policy of the Government in the case of opium appears to be that its price must not be controlled. Consequently, its price goes on increasing every day. Previously, it sold at six rupees a tola and then price rose to 8 rupees and ten rupees a tola. If this price continues to go up, naturally the people will think that the Government is a black marketer of the highest order.

Sardar Ajit Singh : This discourages the habit of taking opium among the people.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If the policy of the Government is to discourage the opium eaters, then necessarily it should decrease the number of licensed opium shops every year. Our experience is that the rise in the price of opium has not led to discouragement on the part of the opium eaters. On the other hand, the bids have become higher now than those of the previous years. This shows that the habit of taking opium has not declined. And since the Government gives only a certain limited quantity of opium at a certain price, the licensees mix poison with it. This adulteration serves two purposes. Firstly the licensees get more money and secondly the customers also get the desired in toxicating effect. Opium is not the only intoxicant

in the world. For instance, there are intoxicants like Hing, Khashkhash and cocaine. Under these circumstances, the people have not only to pay more, but have also to eat poison along with opium.

Then, Sir, the rise in the price of opium has increased the smuggling of this commodity. For instance, a relative of a high officer of the PEPSU tried to smuggle a large quantity of opium into this State. I have heard people talk at Jagadhri that there is a trade going on in this commodity at present. Under these circumstances, the Government should have chalked out a definite policy in the matter of sale of opium in the State. The hon. Chief Minister and the Government admit that after the Partition of the Punjab and the consequent migration of a large number of people from the West Punjab to the East Punjab, the health of the people has not remained so good as before. The need of the hour, therefore, is that the Government should take steps to decrease the use of intoxicants which are injurious to the health of the people. But what has it actually done to decrease the use of opium, except this that the Central Government has decided not to give more of it than the fixed quantity? Our Government will demand even more only if the Central Government would agree to give. What has our Government done to claim that its policy is to decrease the use of opium among the people? Such a claim can only be made if the Government adopts a regular plan in this matter. It should lay down that there will be a progressive decrease in the sale of opium every year. At present, the Central Government under the international agreement on this subject, does not give us more than the fixed quantity of this commodity. So far as our Government is concerned, there is no plan before it to decrease the use of opium. It says that it has to consider its financial position while making any definite policy in this matter. I am of the opinion that for the purpose of stabilizing its financial position, the Government should adopt other means which do not affect the health of the people. For instance, it should try to give impetus to industries in the State that would lead to the prosperity of the people. In this way, the Government can also charge more taxes. But this income from opium cannot but be described as an illegitimate income. It was described such by the late Mahatma Gandhi whose followers our Government claim to be.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I have on a number of occasions asked the hon. Member not to bring in the names of high personages during the course of discussions.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I want to submit that it becomes the duty of the Government to stop the income which we consider bad. I learn that the Government has also fixed a meeting of some committee to devise ways and means to decrease the use of intoxicants keeping in view also the financial condition of the Government. I fail to understand how these two positions can be reconciled. The fact is that the Government wants to enhance its excise revenues. Even last year it was said that some jeeps were being purchased because they would bring more revenues. I can have no objection to the Government having more revenues, if they are the result of the prosperity of the people. But if the increase in revenues is the outcome of the lowering of the moral character of the people, it is certainly objectionable. At present, the position is that after 1958-59, the use and production of opium will be completely prohibited. Unlike liquor which can be distilled even illicitly, it will not be obtainable illegally at that time, because with the decrease in the cultivation of poppy, there will be a corresponding decrease in the quantity of opium. I may inform my Friend Lala Kedar Nath Saigal that poppy cannot be grown in flower pots, inside the houses. It has to be grown on land in the open and that cannot be hidden. In view of the fact that there will be no production of opium after 1958-59, is it not the duty of the Government to make some plan just now to be able to introduce complete prohibition by that year? As a matter of fact, it should have acted that way two years ago.

Mr. Speaker : The cut motion relates to the purchase and sale of opium and not to its cultivation.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I want to submit, Sir, that under the circumstances in which opium will not be produced after 1959, it is the duty of the Government to take steps to regularise the purchase and sale of it right from now, so that the people might know that they would not get it in future. I am sorry to say that the Publicity Department of the Government which does so much of publicity in other matters, has not done anything in this connection. If this had been done, the people would have known that opium will not be available after 1958-59. That would have produced a deterrent effect on them.

Sir, my submission is that when there is no reduction in the number of opium shops in the State and no efforts are made by the Government by way of anti-opium propaganda how can there be any reduction in the use of opium by the people? Another thing that I don't understand is as to why the Government makes no efforts for collecting data in the State in this important sphere. I am of the opinion that every year census should be carried out in respect of the number of people addicted to opium, the number of opium shops and such other facts concerning the habit and use of this intoxicant in the State so as to see how far the policy of the Government with regard to the discouragement of this evil succeeds. My hon Friend, Sardar Ajit Singh, has stated that the intention of the Government in making opium dear is to discourage its use. My submission is, how is it possible for the Government to presume that the rise in price of this intoxicant will result in the reduction of its use, when the Government has no data to support its presumption? When the Government has not facts and figures, how can it know that there has been any reduction? One thing they can say and it is this that the revenue of the State is increasing in this way. I believe that the habit of opium-taking is not decreasing in any way and the Government is not doing anything to discourage this bad habit. It is quite another thing that the Government may gloat over the fact that their revenue is supplemented by their present policy. But they must realise that they are doing so at the expense of the health and morality of the people of this State. As a matter of fact, this Government itself is a Government of the licensees. It is, in fact, a police State, although it claims to be a 'Welfare State.'

Mr. Speaker : No digression, please.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I am going to say that our Government which claims to be a 'Welfare State' should take steps to see that the use of opium is reduced if not totally prohibited at present so that the coming generations, if not the present one, may stand to gain.

Sardar Ajit Singh : That is why we are trying to increase its price.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Had the Government put forth any figures in support of its contention that the use of opium has been reduced by the increase in its price, I would have readily accepted it. But as a matter of fact the Government has not collected any data in



[Sardar Bachan Singh]

this connection. I can challenge the Government that it has no such figures to show. Can the hon. Parliamentary Secretary produce such facts and figures in support of his contention? I dare say he has none. Then how can he say that the number of opium-eaters has come down? I believe it has gone up. Take the case of drinking. In the years before partition, the prices of wines were not as high as they are after partition. But in spite of that the number of persons who drink is steadily on the increase.

Sardar Ajit Singh : No, it is on the decrease.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Member has not studied the facts and figures. The Government itself admits that drinking habit has increased.

Sardar Ajit Singh : It has decreased.

Mr. Speaker : When you put one question the hon. Member replies to that and when you put another he begins to reply to that also and the cycle goes on.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I am only submitting that the habit of drinking has increased during the years after partition in spite of the fact that the prices of wines have increased. The appointment of Special Staff in connection with illicit arms and illicit liquor is a positive proof of this fact. In His Excellency the Governor's Address, it has been clearly stated that the purpose of the appointment of this special staff is to recover illicit arms and to check the distillation of illicit liquor. If in spite of all this the hon. Member may persist in his contention that the habit of drinking is decreasing I cannot help remarking that it is only his privilege to contend that it is night when, in fact, there is broad day light. It is an admitted fact that the habit of drinking is increasing. If any Government believes that by increasing the price of liquor it can put an end to drinking then it is sadly mistaken and I can only say that it does not desire to face facts.

Chief Minister : On a point of order, Sir. An expenditure was incurred last year for which payment order was not received. In order to make that payment, a supplementary sum has been asked for. There is no question as to the increase in the consumption of opium much less other intoxicants.

Mr. Speaker : I know that in a Supplementary Demand the general policy of the Government cannot be discussed. But I would at the same time request the hon. Members not to interrupt him.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I was saying that the Government is trying to get more revenue out of the sale of opium. It does not, as a matter of fact, take steps to decrease the sale of opium. It is clearly written under Demand No. 1 on page 1 of the Supplementary Estimates that the Manager, Government Opium Factory, Ghazipur, will supply about 313 maunds of opium to the Punjab during 1950-51. The policy of Government of India is to see that the sale of opium is decreased gradually but our Government is only concerned with getting as much revenue out of it as possible.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to restrict himself to the item under demand and not roam about in discussing the general policy of the Government.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, what I was going to submit is that although the policy of the Government of India is to discourage the habit of opium-taking our Government is not taking any steps towards the achievement of such an object.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not start over again.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I am only stating that while on the one side our Government contends that they are following the policy set by the Central Government in this matter, on the other side they are stating that they have received twenty lakhs of rupees more as revenue from the sale of opium. How can more money come when the Government is trying to decrease the habit of opium taking ?

Mr. Speaker : That has already been said.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, my submission is that while it is stated that there should be control in matters between citizen and citizen, there appears to be no controls, rules and principles in matters which concern citizens and the State. Why should it be so? The Government should, as a matter of fact, follow certain principles.

Sir, my submission is that the Government should adopt such a policy as would result in the complete stoppage of the sale of liquor.

Chief Minister : Sir, I may point out that it is not relevant to the demand under consideration.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am sorry, I meant the sale of opium. Now, Sir, this demand for grant relates to the opium which is being sold now.

Chief Minister : There is no demand for that.

Mr. Speaker : It seems the hon. Member has said what he wanted to say and now he is repeating the same things over and over again.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, what I want to drive at is that in the opinion of the highest health authorities, the consumption of opium adversely affects the health of the people. But I feel that the Government by supplying opium to the people is under-mining their health. Not only this. Its action in auctioning the contracts of opium without controlling the price of opium is highly undesirable. I want the Government to clarify its policy in regard to the sale of opium. It should clearly state whether it still adheres to its declared policy of reducing the consumption of opium to the extent of ten per cent every year or not. I am of the opinion that if it is honest in its intentions to bring about complete prohibition in the consumption of opium by 1958 by effecting gradual reduction in it, then it should see that the auction of contracts of opium are also decreased by 10 per cent every year. But actually what we find is that the number of contracts of opium is on the increase. So I fail to understand as to how the Government reconciles its professions to reduce the consumption of opium gradually to its actions by giving out large number of contracts for the sale of opium. Under the circumstances, how can I persuade myself to accord approval to the demand for expenditure which was incurred last year? In fact, the policy of the Government in this regard does not find favour with me.

Mr. Speaker : I am feeling tired about this repetition. It is not the policy of the Government that is under discussion today.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, if you have no mind to permit me to condemn the policy of the Government in connection with opium, I would finish my speech by making this remark that Government would be well advised to revise its opium policy. It should reduce the number of opium contracts this year by ten per cent. Besides,

it should not concentrate on increasing its revenue from this source but should see that the health of the people is not impaired by the increased consumption of opium. It should adopt measures to raise the morals of the people by discouraging the consumption of opium. With these words I move my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That the item of Rs. 3,49,370/- on account of D-Cost of opium supplied to Provincial Excise Department be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*):
Sir, I may point out at the very outset that on perusing the demand on which this cut motion has been moved, it is abundantly clear that the Punjab Government is strictly following the policy of the Government of India in regard to the sale of opium. This Government purchased from the Central Government about 313 maunds of opium during 1950-51 and the expenditure on its cost price at the fixed rate of Rs. 37/7/- per seer works out to Rs. 4,68,720. Last year, opium worth about Rs. 5,21,130/- was supplied by the Opium Factory at Ghazipur, but vouchers for Rs. 1,69,480/- were furnished by the Uttar Pradesh Government to the Punjab Government for adjustment in that year. Vouchers for the remaining amount of about Rs. 3,51,650/- are expected to be received during the year 1950-51. Since no provision had been made in the budget estimates for this amount, a supplementary demand has been put forward by the Government before the House for according its approval. In this connection, I may again tell the House that this Government strictly conforms to the policy laid down by the Central Government regarding opium. If my hon. Friend is aware of the consumption per head in other States, then I can inform him that comparatively it is much less in our State. Now the policy of the Government of India is to reduce the supply of excise opium to the States gradually. It means that it would be made available only as a medicine on the recommendation of the doctors and general consumption will be totally stopped after a few years. Then it is manufactured in Ghazipur Factory under certain set rules and its supply to the States is fixed by the Government of India. No State can get more than the quantity that has been allocated to it by the Central Government. Its price is also fixed by the Ghazipur Factory and the State Governments have to sell accordingly, of course after adding the excise duty in the cost price.

[Chief Minister]

Now our income from the excise duty on opium was to the tune of Rs. 83,66,000 and in 1950-51 it amounted to Rs. 75,10,000. This means that the reduction in the supply of opium did register a fall in the income of the Government. Then it has been remarked that Government charges excessive price for opium from the public while it gets its supply at a lower rate. As I have already stated, Government cannot charge more than the price which has been fixed by the Government of India. I may tell the House that when the supply of opium is received, it directly goes into the Treasury and the contractor gets it from there by depositing the necessary amount. The price that he pays includes the excise duty.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether it is sold at control rates to the contractors ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member need not get impatient. I am coming shortly to that point also. I stated earlier that the opium was supplied to us at the rate of Rs. 37/7/- per seer by the Ghazipur Factory and we sold it at the rate of Rs. 100/- per seer after adding the excise duty to the tune of Rs. 63/9/- per seer. Now the object of raising the price to such a high pitch is to discourage the people from consuming the opium in large quantities. As a matter of fact, Government acts upon the principle, namely, maximum taxation minimum consumption, and the intention is to place obstacles in the way of the addicted people in order to reduce their consumption.

As regards the suggestion that the number of contracts should be reduced in the districts by 10 per cent every year, it does not find favour with me. This will not serve any useful purpose. In fact, with the gradual reduction in the supply by the Government of India, the contractors also get reduced supplies in the same proportion. So far as fixation of retail price is concerned, Government has no intention to do it because if the Contractors sell it at high rates, they do so openly and nobody is under compulsion to purchase opium. Since it is a narcotic substance, people may not buy it. But those who cannot resist the temptation to consume opium and are a victim of a bad habit, they should pay for it.

It is not right to say that we do not carry out the policy laid down by the Government of India so far as this matter is concerned. On the one hand, my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has in the course of his speech condemned us for having failed to follow the

policy with regard to the consumption of opium as laid down by the Government of India and on the other he has regretted our Government's inability to get more quantity of opium with a view to raising income from this source. I really fail to understand as to how the hon. Member has come to the conclusion that we are not following the policy laid down by the Government of India so far as this matter is concerned. As a matter of fact, the hon. Member has admitted himself that sufficient quantity of opium is not made available to us. I do not think that he is unaware of the fact that the Government of India have already allotted a fixed quota of opium for our consumption and we have to sell the same quantity in our State in accordance with the instructions from the Centre. Under the circumstances, the argument that we have failed to carry out the policy as laid down by the Government of India does not seem to be sound.

It has also been stated that Government has failed to put an effective check on the smuggling of opium. I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Member who has made this allegation, that our Government is making all-out efforts to stamp out smuggling. So far it has not been possible for the Government of India to stop this illegal practice altogether. Unfortunately, there is no control over the poppy cultivation in the Himachal Pradesh. It has been experienced that generally opium is smuggled from those areas where it is cultivated. However, I may add for the information of the hon. Members in general and my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh in particular that opium is not only smuggled in different parts of this country but also outside India. Here I cannot do without saying this that Government of India are making all-out efforts to stamp out the smuggling of opium both inside and outside India. So far as our Government is concerned it is not leaving any stone unturned in weeding out the smuggling of opium in our State. There is no denying the fact that there are factories in our State where opium is manufactured illegally and our Government is making all-out efforts to locate them and thus put an end to the smuggling of opium.

The main object of the cut motion which has been moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh is to discuss the procedure adopted for the purchase and sale of opium. As I have already stated our Government purchased a fixed quota of opium allotted by the Central Government from the factory at Gazipur and sold the same quantity to the dealing licensees after charging from them the excise duty levied by it. This quantity of opium was sold to them

[Chief Minister]

at the rates fixed by the Central Government. It is, therefore, crystal clear from this that Government is not doing anything against the policy laid down by the Central Government in this direction.

Since Government is to make the payment to the U. P. Government for the quantity of opium which we have already purchased from them, I would therefore request the hon. Members to oppose the cut motion now before the House and thus agree to pass the Demand.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the item of Rs. 3, 49 370/- on account of D-Cost of opium supplied to provincial Excise Department be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

The motion was lost

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,49,490/- be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951, in respect of "State Excise Duties".

The motion was carried.

STAMPS.

Chief Minister : I move :

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 46,740/- be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "Stamps"

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION (WORKS).

Chief Minister : I move:

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,71,830 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "Irrigation (Works)".

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

Chief Minister : I move :

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 39, 500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "Irrigation-Establishment Charges "

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 39, 500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "Irrigation-Establishment Charges".

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (Hindi): Sir, I move :

That the item of Rs. 22, 500/-on account of A-2-Special Officers-Total pay of officers be reduced by Rs. 100/-.. . . .

Mr. Speaker, under this Demand Rs. 1700/- and Rs. 1800/-have respectively been ear-marked for payment as Special Pay to two officers of the Department. The salary of one officer has been shown as Rs. 625/- per mensem in the grade of 625-40-1025/50-1275. In the first instance, the increment that this officer will enjoy is Rs. 40/- and it will be raised to Rs. 50/- after sometime. Now despite the fact that he is being paid a very high salary a provision has been made to give him a special pay of Rs. 150/-per mensem. I think it is a sheer mistake to sanction special pays for officers when they are appointed on particular salaries. And also when the period of their work is the same as those of low-salaried Government servants, who are not in receipt of any special pay or any other allowance. In view of this, I fail to understand the necessity of giving special pays to the high-salaried officers. They are already enjoying handsome salaries. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government the desirability of putting a stop to the payment of this special pay because it is an unnecessary burden on the Government's exchequer. These officers to whom this special pay is granted are not required to do any special job. If they had put in any extra work for three or four hours in addition to their normal duty then I could understand the necessity of making a provision for payment of special pays to these officers. Then the Government would have been justified in sanctioning this allowance.

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

Besides, I think that it is most undesirable on the part of any Government to introduce the system of giving special pays. If low-salaried Government servants had been given this special pay then there would have been some justification in making such a provision. It is a pity that Government has made this particular provision for these two officers without assigning any reason. I am of the view that making a provision of special pay is based on a wrong principle so far as our poor State is concerned. If this principle is accepted then it means that the Government is strengthening the hands of capitalistic society to the maximum capacity. It is obvious that giving more money to an already affluent person is hardly justifiable because it cuts at the very root of the highest ideal of a democratic State.

There is yet another instance which I would like to mention to the hon. Members. The annual increment of this officer is Rs. 40/- and the special pay granted to him is Rs. 150/- per mensem. He is shown as Assistant Accounts Officer in the Budget Estimates. In other words, he will receive Rs. 1800/- per annum as special pay. There is yet another officer who will be paid Rs. 1500/- per annum as special pay. If you look at his grade, you will find that the special pay amounts to one-third of his actual salary.

When the Government has already fixed a certain pay for any officer then there seems to be no reason for granting him special pay as well. If the Government has to give to such officer a special pay then it is better that his pay may be fixed at Rs. 600/-. But it so appears that the Government in the beginning gives Rs. 500/- to an officer and when he becomes a favourite of his higher officers then his emoluments are increased by the grant of special pay.

Mr. Speaker : Order, Order.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I am opposed to the very principle of granting special pay to any officer of the Government. The House should not approve of this system of granting special pay to the officers of the Government and should put an end to this practice. This results in unnecessary burden on the Government's exchequer. I would appeal to the Government to discard this practice because it shows that the Government intends to benefit the highly-placed officers and add to the bulging pockets of those officers who are already getting fat salaries.

Mr. Speaker : I think you agree to the principle of special pay otherwise you would have given notice of a cut motion to omit the whole item. Motion moved :

That the item of Rs. 22,500/- on account of A-2-Special Officers-Total pay of officers be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana, Central Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) :
Sir, the Government has put forward a supplementary demand amounting to Rs. 39,500/- and the reason advanced is that under the Inter-Dominion Agreement, in December 1948, a Committee, consisting of four members, two from Punjab (India) and two from Punjab (Pakistan), had been formed to settle and scrutinise claims of both Indian and Pakistan nationals for "services rendered" or "supplies made" to the Punjab Government before partition i.e., 14th August 1947. I admit that the officers have to remain on tour for about two weeks in Pakistan but under this item the sum of Rs. 3,300 has been provided for their allowances. If this amount had not been set apart I would have thought it somewhat reasonable to allow special pay to these officers to compensate them for their trouble and inconvenience while on tour. The touring officers get all essential commodities at comparatively cheap rates in Pakistan than in the Punjab (India). It would, therefore, be in the fitness of things if some deduction is made from their salary for the period they stayed in Punjab (Pakistan). Their mess expenses are bound to be nominal on account of the low price-level there. I wonder that instead of making any deduction from their salary the Government is allowing Rs. 150/- to each officer as his special pay. In these circumstances, I do not understand the propriety of allowing this special pay. Is it because of the fact that they are special officers that special pay is attached to their posts? When the Government has already provided the sum of Rs. 3,300 as their allowances and Rs. 5080 as other contingencies, I cannot understand the justification for granting special pay to them. I do not think that these officers have to do any arduous job involving risk to their life that the Government considers it necessary to grant them special pay. There must be some special reasons to justify the grant of special pay. It is the duty of the Government to state the reasons for allowing this special pay before a supplementary demand is passed by the House. These officers are discharging their duties satisfactorily on their usual pay and there is hardly any justification to grant them any special pay when they are performing

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

no extra work which may fall outside the scope of their normal duties. Unless the Government assures the House that the grant of special pays to these officers is absolutely necessary by advancing cogent reasons such a demand cannot be passed by the Assembly. In the absence of any reasons, it would mean that the Government wants to force its decision on the Assembly. I would request the hon. Chief Minister to clear the position and not to leave the Members to grope in the dark. In my opinion, when these officers are already in receipt of usual allowances there is hardly any justification to grant them any special pay. (*Interruption*)

Sir, I am sorry some hon. Members are trying to usurp your functions but I am sure you are too wise to let this happen. I would resume my seat by stressing once again that this item relating to special pays is unnecessary and should not be approved by the House.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South-East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, while explaining this Demand in the Supplementary Estimates it has been stated that continuation of Third Party Claims Office is essential. This organization was set up in Amritsar for settling the claims of Hindu and Sikh brethren who had rendered services or made supplies to the Punjab Government before the partition and had not been paid their dues. I think while discussing this Supplementary Demand and voting the money spent on Third Party Claims Office we can discuss the working of this organization.

So far as I am aware, Sir, all that this office has done is to prepare files of papers. None of the claimants has received any payment up till this time though more than three years have elapsed since it was established. Past experience shows that it is too much to expect from the Punjab (Pakistan) Government to come to a settlement on the outstanding financial issues in which its stake is not equal to our stake. The words 'Total claims registered so far are approximately 3,754 of Indian and 714 of Pakistan nationals' make it clear that Pakistan's stake is much less and there is no wonder if the West Punjab Government's response is poor and the settlement of these claims continues to hang fire for a very long time. Keeping this fact in view, I would like to make a suggestion to the Government. Instead of spending money on this organization by proceeding with the work of verification of claims, it would be much better if our Government decides to meet these claims by itself, of course, to the extent of 40 per cent of the

amount due to each contractor. I need not say that under the Partition Agreement, 40% of the assets and liabilities of the pre-partition Punjab Government have come to the share of this Government. So I would urge that pending the settlement of the matter with the West Punjab Government, our Government should at least discharge its obligation by paying 40% of the amounts due in respect of claims which had already been registered according to the note appended in the book on Supplementary Estimates. Already 4 years have elapsed and the claimants have not received a single pie. To keep them waiting indefinitely on the forlorn hope of making a full settlement of their claims after reaching agreement with West Punjab would not be fair.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : Sir, two objections have been raised to the passing of the Demand under consideration. I will reply to my able Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana's objection first. Whatever he has said has nothing to do with the pay of the staff in question, though he has found fault with the working of the organization known as Third Party Claims Office and questioned the utility of its continuance.

Sir, my submission is that the claimants do not become entitled to payment by the mere fact of their claims having been registered. So long as they are not verified, no settlement can be reached with the Pakistan Government. And if as has been suggested we make 40 per cent of the payment, then we will have to pay this money out of our pockets because it cannot be entered in Government accounts so long as the claims remain unverified. The question of payment will arise only after the verification has been completed.

As regards the reasons why special pay is being given to the officials of this organization, I would refer the hon. Member to the nature of duties they are called upon to perform. The grant of this concession is in accordance with the provisions of para 2.52 C. S. R. Vol. I. These conditions are that the nature of duties attached to the post should be specially arduous and should involve specific addition to work or responsibility and unhealthiness of the locality in which the work is to be performed. Now, Sir, who can deny that the members of this organization have to perform very arduous duties? It is not merely that they have to visit Lahore and stay there for quite a number of days in a month. They have to visit the sites of works in respect of which claims have been filed, wherever they might be, to

[Chief Minister]

verify the veracity of the claims. In this way not only have they to travel a lot but run personal risks as well. For fifteen to twenty days in a month, they are on tour in Pakistan and for the rest of the period remain at Amritsar. Thus they have to keep establishment at two places. They have thus to do additional, arduous and risky work and if they are not entitled to special pay, who else is ?

Then, Sir, it should not also be forgotten that at first nobody was ready to volunteer himself for this work and so we had to accept the services of a retired officer. His term is due to expire on 31st March and there is no wonder if we have to offer even higher emoluments to find a substitute. Then objection has been taken to the item 'other allowances and honoraria' for which a sum of Rs. 3,330 has been earmarked. In order to clear the misunderstanding, I might inform the hon. Members that this is intended to cover dearness allowance admissible to the staff. They would be entitled to it even if they were working here. Provision for travelling allowance has been made to cover the fares that they have to pay for the journeys performed by them. As regards the grant of special pay, I have already said that in view of the nature of duties performed by them it is quite justified. When staff for the office of the Deputy High Commissioner had to be recruited, a similar difficulty was experienced and special pay equal to the basic pay had to be given to attract people. With these words I would request the House to approve this demand.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 22,500 on account of A-2-Special Officers—Total pay of officers—be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 39,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "Irrigation—Establishment Charges.

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I beg to move:

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "General Administration."

Mr. Speaker: Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "General Administration."

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the Government has asked for a sum of Rs. 34,270 under item No. 4 of Demand No. 5. The Government explanation for asking this amount is as follows:—

The Government have decided that the Commissioners of Divisions should be provided with Government Transport for their official touring by road. Provision for the expenditure on the purchase and maintenance of vehicles is, therefore, required. The expenditure during the current financial year can be met from savings within the Grant. Accordingly, a token demand for this amount is made.

So the Government wishes to spend this huge amount of Rs. 34,270 for purchasing and maintaining two cars for the Commissioners of the Divisions. But one thing that I cannot understand is this that if the Government is good enough to provide the Commissioners of the Divisions with cars why should it not extend this goodness to the Ministers, the Financial Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other officers? What is the special reason that has led this Government to favour only the Commissioners of the Divisions? Such a thing becomes all the more difficult to understand when we know that our hon. Chief Minister did not approve of the idea of buying a Government car when the ex-Chief Minister, Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, bought a Government car for his use. The reason of the Chief Minister for disfavoured the idea of Government cars was that the Government has to incur greater expenditure on maintaining these cars. If such was the opinion of the hon. Chief Minister when the ex-Chief Minister Shri Bhim Sen Sachar purchased a Government car there is no reason why he should have departed from that opinion in the case of the Commissioners.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The Government has to pay less by way of travelling allowance.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I know all that. What I wish to know is only this, that when an experiment has been found to have failed once, why should it be tried again? If the Commissioners have to undertake tours they should be given travelling allowance like all other officers of the Government and no special arrangements should be made for them. The Government should not accede to whatever is suggested by the Commissioners for their own benefit. As a matter of fact, my hon. Friend Sardar Kabul Singh was perfectly right when the other day he remarked that the State was not being governed by the hon. Ministers but by the officers of the Government. I strongly feel that the Government should not accept all the proposals of the Commissioners without giving proper consideration to them. It should not accept proposals which are calculated to discriminate between the various officers. We should have one principle to which we should stick at all times and may depart from it only in exceptional cases. To my mind no special reason has come into existence which may justify the purchase of two cars for the Commissioners of the Divisions when the other officers of the Government or for that matter the hon. Ministers are not being given any cars. Here I feel that I should not have brought the Ministers in the discussion as their case is a little different because they unlike the officers of the Government are in a position to reduce or increase their salaries and travelling allowances. Still so far as officers are concerned we should have one principle for them. If we apply one principle to a Financial Commissioner, a better principle should not be applied to a Commissioner who is his subordinate. I don't think that under ordinary circumstances better treatment can be justified by anybody for an interior officer by any stretch of imagination. Here, as no special reasons have been given to justify the purchase of two cars in the Government explanation, one is led to feel that there is something wrong at the bottom. The Commissioners of the Divisions have, of course, to undertake tours like other officers of the Government and for those tours they should get travelling allowance which is due to them under the rules. They have after all to tour only in the State and have not to go frequently to Calcutta or Madras that they should be given Government cars. And then one thing particularly passes my comprehension and it is this that when the Financial Commissioners who are senior to the Commissioners are not being supplied with

Government cars why Government cars should be given to the Commissioners who are junior or inferior to them. Our Financial Commissioner for Rehabilitation who went abroad sometime ago on Government expense has not been given any Government car for his use. Such a thing is sure to be resented by the superior officers and suspicions are also likely to arise in the minds of the public.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The attack of the locusts may have necessitated the purchase of these cars.

Sardar Bachan Singh : My hon. Sister says that the reason for the purchase of the two cars may be found in the attack of the locusts. Let us for a moment suppose that this can be a cause. But then the most useful work in connection with the destruction of the locusts has been done by the Deputy Commissioners of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur Districts. They are not being provided with any Government cars.

According to the reports which are being received there is a lot of work to be done in Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts in connection with locusts but that is not the case with Ambala division. When there is no increase of work in Ambala division, why should the Commissioner of that division require two motor cars? No reason has been given for preferential treatment being given to him.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Ambala Division consists of seven districts.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Simla has been taken out of that division and the work of Commissioner Ambala Division has become lesser. If the Commissioner has to undertake some tour, he can draw travelling allowance under the existing rules. Nobody would grudge him that. He is being given new cars by the Government perhaps because the cars which he already owns have become old and it is not in keeping with his dignity to travel in old cars.

Mr. Speaker : Please don't impute motives to anybody.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am not referring to anybody in particular. I am saying these things in general. If the Commissioner Ambala Division gets new cars he will feel happy because it will add to his notions of dignity. He thinks that he will command greater prestige by possessing new motor cars. I had a talk about this subject

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just now with my hon. Friend Thakur Pancham Chand, Deputy Speaker. He is the Chairman of the Estimates Committee. He told me that he too did not approve of this item of expenditure. When hon. Members of this House do not approve of it, I am unable to understand on whose advice the Government decided to purchase new cars for Commissioners. The Government would have done well to consult somebody at least. This is the age of democracy. Those days are gone when big officers thought in terms of dignity and show. They should adopt an attitude of service now. As the Government is aware, many people think that the posts of Commissioners are quite superfluous. Instead of thinking in those terms, the Government has made this demand for purchasing new cars for them. Next time we will perhaps be called upon to approve expenditure for the purchase of aeroplanes for Financial Commissioners. Some other officer might say that as Commissioners have been supplied cars, he should also be supplied one. Once this practice is started there will be no end to it.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, I was surprised at this demand for purchase of two new cars. These posts of Commissioners were created by the British rulers for their convenience. When the country became independent in 1947, many people thought that these unnecessary posts would be abolished. The hon. Chief Minister is not in his seat at present but I would like to remind him that we had a lot of discussion about the abolition of these posts in the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. Reports were obtained from Madras and Bengal where these had been abolished and it was noticed that the Governments of those States had found no difference in the efficiency of administration after the abolition of these posts. In order to effect economy and to have surplus Budget, the Government should have reduced some items of expenditure but we notice that a demand has been made for the purchase of new cars for Commissioners. As my hon. Brother Sardar Bachan Singh pointed out, this demand is unnecessary. His Excellency also referred to the necessity of effecting economy in the cost of administration. If motor cars were required for the use of Deputy Commissioners or Superintendents of Police, there was some sense in it. These officers have to go from one place to another very frequently. The Commissioners, however, do not have

much official work. The Commissioner Jullundur Division admitted this fact before my hon. Brother Shri Dev Raj Sethi. These officers are already in receipt of fat salaries. It has been repeatedly pointed out in the Resources and Retrenchment Committee that the salaries of these white elephants should be reduced but the Government pleaded inability on the ground that these were covenanted services. Why can't Commissioners purchase new cars from their own pockets if they are very anxious to do so. If instead of asking us to sanction money for purchasing new cars for Commissioners, the Government had decided to purchase two buses for the conveyance of those low paid Government servants who live at a distance of two or three miles from Government Secretariat in Jullundur this would have given me great delight. Similarly, poor Government servants in Simla are living at Jatog, Summerhill and other distant places. If the Government had decided to get them free railway passes, it would have been a laudable object. The present demand, however, is quite unnecessary, and if I may say so, it is sheer waste of public money. The Government should not misuse Public money in this manner. If the cars have not already been bought, I shall request the hon. Chief Minister to give up the idea of spending money on their purchase.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The cars have already been bought and are being used by the Commissioners. These are about to become old now.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) :
Sir, two hon. Members have already said a lot on this demand for a small sum. I think the hon. Chief Minister should appreciate our liberal-mindedness when we make a cut motion for only ten rupees on a demand of as high a sum as Rs. 10 lakhs. But such a thing cannot help creating a feeling of pain and resentment in the heart of anybody who claims to be a Congressman. Day in and day out, we give out in the press and on the platform that the Government now is popular Government and it represents the poor. But I am sorry to say that a representative of this Government has today brought before the House a demand which is not only wholly unreasonable but also uncalled for. If we request the hon. Chief Minister to increase the salary of the poor peons by one rupee in view of the high prices prevailing now, we get a ready answer. It is said that the resources of the Government are limited and it is facing a deficit. In this way, it expresses its inability to enhance the salary of the peons just by one rupee. But now it has demanded

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

thousands of rupees for the purchase of two cars for its Commissioners. It is highly regrettable. Besides this, there is another item in this demand, amounting to Rs. 45,000 in regard to the railway saloon of the Governor.

Mr. Speaker : This particular item is charged and the hon. Member is not in order in discussing it at this stage. In the very beginning I asked if any hon. Member wanted to discuss the estimates of expenditure charged on the revenues of the State but no one rose to speak. The hon. Member can only discuss voted items of expenditure.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, it was the policy of the foreign Government to create feelings of awe and fear in the minds of our people by providing such grand cars to its officers and by building such palatial buildings as the Assembly Chamber. They tried to continue to keep a hold on the people through such means. They thought that they should impress upon Indians their grandeur and power. But I am sorry to say that with the advent of independence, our Government, instead of improving the hard lot of the people is making it harder still. Instead of decreasing its expenditure, it is bringing before the House demands for big sums to purchase cars which were not used even by the Englishmen. My hon. Sister just now said that if the cars had been purchased for the Deputy Commissioners, it would have been understandable. I would request her not to say so for God's sake, otherwise in the next Session, provision will be made for 13 cars for the Deputy Commissioners on the plea that the hon. Member suggested it. I would request the hon. Chief Minister not to follow in the old grooves. He should read the writing on the wall. No doubt, he can get any thing passed here on the strength of party whips. But if he does not mend his ways, the result will be a fierce revolution which will sweep away the Government before it. People are bitter over the disparity of life led by the big officers and that by the poor people. The poor clerk cannot give even milk to his child while the big officers are rolling in wealth and luxury. I, therefore, submit that these cars, even if they are purchased, should be taken over from the Commissioners for the use of the Transport Department of the Government.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing South-East Multan Division General,

Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, I draw your attention to the last line of this demand. It is stated therein that the amounts are to be met out of savings in the grant. These cars are being purchased for the use of the Commissioners. In this connection, I have made a list of 12 demands in which savings are to be used for those purposes. These demands, besides demand number 5, are from number 17 to 27. It is really sad that the savings should be expended as nobody's money at the present time of serious financial hardship. I would have shown such flaws in the supplementary estimates even at other places, if I had been supplied a copy of them. If we act like that at the fag end of the year, we would create bad precedents for the future. Then it would be said that since it was done in the past, it must not be discussed. All such savings should be surrendered to the funds of the Government for expenditure in the following year. I, therefore, submit that this is not a question of personal prestige for the hon. Chief Minister and his Government. He should not waste this money on the luxuries of the officers. On the other hand, it should be utilized for some other useful purpose such as the fighting of locust. If this is not done the people would say that the administration has become scandalous.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : (*Hansi, General, Rural*) (*Hindi*): Sir, what is required at the moment is that the Government should have tried to save every pice. But this is not the case. During the time of the previous Assembly, we know, the hon. Members belonging to the Congress Party used to make vehement speeches against the retention of the posts of Commissioners. But now they are not only being retained but placed on a firm footing. They are being supplied cars. The fact is that this Government has not the courage to reject any proposal that is made to it by its officers. I know that in Hissar there is hardly an officer who is without a jeep. It appears that the Government has entered into an alliance with the capitalists to fill their pockets with lakhs of rupees in this way.

Such cars go out of order every second day. As a matter of fact nobody cares for the things which do not belong to them. These cars remain, in fact, out of order for twenty days in a month. Their drivers and cleaners do not care to keep them in working order. They are not well looked after. Now-a-days our Government has given cars to many of the officers. Executive Engineers (Canals) have also been given cars. In fact, there appears to be no officer who has not received

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

a Government car. In my opinion this is mere waste of public money. The hon. Chief Minister should pay special attention to the public criticism which is directed against the present policy of waste which is being pursued by the Government. On the one side such unnecessary expenditure is incurred by the Government, while on the other side it is always clamouring for more and more money for running the administration of the State. In the last budget session, abiana was increased and this time also some more taxes are coming. Under these circumstances it is regrettable that no steps are taken for effecting savings in expenditure. Every time new taxes are imposed. I am at a loss to understand all this. Were all those things, which those in power to day used to say to the people before partition, simply meant for taking the masses with them? Were they merely making empty promises without any intention of fulfilling them? My submission is that most of the expenditure which our Government is incurring is unnecessary and wasteful. At present the need is to save as much money as possible. If no saving is effected at this time the financial position of our State will become extremely bad. At present what our Government does is that without scrutinizing them, it goes on accepting all the proposals which the officers send up, with the result that much wasteful expenditure which can easily be checked is not stopped. If this policy of Government continues, besides bringing-in the economic ruin of the State, the present Government will itself lose the confidence of the people. The expenditure which our Government incurs is wasteful. Even countries like America do not indulge in such luxuries. My submission is that the expenditure on cars should be saved. The Government should not take a stand on false notions of prestige. Even if it has made a mistake in incurring this unnecessary expenditure, it is never too late to mend. To err is human. The Government should even at this late hour decide that it would not spend on this item. We have seen, sometime back, that in the matter of abolition of Zaildari also the Government admitted its mistake and decided to retrace its steps and to reappoint Zaildars, of course, under a different nomenclature. Any how I wish that in this matter also our Government should try to revert to the former position and save unnecessary expenditure. There is no harm in doing so. Formerly the officers used to go to the villages on horse back. There is no reason why they cannot continue doing so. If we look at the problem from the point of view of the public at

large, going about on horse-back has its advantages which the Government should not ignore. When the officers toured the villages on horse-back they came into closer contact with the people. They used to go and stay outside for some days at least. But what do the officers do now? They go swiftly in cars and return to their headquarters in evening. They cannot miss the evening parties and the game of cards; what can such officers do for the poor people in the villages? I most humbly submit, Sir, that we have achieved independence only recently. For God's sake try to keep it! At present the state of officers is such that there is a fear that the whole of the structure might crumble down. My submission is that the Government should try to be strict towards the officers so that those of them who do not work may be made to work with all their energies in the interests of poor people. The means of communication that at present exist for them are sufficient for the time being. What is wanted is that work is taken out of them. If we go on providing them with comfortable means they will work less. With these words I appeal to the hon. Members to reject this item of demand for expenditure.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*): Sir, I have been listening to the criticism made by some of the hon. Members. I am pleased to hear from the lips of Chaudhri Suraj Mal, a former member of the Unionist Party, that I used to criticize the policy of the Unionist Party for not paying attention to the needs of the poor. I am glad that he now feels that I was right in voicing the needs of the people then.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: 'Yes, the hon. Chief Minister says things but he never does.

Chief Minister: Sir, another thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that some days back it was agreed upon by all the Members that the convention of not criticising those who are not in a position to defend themselves on the floor of the House, should be respected. But it is regrettable that my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal has remarked that officers play cards etc. at night.....

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: It was a general remark. I did not refer to any individual.

Chief Minister: Now, Sir, another thing to which I would like to refer is the question of T. A. Some of the hon. Members have betrayed their ignorance of this matter. As a matter of fact the

[Chief Minister]

T. A. given to the Commissioners is fixed. There is no question of their drawing more T. A. if they undertake more tours. Sometime back the Commissioner of Ambala Division was given the work of Ludhiana District in addition to his own duties because the work of Jullundur Division was more heavy. After partition, the whole of the district of Gurdaspur and half of the Tehsil of Kasur were attached to Jullundur Division. There was also more work in Jullundur due to Rehabilitation. Moreover, Jullundur Division being near the border of India and Pakistan its Commissioner has to undertake certain duties of political nature. Due to all this, work in both the Divisions has increased considerably after partition. The fixed amount of T. A. which a Commissioner used to get was Rs. 250/ per month. Due to increased work and touring duty it was represented to the Government that T. A. should be given in accordance with the tours undertaken and that it should not be fixed. We considered the representation and after calculations it was found out that if the Commissioners were provided with cars the Government would stand to gain in comparison with the expenses of giving T. A. according to the mileage of the tours. Moreover if cars were provided it would lead to an increase in efficiency because, generally, the Commissioners have to undertake extensive tours.

Another criticism that has been levelled against the Government is that whatever the Commissioners and other officers propose from below the Government accept it. This is not so. The Chief Secretary is the head of the General Administration. Whenever any proposal is put up before him from below he looks into it to see that it is not unnecessary and improper. When he goes through it and finds it desirable he sends it to the Finance Secretary. The Finance Secretary also goes into the necessity of the proposal and if both of them agree that it should be sent up, it is only then that it comes before the Cabinet for consideration and a decision is taken. So it is not as easy for the proposals to be accepted, as some of the hon. Members have tried to show.

Now I come to the point regarding the provision of Jeeps to the Deputy Commissioners as some of my hon. Friends have taken objection to it. I may tell the House that a jeep moves faster than a car and that it can easily reach a place which is ordinarily not accessible by a car. So in view of the extensive touring required of the Deputy Commissioners in connection with the 'Grow More Food'

campaign and for visiting remote places in their districts for administrative purposes, Government decided to provide them with speedy means of transport in the form of jeeps. Besides this Government has also decided that all the Government cars provided to different officers of various departments should be pooled. The idea is that a car should be placed at the disposal of an officer whenever he needs it for the performance of a particular duty and when the task is accomplished, the car should be taken back from him and given to some other officer of another department in connection with the accomplishment of some work entrusted to him. Thus all the officers will be able to make use of these cars whenever they stand in need of them. In other words it also means that the necessity of replacement of a car will not arise and no new purchases of cars will be made. Then I may also point out that the members of the Estimates Committee decided in favour of the disposal of the cars of the Commissioners. It goes without saying that no loss will be incurred on this account because as a result of the rise in price, these cars will certainly fetch the cost price at which they were purchased.

Then, Sir, I forgot to make a mention of one thing and that is this. Government has decided that those officers who own cars should not be allowed any travelling allowance. Besides, they will get daily allowance only if they stay during the nights outside their headquarters. That is if they return to their headquarters in the evening they will not be entitled to any daily allowance which was permissible previously. Hon. Members will realise that this step on the part of the Government will result in a substantial saving to it in the matter of travelling allowances to the officers.

There is yet one more point in regard to Government cars which I would like to make a mention of. The Government has arrived at a decision that all the Government cars should be placed under the supervision of the Transport Department which will be responsible for their repair and maintenance etc. Even the drivers of these cars will be under the administrative control of the Transport Department which will see that these drivers look after the cars well and keep them in perfect working order. I am sure and the hon. Members would agree with me that keeping in view the economy and efficiency there can be no other measures better than the ones adopted by the Government in respect of this matter. I, therefore, hope that the House will unanimously approve of the token demand put forward by the Government. It needs no mention that if the members of the Estimates

[Chief Minister]

Committee also do not accord their approval, then the cars will be disposed of.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of General Administration.

The motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Chief Minister : I move :—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,460 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951, in respect of "Administration of Justice".

The motion was carried,

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

Chief Minister : I move :—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 46,910 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951, in respect of "Jails and Convict Settlements"

The motion was carried.

POLICE.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,11,970 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951, in respect of "Police".

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951, in respect of "Agriculture".

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,29,220 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951, in respect of "Civil Works".

The motion was carried.

FAMINE.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,42,830 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951, in respect of "Famine".

The motion was carried.

ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,64,020 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "Allowances and Pensions."

The motion was carried.

ADVANCES NOT BEARING INTEREST—ADVANCES REPAYABLE.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 83,540 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951, in respect of "Advances not bearing interest—Advances Repayable".

The motion was carried.

LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 19,59,440 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "Loans and Advances bearing Interest".

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES (CAPITAL).

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,320 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951, in respect of "Irrigation Establishment Charges (Capital)".

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved -

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,320 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951, in respect of "Irrigation Establishment Charges (Capital)".

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 2,33,140 on account of Bhakra Dam Establishment J-I-Chief Engineer Travelling Allowances be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

Mr. Speaker, the object of my cut motion is to discuss the travelling allowance of the Chief Engineer, Bhakra Dam and the manner in which it is drawn by him. If you just peruse page 39 of the Supple-

mentary Estimates, you will come across an item of Rs. 2,33,140/-. The whole of this amount has been earmarked for the payment of travelling allowance. In this connection I may point out that today in reply to one of my questions, Government supplied me with a statement which clearly indicated that whereas the Engineers of our State were first-rate experts in their art, they were equally expert in drawing travelling allowances. (*laughter*). Not only this. Whatever department it may be, whether it is Irrigation, Bhakra Dam Project Circle or the Public Works Department, the Chief Engineers controlling these departments are past masters in the realisation of travelling allowances and they beat all other high officers of the State in this respect. I feel that payment of such a large amount of travelling allowance to these officers tantamounts to putting a heavy burden on our Exchequer. I think it is our bounden duty to discourage the drawing of travelling allowance in such large amounts, as we find, provided in the Supplementary Estimates. I hope that Government will pay due attention to this matter.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I would just invite your attention to page 40 of the Supplementary Estimates. On perusal you will find that whereas a provision has been made for the grant of special pays to high salaried officers, the poor dafties and peons are given such meagre salaries that it becomes well-nigh impossible for them to make their both ends meet. Now it is abundantly clear that if these poor peons serving in the Irrigation Department, find it hard to support their families, they will naturally try to extract something out of the zamindars. In other words they would be driven to accept illegal gratification from the zamindars. They may not ask for bribes directly from the zamindars but they would adopt such methods by which the latter, in their own interest, would be compelled to grease the palms of the latter, who in the contrary case would certainly put obstructions in their way. For instance, if you would like to see the Executive Engineer, his peon would not let you do so unless you bribe him. Similarly the draughtsman would not put up your file till you have paid him something by way of illegal gratification.

I think that the morale of our administration should be high. It is a pity that on the one hand Government makes declarations of one thing but on the other it fails to act upon it. Since I am going to close my speech, I would again submit that to fix the salaries of daftaries and peons at Rs. 30/- and Rs. 25 per mensem respectively

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

tantamounts to a great injustice as it is well-nigh impossible for them to make their both ends meet with these meagre salaries. I will not mind if there is a reasonable difference between the salaries of the poor peons and officers but this disparity should not be so wide that whereas the poor peons should die of starvation, the officers should make merry and enjoy life to their utmost. With these words, I finish my speech and resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved-

That the item of Rs. 2,33,140/ on account of Bhakra Dam Establishment-J-I-Chief Engineer-Travelling Allowances be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, it is laid down in paragraph 4, page 44 of the Supplementary Estimates that it was decided by the Government to send the Chief Engineer, Bhakra Dam, Finance Secretary and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission to Europe for recruitment of technicians for the Bhakra and Nangal Projects. On the one hand the hon. Ministers talk of meagre public finance and on the other hard-earned money of the State is ruthlessly wasted on deputations to foreign countries. We have never heard of any deputations being sent by the Government of India for recruiting engineers for any of their projects. I am really constrained to remark that the money of the State has been spent for the recreation of the officers of the Government. As a matter of fact the expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with the deputation of the officers was absolutely unnecessary. I think my hon. Friends will agree with me when I say that such a step was never taken by any Government in the United Punjab where projects of no less importance than those undertaken by our Government were also under construction. I really fail to understand as to why our Government thought it advisable to send a deputation of officers abroad simply for making a few appointments. After all what justification can our Government give to the hon. Members of this House in deputing the Finance Secretary for the recruitment of the engineers? Being a layman in engineering, he was not the right person to make the selection from amongst the candidates. I also do not find any justification for the Government in deputing the Chairman of the Public Service Commission for the recruitment of the technicians. If at all it was intended to make these appointments through the Public Service Commission, then the remaining two

members of the Commission should not have been ignored. If it was the intention of the Government to send these officials on deputation simply for the sake of a pleasure trip abroad, then there was no necessity to send the Chairman of the Public Service Commission as he has already been there many a time. At least the Zamindar Member of this Commission should have been sent with the delegation as he has not been to any foreign country so far. If it was not advisable to include both of these members then at least one of them particularly the Zamindar member of the Commission should have been sent with the deputation just for a pleasure trip on Government expense and of course with the excuse of interviewing the candidates. After all what has made the Government take such an absolutely unnecessary step? It was not a big job for the Government to invite the applications of the technicians. It was not a difficult problem for the Government to select the suitable technicians after going through their qualifications etc., It could have called them for interview here in India. In fact there stood nothing in the way of the Government in calling for the necessary qualifications etc., from them. These particulars could have been obtained through wireless. In this way our Government could have saved a lot of money which otherwise has been spent by the members of the deputation on their pleasure trips on Government expense abroad. I have not been able to follow as to how these officers were able to select the technicians by merely reading the faces of the candidates that they were really qualified technicians. This is how public money has been wasted ruthlessly on the members of this deputation who toured France, Germany, Italy and other places simply for interviewing a few technicians. Unfortunately the Government of our State has fallen in weak hands. The people outside this House are condemning the Government for wasting public money ruthlessly. In fact they are cursing the Government for the state of affairs prevailing at present in our State. (*Interruptions and Noise*). It is really a matter of deep regret that an illiterate Minister who claims to be the representative of the Haryana Prant..... (*Noise*)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. No insinuation please.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: Sir, I am speaking on behalf of the people of Haryana. It is a pity that in spite of the fact that the Department of Public Works Capital) has already been taken away from him, he still continues to call himself the Minister for Public Works. (*Laughter*). The fact of the matter is that the hon. Chief Minister has kept all the departments to himself.

[Chaudhri Lahri Singh]

Further my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal has in the course of his speech said today that there was no justification for the Government in providing the Commissioners with the State-owned cars. I have been given to understand that every Deputy Commissioner has been provided with a horse and a syce. This is how the administration is carried on by the Government and how money is being wasted ruthlessly. I am constrained to remark that this Government is playing with the poor people of the State. In fact it is carrying the State towards ruin. After all what justification was there for the Government to send abroad the Finance Secretary and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission who have no technical knowledge in matters relating to engineering? In my opinion if it was necessary at all to interview the candidates in their respective countries, then the Chief Engineer was the only competent person to make these appointments. It seems that all the three members brought pressure upon the hon. Chief Minister to depute them for making these appointments, and ultimately succeeded in getting the needful done. It is really a matter of deep regret that our hon. Ministers yield in no time to the officers so much so that whatever they tell them to do, they do so with their eyes shut. For instance if an officer wants them to provide him with a Government car, no time is lost in providing him with the same. Similarly when the members of the deputation approached them to find out a way for their pleasure trip abroad, no time was lost in sending them for interviewing the technicians.

I hope the hon. Chief Minister will not hesitate to give the reasons why the Finance Secretary and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission who had absolutely no technical knowledge about the matters regarding engineering had been sent on deputation abroad. The people outside this House want to know how money is being spent for the good of the State. I would once again request him to explain the position so far as this matter is concerned.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindi*):

Sir, I have stood up to support whatever my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh has said on this supplementary demand. I am very glad to say that my hon. Friend has today voiced his true feelings before the House. I know that several times questions have been asked on the floor of the House with regard to this item but no satisfactory reply was given by the Government. I would say that

the Government cannot justify this extravagant expenditure in any way. When the last session of the Assembly was about to finish a strong rumour was afloat that the Punjab Government was sending a delegation to Europe to select technicians for Bhakra Project. There was a growing feeling of resentment among the public against such a proposal of the Government. Excepting one or two persons who might have approved of such a proposal and that too for having personal connections with the persons selected, the public at large did not favour such an idea of the Government. Such an expenditure was nothing but sheer waste of public money. This supplementary demand has now been put forward before the House and the Government knows full well that it will surely be passed by the Assembly. In fact this expenditure has already been incurred. But I would like to tell the House how this Government which claims to be a popular Government and representative of the people is throwing dust in the eyes of public by squandering public money. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh has rightly remarked that such a colossal waste of expenditure cannot be justified by the Government. The reasons for this sorry state of affairs are not far to seek. Our Government has fallen into such weak hands that our hon. Chief Minister dare not say 'No' to any proposal made by the officers. It is strange enough that persons who are not themselves experts should be sent abroad to recruit specialists and technicians. I would say that it is almost like expecting a student of primary class to examine an M.A. student—a thing unheard of. I should say that the Government has acted very carelessly in handling public finance and has thus robbed the taxpayers who fill in a large measure the coffers of the Government. (*Voice*: No zamindar was sent with this delegation) You may cut jokes with zamindars but in fact this is not such a matter on which anybody may feel rejoiced. This State is predominantly a land of zamindars and 80% of population is that of agriculturists who contribute in a large measure to the Government exchequer. It ill-behoves the hon Members to cut jokes with the zamindars who satisfy the primary needs of the people in peace time and take up swords to protect them in time of danger. This State in fact belongs to zamindars and they will always have an effective voice in the administration of the State. We are having a top-heavy administration in the Irrigation Department as all the Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Sub Divisional officers are all Hindus and Sikhs and they all migrated here after the partition of the State. I think this burden should be shared by the Central Government as well. The number of Executive Engineers has been increased and

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

there has also been an increase in the number of Superintending Engineers and Chief Engineers as compared to the strength that we had in the joint Punjab.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not discuss the Chief Engineers.

Chief Minister : Sir, he is discussing all the Chief Engineers. They are not covered by the demand so I will not be able to give him a reply.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : On page 39, you will find a mention of one Chief Engineer, two Superintending Engineers, eight Executive Engineers and so on.

Chief Minister : He can discuss this Chief Engineer only but he cannot speak about all the Chief Engineers and the staff which came over from Pakistan and was absorbed here.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I am speaking on the demand and I have every right to do so.

Chief Minister : Then you are opposing the whole demand.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Yes I am opposing the whole demand. Sir, you will find on this page a mention of the pay of Chief Engineer, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers. I would say here by way of general remark that the number of these officers is in excess of the requirement. I should say that the Government is itself responsible for increasing expenditure on the Irrigation Department, and then comes forward to make an appeal before the House that its expenditure must be met with from the revenues of this Department. Then it comes forward with the plea that it is a commercial department and 'abiana' must be increased to cope with the increased expenditure. The Government's policy is just like that of a man who engaged five servants when he could easily carry on with the work with the help of two servants only. If such a person could not afford in the end to pay the salary of five servants then he was to be blamed and none else. The Government by employing large number of officers in this department has made the expenditure disproportionately high. The responsibility for making the administration top-heavy lies upon the Government itself. If the Government goes on the right road and incurs legitimate expenditure however enormous it may be, I think no sane person would offer any criticism to the incurring of such expenditure.

But, Sir, if the Government goes on expanding the strength of the staff unnecessarily with the object of providing jobs to its own men in a spirit of favouritism and then ask the people to pay more taxes, it would manifestly be a wrong thing to do. To my mind it appears that the strength of the higher staff *i. e.*, the Chief Engineers, the Superintending Engineers and the Executive Engineers has been deliberately increased to such an extent that none of the high officers has to work even for four or five days in a month. I have to say many things more about this Department but I reserve them for the general discussion on the Budget. I endorse the views expressed by Chaudhri Lahri Singh in this regard and urge the Government to avoid wastage of public funds by such extravagant methods in future.

Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, I think it necessary to say something about this item of Rs. 3,80,900 which has been spent in connection with the deputation of officers to Europe and U.S.A. from time to time. Out of this amount, travelling allowance alone accounts for Rs. 2,33,140. It is explained in the 'Supplementary Estimates' that in the first meeting of the Bhakra Control Board, it was decided to send Secretary, B.D., Secretary Finance Department and the Chairman Public Service Commission to Europe for recruitment of technicians.

Sir, as you may be remembering when this proposal was placed before the House, voice of opposition was raised by many an hon. Member and the consensus of opinion was that it would be a waste of public funds to squander money on this proposal. Accordingly the Government was urged to avoid this extravagance since the State finances could ill-afford it but to no effect. Now that a demand to make provision for this expenditure is under discussion, I would once again like to bring this point home to this House and through it the Government that it was unnecessary and improper to spend so much money on this account. Indeed I would be failing in my duty if I neglect to do so, since the item relates to lakhs of rupees and not a few thousand rupees. I hope when the hon. Chief Minister rises to reply to my objections, he will explain in detail as to why it had become absolutely necessary to send all these officers abroad and incur this expenditure.

Then, Sir, if some highly qualified engineers had been sent abroad on this mission, it would have been understandable. But as

[Shri Ram Sharma]

to why the Finance Secretary and the Chairman, Public Service Commission were deputed for this purpose passes my comprehension. However capable these officers might be in their own work, it was too much to expect of them to recruit suitable technical men for the construction of Bhakra Dam in foreign countries. How could they be expected to assess correctly the suitability of various candidates for a particular technical job and to make the right selection? Even if the hon. Chief Minister were to take upon himself this task of recruiting technicians, I doubt if it would have been accomplished in a satisfactory manner. It is a matter for thought, Sir, as to what the object of the Government was in sending the Finance Secretary abroad. It was not a question of recruiting a huge staff involving crores of rupees that his presence with the deputation was necessary in order to certify whether the Provincial Exchequer would be able to bear this extra burden or not nor was it a question of entering into any transactions likely to result in a huge loss or profit to the Government that availability of his advice on the spot was considered essential. Again, what was the necessity of sending the Chairman, Public Service Commission abroad for securing the services of technicians? Would the propose not have been served by sending a capable engineer? So far, I have not been able to understand and appreciate the reasons which prompted the Government to send these two officers abroad. Sir, even if you were to think over this matter, with all your experience

Mr. Speaker : Please leave me alone. It is not for me to say anything either way.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I was not going to say any impertinent thing. I cannot even address you without using the word 'Sir' and if I have to convey anything to anyone in this House I can only do so through you. So I was saying that even you will find it difficult to comprehend it. I would request the hon. Chief Minister to take the House into his confidence by explaining the reasons why it was considered absolutely necessary to send these officers to Europe. I think it would have been somewhat better if he had himself gone instead of sending them because he could singly have performed all the functions, being the Chief as well as the Finance Minister having all the necessary authority.

I think it would have been much better if the hon. Chief Minister instead of sending these two officers abroad had himself gone to select the necessary staff for the construction of the Bhakra Dam. I may be guilty of repetition but I am indulging in it on purpose so that I may be able to impress my views on the Government.

Mr. Speaker : But kindly leave some time for the hon. Chief Minister to give a reply.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I think that there can be no reply to my objections. However, I wish to say something about the Bhakra Control Board. In my opinion much unnecessary expenditure has been incurred on this Board. The Members of the Board have power to sanction huge amounts of money, and such a thing should not have been tolerated by our Chief Minister who happens to be in-charge of the Irrigation Department of the State. To me it appears that this Ministry is not making use of the powers which this august House has given them. I daresay that they are abdicating in favour of the officers and such a step on their part is diametrically opposed to the democratic practice in other countries of the world. In other countries where the democratic Governments are in power they try to have more and more authority but unfortunately here in his State reverse is the case. We have given powers to the Ministry and they have transferred them to the Governor and the officers. It is really a pity that the Governor of the State has been made the Chairman of the Control Board. This office should have been occupied by the Chief Minister himself. As things stand we are apprehensive whether the Punjab is going to get an adequate supply of water from the Bhakra Dam. In these circumstances, I respectfully request that the hon. Chief Minister should kindly explain the two questions relating to the sending of officers abroad and the Bhakra Control Board. He should kindly tell us as to why he did not go abroad for the selection of the staff and also why he did not like to become the Chairman of the Bhakra Dam Control Board.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, *(Hindi)* : Sir, this demand concerns the Bhakra Dam Control Board and the staff which went abroad in connection with the Bhakra Dam work. This Bhakra Dam is going to be the second biggest dam in the entire world. It is going to be 1,670 feet above the sea level and 670 feet above the place where it is being constructed, the place being 1,000 feet above the

[Chief Minister]

sea level. Such a structure can be built by only three firms in the World. And then this Dam is to supply water not only to the Punjab but to the Pepsu, Rajisthan and Bilaspur State which is a centrally administered area. It is the Government of India who have undertaken to supply the finances for this project by way of a loan. The Government of India has promised to advance a sum of rupees one hundred and thirty crores in the course of a few years for completing the irrigation and the electricity schemes under this project. Now as I have said that the Government of India had to advance the necessary loan and that besides the Punjab there were three other beneficiaries under the project the question of the construction of the Dam could not be settled by the Punjab alone. A decision had to be taken in consultation with the Government of India and other States Ministries. So the common decision was that a joint Control Board be set up and it should have technical powers. So far as administrative powers were concerned, they were given to the Punjab Government. It was also decided that the work in connection with the Dam was to be done by the Department and not by some foreign firm. So, as the work was to be got done departmentally, some experts had to be engaged and the necessary designs and machinery had to be seen in other countries. For this purpose we sent our engineers to other countries in 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51. In all these three years we had to spend on them a sum of Rs. 3,80,900. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh in his speech remarked that this poor State cannot bear such a huge burden. But my hon. Friend forgets that this expenditure includes the expenditure which was incurred on the engineers who were sent abroad when he himself was in the Ministry. My hon. Friend also said that such expenditure entails the imposition of Abiana on the poor kisans and was oblivious of the fact that the Abiana also was levied in his own time.

'Sir, the expenditure of Rs. 3,80,900 on account of sending our engineers abroad was incurred in three years namely 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51. No doubt some amount was sanctioned by this House last year for the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 but payments could not be made as bills had not been received from the High Commissioner in London. The High Commissioner's bill is for Rs. 94,600 and the expenditure for the year 1950-51 is Rs. 1,38,540. All this expenditure was inevitable as our engineers had to go and personally see the dams in Europe and America. It would not have been possible for any engineer to prepare the design of this Bhakra Dam without having seen the dams and the

experts in France, Norway and Sweden, and we think we were justified in spending Rs. 27,200 for their visit to the U.S.A., Rs. 13,640 for their visit to Europe and Rs. 46,300 on their return passage.

Sir, it has been asked as to why was the Chairman of the Public Service Commission sent for the selection of the staff required in connection with the Dam in preference to a zamindar member of the Commission, I can only say that we requested the Members of the Public Service Commission to lend us the services of one of them and they nominated their Chairman for this purpose.

I wish to remind the House that when I requested the hon. Members to permit the Government to employ a few officers for the Capital project without the aid of Public Service Commission, it was strongly objected to. We were asked not to oust the Public Service Commission in such matters. Why should there be any objection now, if Chairman of the Public Service Commission was sent abroad for recruiting technical experts. According to the Constitution, if the Government employs any officer without the consultation of Public Service Commission, the whole matter has to be placed before the House for its approval. Then it was said as to why Finance Secretary was sent abroad. I wish to tell the House, that whenever any matter involving expenditure is concerned, the concurrence of the Finance Department is necessary. We did not know the amount of salary which the experts would have to be paid. The Chairman of the Public Service Commission, could not be given the power of incurring expenditure. Concurrence of the Finance Secretary was necessary. It will, therefore, become clear to the hon. Members that it was essential to send both these officers for recruiting foreign experts. The Government could not afford to be stingy in this matter nor could it waste time. Bhakra project is going to cost 130 crores of rupees and it is necessary that those in-charge of it should have proper knowledge. They can prove more useful after attaining knowledge about such projects in other countries. If the Government did not send their engineers to foreign countries or did not recruit foreign experts, it would have become necessary for us to entrust the execution of the project to foreign firms. That would have been much more expensive. The engineers who were sent for training to foreign countries, will not only prove useful for the Bhakra project, but their services can be availed of anywhere in India where some such project has to be undertaken. All this expenditure is charged to the capital project. The hon. Members can imagine

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the extent of loss that would be caused if the dam which is to be constructed over an area of 170 square miles of land, gives way on account of some defect in it. In that case the entire money spent on it would go waste. This project is intended for irrigating un cultivated lands, so that more food might be produced. Unless the country produces more food and undertakes river valley projects, we can make no progress. The Government of India proposes to pass a Bill, under which they can take all river valley projects in their own hands. We are opposing that measure. Huge projects like Damodar Valley Project and Hirakud Dam Scheme have been undertaken in the country. These schemes are much bigger than Bhakra Project. The representatives of Government of India are present on the bodies which have to execute those schemes. When the Government of India advances money, they want to be sure that it is being properly spent. One representative of the Finance Department of the Government of India and one of their engineers are members of the Board set up for the Bhakra Project. It is wrong to say that we have abdicated our powers. If a project is meant for the benefit of two or more States, it becomes essential that their representatives should work together. The Board cannot act against our wishes. We will have effective voice in it because its sixty per cent members will be our nominees. The Board which will be useful for us cannot act against our wishes.

Shri Ram Sharma : Why has the hon. Chief Minister not been appointed the Chairman of the Board?

Chief Minister : I shall deal with that question on some other occasion. Now I have no time.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 2,33,140/- on account of Bhakra Dam Establishment J-1-Chief Engineer-Travelling Allowances-be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,320 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1951 in respect of "Irrigation Establishment Charges (Capital)."

The motion was carried.

The following Demands were then put from the Chair and carried:-

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,930 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Commuted Value of Pensions".

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Education"

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Medical and Public Health"

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Veterinary".

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Industries".

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Electricity Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenditure".

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Miscellaneous".

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Irrigation Works (Capital)".

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Capital Account of Civil Works".

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Capital Account of Electricity Schemes".

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year

ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Capital Account of Other Provincial Works".

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1951 in respect of "Provincial Schemes of State Trading".

*The Assembly then adjourned till 11 a. m. on Tuesday,
13th March 1951.*

P.S. X

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

13th MARCH 1951

Vol. III — No. 8.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 13th March, 1951.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 11 A. M. of the
Clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DEARNESS AND COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AT SIMLA.

2755. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the amounts paid every month to Government servants serving at Simla in the form of dearness and compensatory allowances separately ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table.†

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us the ratio in which the dearness and Compensatory allowances are given to the low paid and high salaried government servants ?

† Kept in the library.

Chief Minister : I am sorry I cannot give the exact figures at present. But this much I can say that the Compensatory or the Simla allowance is a fixed amount which is given only to the non-gazetted Government servants and also to the Secretariat Superintendents and the P. A.'s of the hon. Ministers. Gazetted officers are not eligible for this allowance.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the amount of allowance paid to the peons and the P. A.'s of the hon. Ministers ?

Chief Minister : I cannot give details off-hand but as regards peons, I am aware that they get Simla allowance equal to 50 per cent of their salary.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that the peons get only two rupees per mensem as temporary allowance ?

Chief Minister : This is quite different from the compensatory allowance, which is a hill allowance.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know whether dearness allowance and compensatory allowance are paid to the subordinate services as well as to the gazetted officers ?

Chief Minister : Dearness allowance is paid to all Government servants according to certain rules but so far as compensatory allowance is concerned, only non-gazetted officers are eligible to receive it.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Is it not necessary that the low paid Government servants should be given a high proportion of allowances as compared with the high salaried officers as the former are financially more hard-up than the latter ?

Chief Minister : It is a question of opinion.

Mr. Speaker : It is a suggestion.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Simla hill allowance is paid at a fixed ratio to both the gazetted and the non-gazetted officers ?

Chief Minister : The question relates to details and I cannot answer it off-hand.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that compensatory allowance is paid to non-gazetted officers only. But I read from the statement supplied to me, that a provision has been made for the payment of compensatory allowance to the Military Secretary to the Governor ?

Chief Minister : It is not for the Military Secretary himself. It is for the staff of his office.

Mr. Speaker : Next question please.

SUSPENSION OF P. C. S. OFFICERS.

***2759. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of P.C.S. officers in State suspended by the Government during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st December, 1950;
- (b) the number of those officers who have since been reinstated;
- (c) the amount spent by the Government on inquiries in connection with such cases ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) 8
- (b) 7.
- (c) It is regretted that the information asked for in this part of the question is not available and the time and the labour involved in its collection will not be commensurate with the benefit accruing from it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the statement made by the hon. Chief Minister that out of 8 suspended officers 7 were ultimately re-instated, may I know whether it is due to miscarriage of justice that eight officers were suspended and then afterwards seven of them were re-instated ?

Chief Minister : I don't think that it arises out of the main question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, the hon. Chief Minister has replied to part (b) of the question that out of the 8 suspended officers, seven were re-instated. My point is whether 8 officers were suspended under some erroneous impression or the re-instatement of seven out of the eight suspended, has been brought about by mistake ?

Chief Minister : Sir, if you refer to the main question, you will see that in part (b) the information sought is with regard to the number of officers suspended and re-instated and that information I have supplied. As regards the supplementary question, it does not arise. However, if the hon. Member gives notice, information will be collected.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly state whether an enquiry in the case of suspended officers is held departmentally or some special committee has been set up to hold the enquiry in such cases ?

Chief Minister : That is a hypothetical question. But if the hon. Lady Member cites some concrete case, necessary information will be collected.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Is it for the hon. Leader of the House to say that a particular question is hypothetical or for the Chair to decide that ?

Mr. Speaker : Take it as his reply. (*Laughter*)

Sadar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether any action has been taken against those persons who had made false reports against the officers who have been re-instated ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice for this, I will collect the necessary information.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether these 7 officers who have been re-instated, were found to be quite innocent after a proper inquiry ?

Chief Minister : The question was with regard to the number of officers suspended and re-instated and not about the information now being sought by the hon. Member. I, therefore, require notice if the hon. Member wants this particular information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly state whether an officer is suspended merely on the report of a certain person or whether after a *prima facie* case has been established that his suspension is ordered ?

Chief Minister : There are certain rules on the point and I refer the hon. Member to those rules

OFFICERS GETTING MORE THAN RS. 1000/-P.M. IN THE STATE.

*2762. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

- (a) the names and designations of officers who are getting more than one thousand rupees per month in the State;
- (b) the pay of each of these officers on the 15th August, 1947?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a)&(b) The hon. Member may kindly refer to the Punjab Civil Lists 1948 and 1950.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The Chief Minister has replied that I should refer to the Civil List but the fact is that most of the things which this Government is doing are against the essence of the Civil List and the spirit of the Government Service Rules ?

Chief Minister : Sir, the question runs like this-

the names and designations of officers who are getting more than one thousand rupees per month in the State;

and my reply is that the hon. Member can get this information from the Civil List. Where is the question of going against the rules ?

Mr. Speaker : When was the latest Civil List published ?

Chief Minister : In 1950.

Mr. Speaker : Questions asking for information which is available in documents published by the Government are not admitted. I admitted this question as I was under the impression that the Civil List was published in 1948 or 1949.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Many posts have been created by the Government just to oblige their friends and their names and designations are not mentioned in the Civil List. I also wanted to know "the pay of each of these officers on the 15th August, 1947".

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member can refer to the Civil List for 1947 and that for 1950 and compare the figures.

CANCELLATION OF ARMS LICENCES IN DISTRICT HISSAR.

***2826. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the arms licences of certain persons were cancelled by the District Magistrate, Hissar vide his order, dated 19-7-1950 ; if so, their list together with their full home addresses ;
- (b) the reasons for cancelling these licences ;
- (c) whether they were given any chance by the District Magistrate to put up their defence before the cancellation of their licences ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. The licences of three persons were cancelled by the District Magistrate, Hissar by his order dated the 19th July, 1950.
- (b) These licensees were taking active part in instigating tenants to resist ejections, to take forcible possession of lands and to stage satyagrah with the display of their firearms. This had created a very unhealthy effect in the public and amounted to interference in the district administration.
- (c) No. It was unnecessary, as the District Magistrate was satisfied about their undesirable activities in connection with the tenants' agitation. It might be added that the law does not make it necessary that a licensee must be heard before his licence is cancelled or suspended.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the licensees were taking active part in instigating tenants. May I know if the licence of Chaudhri Devi Lal brother of Chaudhri Sahib Ram, an hon. Member of this House has also been suspended for taking part in such activities ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that the licensees were taking active part in instigating the tenants. If the person as referred to by the hon. Member has also taken part in that agitation, then action must have been taken against him also.

SALARY ETC. OF HONOURABLE MINISTERS IN THE STATE.

***2827. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) (i) the total amount received up till 31-1-51 by each of the hon. Ministers appointed from time to time during the period 15-8-47 to 31-1-51 as salary ;
- (ii) the total amount, if any, received by each of them as Compensatory Allowance (Simla Hill Allowance) up till 31-1-51 ;
- (b) the total amount received by each of the hon. Ministers referred to in part (a) above for the period noted therein as conveyance allowance ;
- (c) the period of tenure of office of each of honourable Ministers appointed from time to time up till 31-1-51 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table.†

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know why the hon. Ministers draw the road travelling allowance in addition to the conveyance allowance of which this House has already given its approval ?

Mr. Speaker : They draw these allowances according to set rules and regulations.

†Kept in the Library

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In view of the fact that the hon. Ministers already draw a fairly good amount of Conveyance allowance, may I know why they are drawing the road travelling allowance ?

Mr. Speaker : You have given your approval to the grant of these allowances.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : No, Sir, we have not given any approval so far as the grant of road travelling allowance is concerned.

QUESTIONS Nos. 2828, 2829, AND 2830 (STARRED).

Mr. Speaker : Questions Nos. 2828, 2829 and 2830 are postponed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. How is it that those questions which affect the prestige of the Government or do not suit them are always postponed?

Mr. Speaker : Supposing a question is not postponed and the hon. Minister gives a reply 'that the answer is not yet ready' then in that case that question will not be printed again on the order paper. On the other hand, if a question is postponed, it again comes up. So that it is always better that instead of giving an interim reply, the Government sends an intimation to my office for the postponement of a question or questions. The replies to those questions are given afterwards.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : How is it that questions which are embarrassing to the Government are not replied to and are postponed?

Mr. Speaker : To me it appears that every question must be embarrassing to the Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I gave notice of a question in 1948 but it was not replied for want of time. I again put that question in 1949 but got the same reply that its answer was not ready.

Mr. Speaker : I notice that hon. Members generally send in questions when the Assembly Session is about to commence. This time only five Members sent in notices of questions and out of those questions about 75% were from only one hon. Member, Sadar Sajjan Singh. If notices of questions are sent in earlier, the Government will be in a better position to get ready their replies in time. I would

therefore request the hon. Members to send in their questions well in advance to enable the Government to get the required information in time.

Shri Praboda Chandra : I gave notice of a question in 1948 and the reply was that its answer was not ready and the required information was being collected. But the same thing was repeated in 1949.

Mr. Speaker : Which was that question? If the hon. Member sends me its particulars, I shall make the necessary enquiries.

GRANTS TO HARIJAN AND MAZHBI SIKHS FOR REPAIRS OF THEIR HOUSES.

*2849. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount sanctioned by the Government in the shape of grants for the poor Harijans and Mazhbi Sikhs for the repairs of their houses damaged by recent floods in the State ;
- (b) the amount already disbursed by the district authorities in the Amritsar district; if there has been no disbursement the reasons therefor?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) No distinction between Harijans, Mazhbi Sikhs and other classes was made in sanctioning grants for the repairs of houses damaged by floods.
- (b) Does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government have received any complaints from the Mazhabi Sikhs and Harijans to the effect that while disbursing these funds they were not given any share at all?

Chief Minister : I am responsible for the disbursement of the grants and loans in the flood affected areas. I have not received any complaints so far from any person and in spite of that I have instructed the Deputy Commissioners to see that grants are given to deserving persons only.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Are you quite sure. (*laughter*)

Mr. Speaker : Next question, please.

ABDUCTION OF HARIJAN WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE STATE.

***2943. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of the first information reports lodged with the Police in the State about the abduction of Harijan women and girls since the partition ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: 132.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know what has the Government done for these 132 Harijan women ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member wanted the number of the first information reports lodged with the police about the abduction of Harijan women and I have given the number.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : My supplementary question arises out of the main question and I have every right to ask for the required information.

Mr. Speaker : It is for the Government to supply the required information. I cannot compel them to supply it according to the wishes of the hon. Member. I have no power to do so.

Chief Minister : How can I presume or anticipate any information required by the hon. Member? If he wants details he can give notice of a fresh question and I shall collect those details for him.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : When a supplementary question arises out of the reply to the main question is it not obligatory on the part of the Government to supply that information ?

Mr. Speaker : I quite understand that but I cannot compel the Government to reply to a particular question if they do not want to reply to it. The hon. Members, of course, have got the power. A way is open to them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : You can read in between the lines to know whether the Government is deliberately not giving a reply or whether the required information is not ready.

Mr. Speaker : It is not for me to read in between the lines. I have to follow the rules and regulations.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Government took some special steps to stop these crimes in view of the increase in the number of cases?

Chief Minister : I sometime back issued a *Press communique* on this subject in which I made the position clear. I propose to make a statement in this behalf a copy of which will be sent to the hon. Members.

Shri Ram Sharma : I wanted to know what special steps have been taken by the Government to check this social crime?

Chief Minister : I am of the view that 'biradris' and panchayats can contribute much in the reduction of such crimes. So far as legal measures are concerned they are of course adopted. When it was intended to make such crimes cognizable there was great agitation because it was considered that there would be majority of girls who will not be restored if the police interfered. By the interference of Police a girl of 17 years could easily say that she had come of her own accord and could thus escape from the mischief of law. In these circumstances their restoration would become all the more difficult. It is, therefore, necessary to exert moral influence to check these crimes.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that 132 girls were abducted, may I know how many have been recovered out of them?

Chief Minister : I have already supplied this information.

Shrimati Sita Devi : As the number of cases must have increased gradually, may I know what strong action did the Government take to check the growth of such crimes?

Chief Minister : We have taken all the necessary steps in this direction.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I want to know whether the steps that were taken by the Government were strong enough to ensure reduction in such crimes?

Chief Minister : The Government took what ever strong action it could take but I am sorry to say that I did not get the co-operation of the Members of this House.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Leader of the House has made an insinuation against certain Members of this House by saying that they did not cooperate with him.

Mr. Speaker : This is not a point of order.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the names of those hon. Members who did not cooperate with him ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that such crimes could not be checked as the hon. Members of this House did not cooperate. May I know what sort of cooperation he required and who were those Members who did not cooperate with him in this task ?

Chief Minister : I require notice to answer this question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know how the hon. Chief Minister can say that the hon. Members did not cooperate with him ?

Mr. Speaker : It is not a cross-examination.

NOMINATION OF HARIJANS TO THE P. C. S. ETC. IN THE STATE.

*2945. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of persons belonging to the scheduled castes nominated to the P. C. S. since the partition, and the number working as gazetted officers in the State ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Three members of Scheduled Castes have so far been nominated to the P. C. S. (Executive and Judicial Branches) after Partition. The number of Harijan Gazetted officers in the State is 6.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know how many P. C. S. Officers were nominated ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say.

Shri Prabh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that 3 Harijans were nominated as P. C. S. officers; may I know whether the ratio of appointment of these officers is in accordance with the required percentage fixed for Harijans ?

Chief Minister : Yes.

GRANT OF FIRE ARMS LICENCES TO HARIJANS.

***2948. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of fire arms licences granted to Harijans living within the jurisdiction of Police Station Pathankot since partition ;
- (b) the total number of licences of pistols and guns issued in the district of Gurdaspur during the period referred to in part (a) above ;
- (c) the total number of such licences issued to the members of the scheduled castes in the above mentioned district ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) 13.
- (b) It is not in the public interest to disclose the number of licence holders in a border district.
- (c) 23.

POLICE OFFICERS IN THE STATE.

***2952. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police in the State at present ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

	Permanent.	Temporary.	Total.
Superintendents.	30	3	33
Deputy Superintendents.	35	22	57
Sub-Inspectors.	674	56	730
Assistant Sub-Inspectors.	699	184	883

HARIJANS AND SERVICES.

*2958. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the answer to my starred question No. 2553, the notice of which was given in the Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly in the month of October, 1950 was received in the month of February, 1951 ; if so, the reasons for the delay ;
- (b) the steps Government intends to take to make up the deficiency of Harijans in the various Departments of the State Government at Simla ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. The desired information had to be obtained from all the Departments and offices in the Punjab.
- (b) Orders have since been issued to all the Departments that pending the determination of the exact percentage of Scheduled Caste population in the Punjab, 15 percent vacancies in all services be earmarked for Scheduled Caste candidates, provided suitable candidates for such appointments are available.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that a ratio of 150/o has been fixed for Harijans but at the same time he has stated that these vacancies will be thrown open to Harijans provided suitable persons are available. Is it obligatory or discretionary for the Government to adhere to this percentage? If persons with requisite qualifications are not available, cannot the persons with less qualifications be recruited ?

Chief Minister : Minimum qualification has been fixed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What is the present percentage of Harijans in Government services and what steps the Government proposes to take to make up the deficiency if any ?

Chief Minister : The required percentage is strictly adhered to so far as new appointments are concerned but I can't say when would the deficiency be made up with regard to old appointments.

— — —

GRANT OF ARM LICENCES IN JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

*2982. **Master Gurbanta Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of licences for fire-arms granted to the public in Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Ferozepur, Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts separately since partition ;
- (b) out of the number mentioned in part (a) above the number of licences granted to Harijans in each district ;
- (c) the number of applications for the grant of licences for fire-arms from Harijans turned down by the Licencing Authorities in each district ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) It is not in public interest to supply the information.

(b)	Jullundur.	9
	Hoshiarpur.	17
	Ferozepore.	4
	Amritsar.	2
	Gurdaspur.	23
(c)	Jullundur.	1
	Hoshiarpur.	7
	Ferozepur.	nil.
	Amritsar.	nil.
	Gurdaspur.	3

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know why the number of licences issued to the Harijans is a small percentage of the total number of licences granted to the public ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member should know that no percentage has been fixed for various communities in this matter.

Shri Ram Sharma : I have not asked this. What I want to know is if there is any special reason for the Harijans getting a small fraction of the total number of licences granted to the public?

Chief Minister : I haven't indicated total number of licences issued. I have only given the number of licences issued to the members of the scheduled castes. So long as the total number is not before us, how is it possible to calculate the percentage of the licences issued to them?

Master Gurbanta Singh : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that quite a number of applications of Harijans for grant of licences are pending in District Jullundur?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice I will enquire into it.

Master Gurbanta Singh : May I know when licences shall be issued to those applicants?

Chief Minister : Instructions have been issued in this connection.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : In view of the fact that the number of licences issued to the Harijans is very small and also because their lives and property are often in danger, may I know if the Government can see its way to issuing more licences to them?

Chief Minister : No communal representation has been fixed in the matter of grant of arms licences but if the Government thinks that any Harijans need arms for protecting their lives, naturally it will grant them licences.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Has the Government issued instructions to the District Magistrates to grant licences only to the wealthy people?

Chief Minister : No, there is no truth in it.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Has the Government fixed any monthly or quarterly quota for each district?

Chief Minister : So far, the District Magistrates have been allowed to issue new licences up to two per cent of the existing licences.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Have any instructions been issued to observe any communal or sectional proportion in the matter of grant of arms licences?

Chief Minister : No.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it a fact that the Sachar Government had issued instructions to the District Magistrates not to grant arms licences to the Zamindars living in rural areas ?

Chief Minister : No such instructions are in force at present.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it not a fact that such instructions were issued before the formation of the present Ministry and have not been withdrawn so far ?

Chief Minister : As I was also a member of that Ministry, I am bound by an oath of secrecy not to say anything about this matter.

DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRY AGAINST MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANT.

*2386. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a demi-official letter directing that the departmental enquiry against Shri Ram Niwas, Accountant, Municipal Committee, Rewari be held by the Deputy Commissioner himself and not by the Officer incharge, Local Bodies, Gurgaon, was sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon, during the month of December 1949 ;
- (b) whether the directions in the demi-official letter referred to in part (a) above were complied with by the Deputy Commissioner ; if not, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Captain Rajjit Singh :

- (a) The letter referred to was of a confidential nature and it is therefore regretted that information about its contents cannot be disclosed.
 - (b) Does not arise.
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ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.

*2646. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether orders have been issued by the Electricity Department that the Electrical Contractors should maintain Earth Testing Magger Instruments ;
- (b) whether these Electrical Contractors have made a representation to the Government against this order ;
- (c) the action, if any, taken by the Government on this representation ?

The hon. Captian Ranjit Singh :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) In view of the difficulty expressed by Refugee Contractors in the procurement of Earth Testing Maggers, Government have been granting extension of time. No Electrical Contractor is precluded from the grant of Licence if he produces documentary evidence of his having placed an order for the purchase of the instrument.

Shri Virendra : Is the Government prepared to give any latitude to the contractors in view of the fact that the instruments in question are not available or are available at very high prices ?

Minister : No

Shri Virendra : Then, is the Government prepared to undertake to supply the instruments to them ?

Minister : We are prepared to help them in the matter.

Shri Virendra : How and in what manner ?

Minister : In the matter of procurement of instruments.

Shri Virendra : Does the Government undertake to supply these instruments to them, in case they are not available from anywhere?

Minister : If they are not available more time will be allowed to them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Doesn't the Government realise that it is not within the means of an average Electrical Contractor to provide this instrument which costs a few thousand rupees?

Minister : I doubt if they are not in a position to purchase it, though some of them don't want to do so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the hon. Minister more knowledge of the financial position of the contractors than the contractors themselves? Has he consulted some astrologer?

**PANCHAYAT ELECTION OF VILLAGE RATTU GUDDA,
DISTRICT AMRITSAR**

***2834. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the election to the village Panchayat of Rattu Gudda, Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar was held during 1949; if so, the date thereof;

(b) (i) whether he is aware of the fact that the candidate who secured the largest number of votes was not confirmed as member by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar; if so, the reasons therefor;

(ii) whether the candidate referred to in part (b) (i) above was given a chance to put up his defence by the Deputy Commissioner before rejecting his membership; if not, the reasons therefor;

(iii) the nature of the allegations levelled against him;

(iv) whether his name was ever entered in the bundles of 'A', 'B' and 'C' (bad characters' list) by the police; if so, the date of entry and the removal of the same;

(v) whether he was ever arrested or convicted for any offence; if so, when and what punishment was awarded to him;

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

- (vi) whether he was suspected in any theft case ; if so, when this case was registered ;
- (c) (i) whether 70 voters of the village submitted a representation to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar in this connection which was endorsed by S. Sajjan Singh, M. L. A. vide his letter No 1001 dated the 26th May 1949;
- (ii) whether in this representation the correctness of the police report and the decision was challenged ;
- (iii) whether the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar ordered the enquiry into the matter ; if so, the result thereof ;
- (iv) whether as a result of this enquiry the first report of the police was found incorrect ; if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ;
- (d) (i) whether the candidate referred to above was confirmed after the enquiry referred to in part (c) (iv) above if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (ii) whether the Government proposes to set aside the order of the Deputy Commissioner and confirmed his membership ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) Yes, on 28.4 1949.
- (b) (i) Yes, the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar refused to confirm the election of the candidate who secured the highest number of votes under section 6 (3) of the Punjab Village Panchayat Act 1939 because he was considered undesirable.
- (ii) No. This is not necessary under the said Act and the rules made thereunder.
- (iii) Station House Officer Patti reported that this candidate was suspected in case F. I. R. 10, dated 29th March 1935 under section 379 I. P. C., Police Station Sadar Jullundur, that he was a man of ill repute, that he mixed with bad characters and was most undesirable.
- (iv) No.

- (v) No.
- (vi) Yes. He was suspected in case F. I. R. 10, dated 29th March 1935 under section 379 I. P. C.
- (c) (i) Yes.
- (ii) No. In this representation it was alleged that Station House Officer, Patti had reported on the instigation of some body that the name of this candidate was entered in register No. 10 of the police but this was wrong as Station House Officer, Patti had never made this report.
- (iii) Yes. After holding enquiry Deputy Commissioner found that he was right in refusing to confirm the election under section 6 (3) *ibid*.
- (iv) No. Does not arise.
- (d) (i) No. He was not considered desirable even after the enquiry referred to above.
- (ii) No. Under the existing Panchayat Act Government have no power to set aside the order of Deputy Commissioner under section 6 of the Act.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When his name does not appear in the bundles 'A, B and C' and there has been nothing against him ever since 1937 when he was under suspicion, what is the reason of his holding him undesirable now ?

Minister : It has already been mentioned in the reply that the station house officer, Police Station, Jullundur had reported that he had an ill repute and mixed with undesirable people.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When the local Sub-Inspector of Patti in District Amritsar has had nothing to say against him why was the report of a Sub-Inspector of Jullundur relied upon ?

Minister : A bad character may be reported upon by any Sub-Inspector in the State in whose jurisdiction he has committed a misdeed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The report of the Sub-Inspector Jullundur, Police Station was submitted in 1937 but it is not to be found in the

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

records of the Police Station Patti nor is there anything else against this man in these records. Then what were the circumstances under which he was held an undesirable ?

Minister : It only means that he did not commit any mischief in the jurisdiction of the Police Station Patti.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When I say that his name does not appear in bundles 'A, B and C' and he has never been arrested or convicted of any offence ever since 1937 when the Sub-Inspector from Jullundur reported against him, why has he been held an undesirable ?

Minister : Well, I can only thank the hon. Member for the information he has given me.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Should I take it that a person who was reported against in the year 1937 cannot seek election to the Parliament or a Legislative Assembly under the new Constitution ?

Chief Minister : It is a matter of opinion.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Cannot the Government set the order of the Deputy Commissioner aside as after all the order of the Deputy Commissioner is not the last word ?

Minister : In such matters the order of the Deputy Commissioner is the last word and cannot be set aside.

Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government issued some instructions by virtue of which the candidates for Panchayat elections are to be held undesirables if they have been reported against by the Police ?

Minister : The hon. Member is referred to the relevant rules on the subject.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it the policy of the Government that all those who were reported against by the Police twenty or thirty years ago should be held as undesirables for purposes of Panchayat elections ?

Chief Minister : No.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What was the basis of the report made by the Sub-Inspector of Police Station Jullundur ?

Minister : If the hon. Member wants any more details, he should give a regular notice.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I wish to know whether the report was based on any documentary proof ?

Minister : I am sorry I can't carry the documentary proofs in my pocket.

Shri Ram Sharma : Was the District Magistrate, Amritsar justified in holding this person as undesirable and did he act in accordance with the Government instructions ?

Chief Minister : So far as the Deputy Commissioner is concerned, he acted rightly. But if an hon. Member gives some information, further action can be taken on it after due verification.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does bad character also stand in the way of a person seeking election or nomination to a District Board ?

Minister : The membership of District Boards has nothing to do with the question under consideration.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Was the Deputy Commissioner in order when he held a person as an undesirable who had never been suspected ever since 1937 ?

Chief Minister : Everything has been done according to rules.

TACCAVI LOANS AND REMISSION TO ZAMINDARS IN THE STATE.

*2850. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total amount of money given to Zamindars as taccavi loans district wise after the recent floods in the State;
- (b) the total remission granted district wise to Zamindars for the failure of present winter crops ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

	Rs.	
(a) Hoshiarpur	1,62,120	} These amounts also include taccavi loans given by the Rural Rehabilitation Department, except that of Ludhiana district,
Jullundur	11,52,908	
Ludhiana	5,35,238	
Ferozepore	20,78,509	
Amritsar	20,25,505	
Gurdaspur	17,02,506	
<hr/>		
TOTAL ...	90,08,220	

- (b) The matter is receiving attention and data is being collected for the purpose by the Deputy Commissioners concerned and remissions will be given in deserving cases.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES.

*2385. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that it was alleged that an officer of the Industries Department wrote to the Prime Minister of India charging the Director of Industries with grave acts of corruption;
- (b) if so, were these charges enquired into, and will the Government place a copy of that letter on the table of the House ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) The allegations were made in an unsigned letter.
- (b) *First Part* : Government do not act on vague and unsigned allegations.

Second Part : No. It is not in public interest to do so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra The hon. Minister has said that the Government takes no notice of unsigned letters but was not this very fact the reason for dismissing this man from service ?

Chief Minister : This question was replied to two or three days ago.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Was this officer removed from service on the basis of that unsigned letter ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied that question.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Director of Industries against whom this complaint was made still in possession of that office or he has been transferred to some other department ?

Minister : He has been transferred to his parent office.

Shri Ram Sharma : Has he been transferred on the basis of that letter ?

Minister : No; the letter has nothing to do with this matter.

INCOME FROM MUSLIM EVACUEE PROPERTY IN THE STATE.

*2647. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) the annual income which the Government derives from the Muslim Evacuee Property in the State ?
- (b) the total amount realized from the Muslim Evacuee Property during the period between 15th August, 1947 and 31st December, 1950;
- (c) the manner in which Government propose to utilize this income ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

This question has already been replied to vide reply to starred Question No. 2164 † asked by the hon. Member in the last Session.

† Vide page. of Annexure to vol. II of P.L.A. Debates

Shri Virendra : Has there been no increase in the income from this property since the last session?

Minister : I have nothing to add to the reply given by me.

Shri Virendra : The hon. Minister has stated that he replied this question during the last session of the Assembly. May I know if there is no information with respect to the intervening period which the Government like to furnish?

Minister : As this question affects Pakistan Government also, I do not propose to answer it.

Shri Virendra : If that is the case, why was this question answered during the last session?

Minister : In the reply given in the last session, it was stated that the Government did not propose to answer it.

Shri Virendra : On a previous occasion, the Government supplied certain figures with respect to this question. How can it be said now that it affects Pakistan Government and therefore the Government can not give the information.

Chief Minister : This question does affect another Government but as the hon. Member insisted on its being replied, the Government had to supply the figures. These figures are compiled after a certain period. Nothing can therefore be added to the reply already given.

Shri Ram Sharma : Mr. Speaker if an hon. Minister gives incorrect reply, can't you help us in that matter?

Mr. Speaker : I can-not suggest a remedy in that case.

Shri Virendra : If the Government answers this question, what effect will it have on the Governments of India and Pakistan?

Chief Minister : It is not in public interest to discuss this question in the House.

CENTRES FOR THE UTILIZATION OF CARCASSES OF ANIMALS.

*2980. **Master Gurbanta Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of Centres opened by the Government under the scheme for the utilization of the carcasses of dead animals in the State ;
- (b) the number of workers employed at those centres ;
- (c) the monthly expenditure incurred on those centres ;
- (d) the monthly income accruing from those centres ;
- (e) the reasons for not giving allowances to the workers employed at those centres along with their pay ;
- (f) the manner in which hides collected at those centres are disposed of ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.

- (a) Eight.
- (b) Twenty-seven.
- (c) Rs. 1875/-
- (d) Rs. 604/-
- (e) Allowances to the technical staff are not paid since their pays were fixed keeping in view all the allowances.
- (f) Hides are sold to Government Tanning Institute and Sports Goods Work Centre, Jullundur.

Shri Ram Sharma : Have these eight centres referred to in hon. Minister's reply, been opened only in Rohtak district or these have been opened at other places too?

Minister : These have been opened at places other than Rohtak also?

Shri Ram Sharma : What is the number of such centres in Rohtak and how many of these have been opened at other places?

Minister : I require notice for giving the number of centres opened at different places but I might add for the information of the hon. Member that these have been opened in Jullundur district too.

Shri Ram Sharma : Are these centres doing some useful work?

Minister : Some of these are working satisfactorily while others are not.

Shri Ram Sharma : How many of these are working satisfactorily?

Minister : If the hon. Member is in possession of this information, what is the use of his asking for it ?

QUESTIONS Nos. 2981, 2983, 2911, AND 2912.

Mr Speaker : Questions Nos. 2981, 2983, 2911 and 2912 have been postponed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of information, sir. Will these postponed questions be answered before the close of the session ?

Chief Minister : When we request the hon. Speaker to postpone a certain question, we inform him that reply to that question is likely to be ready by such date on or after which he might put it on the list of business.

Shri Ram Sharma : Why has no question of Dr. Sant Ram Seth been postponed ?

Chief Minister : I have greater regard for my hon. Friend as he is a Brahman than for Dr. Sahib.

**ABSORPTION OF DISPLACED PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS
IN THE STATE.**

*2913. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the steps, if any taken by the Government to absorb the displaced private school teachers in the State ;
- (b) whether these teachers are getting the same scales of pay here as they were getting in pre-partitioned Punjab ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a) Government issued the following instructions in regard to the absorption of displaced teachers :—

(i) All untrained teachers, except such as have more than 10 years' service should not be allowed to continue in any kind of school

(ii) Additional staff should be employed from among displaced teachers to cope with the increased enrolment in schools.

(iii) ' Double shift ' system should be introduced where there is paucity of accommodation, and the additional staff required should be recruited from among uprooted teachers.

(iv) Re-employment or extension in service to non-refugee teachers should be stopped.

(b) Government issued instructions in the case of local body teachers to the effect that they should get the same scales of pay as they were getting in pre-partitioned Punjab. This however was not possible in the case of privately managed schools, as Government had no control in this regard over the schools.

Shrimati Sita Devi : In which schools and in which towns has this system of double shifts been adopted ?

Minister : I require notice of that question.

Shri Virendra : What is the number of displaced teachers from West Punjab, whom the Government has not been able to absorb in service so far ?

Minister : There might be some such teachers, but I shall be able to give detailed information on receipt of notice for that question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has the Government received no representation from those displaced teachers who have not been absorbed anywhere, so far ?

Minister : The Government tries its best to absorb all of them, but if there is no vacancy for some of them the Government is helpless.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that while some displaced teachers are jobless, some teachers have been employed from among local persons ?

Minister : As I have already stated, the Government has issued certain instructions on the subject which are being followed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Are those instructions being faithfully followed ?

Minister : The Government has issued instructions to the effect that where displaced teachers are available, others should not be employed.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the exact language of the instructions issued by the Government ?

Minister : I have already read out those instructions.

Shri Ram Sharma : Am I to understand that what the hon. Minister stated in the course of his reply was the reproduction of the instructions issued by the Government ?

Chief Minister : In this connection, I wish to submit that there are three kinds of displaced teachers. Firstly, there are those who were in Government service, secondly there are those who were in the employ of local Board schools and thirdly those who were employees of private schools. So far as the employees of Government schools are concerned, all of them have been absorbed in service. As regards Local Board teachers, the local bodies have been asked to replace their untrained teachers with less than ten years service by trained displaced teachers. Most of the local Boards have acted on this advice. In some cases it was reported that the posts were offered to trained displaced teachers but as they did not accept those, these were still lying vacant. In such cases permission was granted for the employment of local persons. In the case of private schools, the Government exerted as much pressure for the absorption of displaced teachers, as it possibly could. It is, however, beyond the power of the Government to make actual appointments in their case. The Government of India also constituted a society which prepared the lists of displaced teachers. We passed a law that for two years the Municipal Boards and District Boards could employ only displaced persons, but if in spite of these efforts some displaced persons have not been absorbed in service for want of vacancies, Government can-not be blamed for it.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1951-52.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I rise to present the Budget Estimates for the year 1951-52. 12 NOON] This is the last Budget that this House will be called upon to deal with, for in a few months' time the Punjab (in common with the rest of India) will go to the polls and elect a New House, under the Constitution, which we—the people of India—have given to ourselves. The forthcoming General Elections in India will be one of the greatest democratic experiments of recent times, and as such not without their great significance for all lovers of democracy and the democratic form of Government. It is tragic indeed that of the three greatest democrats of India two are no longer with us; for with the passing away first of Mahatma Gandhi and then very recently of Sardar Patel, Panditji is left alone to shoulder the growing burden of responsibility in the critical times through which we are passing. With freedom and independence have come a new respect for the dignity of man and new concern for the under-privileged, and the Congress, which has all along toiled for ameliorating the lot of the common man, has no hesitation in seeking the verdict of the masses.

2. Before I present the Budget Estimates for 1951-52, in accordance with the usual custom, I would review briefly the financial picture of the State for the years 1949-50 and 1950-51. I will do this very briefly, for the Finance Secretary's Memorandum gives, at some length, a review of our finances from the date of partition to what it is likely to be at the end of the financial year 1951-52, and I can do nothing better than draw the special attention of the hon. Members to the same. They will find a comprehensive and lucid account of the Punjab's finances in the first 23 paragraphs of that Memorandum.

The year 1949-50.

3. According to the revised estimates for the year 1949-50, our Revenue Receipts and Expenditure were estimated at Rs. 17,21 lakhs and 16,83 lakhs respectively. The accounts furnished by the Accountant-General put the Revenue Receipts at Rs. 16,79 lakhs and the Revenue Expenditure at Rs. 15,79 lakhs indicating a surplus of Rs. 30 lakhs instead of Rs. 41 lakhs forecasted at the time of preparing the revised estimates. Hon. Members are referred to paragraphs 24 to 26 of the Finance Secretary's Memorandum for an explanation of these

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variations. The more important of these, they will notice, on the Receipt side are, an excess under Electricity of Rs. 7 lakhs ; in State Excise revenue of Rs. 10 lakhs ; and under Other Taxes and Duties of Rs. 25 lakhs. In spite of these excesses, our total revenues fell short of that expected in the revised estimates by 1,15 lakhs and that is accounted for chiefly by the fact that a credit of almost a crore and a half which was expected from the Government of India on account of fuel wood used in the Kurukshetra Camp, did not materialise. Had this anticipated credit been secured our Revenue Receipts would actually have been better than those shown in the revised estimates for the year 1949-50, by about Rs. 35 lakhs.

4. On the Revenue Expenditure side, the main excesses are under Civil Works (Rs. 26 lakhs) ; Land Revenue (Rs. 11 lakhs) ; Police (Rs. 11 lakhs) ; Pensions (Rs. 8 lakhs) and Education (Rs. 7 lakhs)—all of which are wiped out by a saving of Rs. 1,35 lakhs under Miscellaneous. After accounting for other minor variations the reduction of expenditure is Rs. 1,04 lakhs. The excess under Civil Works is not due to any works having been taken in hand which were not originally contemplated, but is accounted for by the transactions under " Suspense " mainly in respect of expenditure incurred on the removal of debris from Amritsar town, which amount is being kept under that head pending a final decision as to whether the same should be a charge against Government or against the local body concerned. The excess under Land Revenue appears to have been the result of an original under-estimate, while that under Police is due to the receipt of belated debits in respect of certain expenditure on ordnance stores which was incurred during 1947-48 and 1948-49. The excess under Education is due to Government having agreed to pay increased grants to local bodies, who had sanctioned Dearness Allowance to their teachers ; while the excess under Pensions is due to larger debits received from other Governments than originally anticipated.

5. As pointed out above all these excesses were wiped out by a saving of Rs. 1,35 lakhs under Miscellaneous, which arises from the late introduction of Bus Services (Rs. one lakh) and mainly from a reduction in the expenditure of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department (Rs. 62 lakhs). This saving is also accounted for by

the receipt during the year 1950-51 of outstanding reimbursements from the Government of India relating to the Relief and Rehabilitation expenditure incurred during previous years (Rs. 72 lakhs).

The year 1950-51.

6. Coming to the year 1950-51, it was estimated when presenting the Budget this time last year that Revenue Receipts would amount to Rs. 16,18 lakhs and Revenue Expenditure to Rs. 16,14 lakhs. According to the revised estimates Revenue Receipts are now estimated at Rs. 16,51 lakhs and Revenue Expenditure at Rs. 16,17 lakhs. The resultant surplus, has gone up by Rs. 30 lakhs—viz. from Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 34 lakhs.

7. Under Receipts, except for a fall of Rs. 62 lakhs under Miscellaneous ; Rs. 20 lakhs under State Excise Duties ; and Rs. 27 lakhs under Irrigation, practically all other Heads of Account show an improvement of revenue. Land Revenue accounts for Rs. 17 lakhs Stamps for Rs. 20 lakhs ; Registration, Administration of Justice and Education for Rs. 3 lakhs each ; Civil Works for Rs. 17 lakhs ; Electricity Schemes (gross) for Rs. 25 lakhs ; while other Taxes and Duties are responsible for a betterment of Rs. 32 lakhs. The fall under Miscellaneous is really due to the postponement of the nationalisation scheme from which an income of Rs. 60 lakhs was expected; but which has been made good partly (Rs. 5 lakhs) by the income from Omnibus Services. The remaining variation of Rs. 7 lakhs is accounted for by a drop in the receipts of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department. The decrease under State Excise Duties falls mainly under the heading Credits to and from other Administrations which are recoverable and payable on the principle "Duty follows consumption". It appears that exports of liquor exceeded imports, resulting in smaller credits to this Government under this head. There is a decrease of about Rs. 11 lakhs under Still head Duty on country spirits and this is due to the fact that the licensees of Delhi, who used to obtain their supplies of country spirits from distributors in the Punjab have apparently now found other markets, but this decrease has been counterbalanced by increased auction bids both for opium and country spirits. Under Irrigation, although Direct Receipts show a small increase, Working Expenses are up by Rs. 27 lakhs—important items of which are an expenditure of

[Chief Minister]

Rs. 4 lakhs under Grey Canals with a view to run these channels with greater efficiency, and special repairs to the Madhopur Headworks necessitated by the floods of 1950 which cost something like Rs. 7 lakhs. The balance of the increase of Rs. 16 lakhs is also accounted for by greater expenditure having to be incurred under Maintenance and Repairs of Channels. The increase under Land Revenue is spread over Fixed Land Revenue (Rs. 4 lakhs); Consolidation of Holdings (Rs. 9 lakhs); and Miscellaneous Receipts (Rs. 4 lakhs). Under Stamps the improvement is on account of increase in rates of Stamp Duty and Court-fees and large number of transactions in landed property. Under Civil Works the real increase is only Rs. 2 lakhs, for Rs. 15 lakhs is a credit from the Central Road Fund which is meant for expenditure on certain roads financed from that Fund and which, therefore, has a corresponding entry on the expenditure side. There is an increase of Rs. 25 lakhs under Electricity Schemes (gross) and that is due to the fact that at the time of the preparation of the Budget it was anticipated that the supply of power to Punjab (Pakistan) would be reduced with effect from 1st April 1950, but as this supply was not cut off the anticipated loss in revenue did not occur. In fact the increase in revenue over that originally estimated would have been larger had Thermal schemes at Panipat, Palwal, Bahadurgarh and Jagadhri worked to schedule. The increased revenue under Other Taxes and Duties is due to improvement in entertainment Tax (Rs. 1½ lakhs); Immoveable Property Tax (Rs. 2½ lakhs); Motor Spirits and Lubricants Rs. 4 lakhs; and Sales Tax (Rs. 24 lakhs).

8. On the Expenditure side, the main increase in expenditure is under Civil Works (Rs. 17 lakhs); Agriculture (Rs. 23 lakhs); Police (Rs. 14 lakhs); Pensions (Rs. 10 lakhs); Education (Rs. 7 lakhs); Famine (Rs. 6 lakhs) and State Excise (Rs. 5 lakhs). The increase under Civil Works, as pointed out before, is a compensating increase—larger credits from the Central Road Fund and, therefore, increased expenditure. The excess under Agriculture is mainly due to expenditure incurred on the purchase of Ammonium Sulphate, with a corresponding increase appearing on the Receipt side, which goes to make up the accounting deficiency caused by receipts from Land Reclamation and Boring operations being booked not under Agriculture but under Extraordinary Receipts. The increase under Police is due to increased charges having to be paid for clothing and equipment due to the rise in the prices of these articles.

have also had to pay higher amounts than originally estimated for service and practice ammunition and for arms etc. obtained for use of the Police Department. Under Pensions, the increase is the result of payment of preparation pensions to our nationals. All prepartition pensions under partition orders are the liability of Punjab (Pakistan) Government ; but in view of the general difficulty experienced by prepartition pensioners in claiming their dues from Punjab (Pakistan) Government, made worse by the exchange rate controversy, it was decided that each of the two Punjab Governments should assume responsibility for payment of pensions to its own nationals, leaving necessary adjustments to be effected later when final actuarial calculations determining the respective pensionary liability of the two Punjab Governments were available. The increase under Education is almost wholly due to the grants to local bodies for paying dearness allowance to vernacular teachers and for revision of their scales of salaries for which funds were voted by the Legislature during the course of the year ; while that under Famine is due to relief works started in the Outer Seraj area of Kulu Sub-division, and gratuitous relief given to the people affected by the floods of 1950. Under Excise the increase is due to the payment of arrears for opium supplied by the Ghazipur factory as also some payment to the Himachal Pradesh Government on account of our Excise Department's control over the distillery at Kasauli and the Brewery at Solan. An expenditure of nearly Rs. 1 lakh on the purchase of Land Rovers, which have been provided to the Excise Police staff to enable them to make surprise raids, is also responsible for this increase. Practically all these increases are wiped out by a decrease of Rs. 56 lakhs of expenditure under Miscellaneous, and of this saving as much as 42 lakhs is on account of postponement of the Scheme of Nationalisation of Passenger Transport. Another saving of Rs. 7 lakhs is accounted for under the head " Subsidy to be paid to the Government of India on imported foodgrains". The remaining saving of Rs. 7 lakhs is almost wholly on expenditure under Relief and Rehabilitation Department.

Minor variations under various heads of Receipts and Expenditure do not need any comments by me here.

9. Before presenting the Budget Estimates for 1951-52, I would, in conformity with past practice; have given an account of the working of the various Government Departments during the last year;

[Chief Minister]

but I will not do so, as separate pamphlets reviewing the activities of each major Department, since the date of our independence, have been printed and are in the hands of hon. Members. I would request hon. Members to carefully go through those various pamphlets. They contain information which I feign believe would be helpful. At any rate they are a record of our hopes and aspirations; our difficulties and the efforts made to overcome the same.

10. I would like to pause here for a while and take stock of world forces as our State faces the latter half of the 20th century. No particular significance attaches to the year which marks the mid-point of the 20th century, but it is some aid to thought for those who attempt to arrange events and trends into proper perspective and thereby try to view the pattern presented by such an arrangement. The 20th century opened with the Victorian traditions still strong and England as the leading nation of the world. The War of 1914—18 showed, however, which way Western civilisation was heading and the end of that gigantic struggle saw the insurgence of that first wave of freedom among the Asiatic people, which brought Mahatma Gandhi on the world scene with his unique technique of non-violence in a world where mighty nations armed to the teeth stood facing each other. It may well be that the Gandhian ideals of Public life and conduct, of personal integrity, of absolute purity, truth and non-violence will, as the years roll on, stand out as the only message, during the first half of this century, of any consequence, calculated to bring peace on earth and goodwill among men. The world to-day is too near that great sage to comprehend fully his message and its depth. The late twenties and early thirties of this century were the years of depression which witnessed the rise of Germany once again as a mighty war machine in Europe. The forties of this century for the West were the years of the Second World War and will be remembered as the years which saw the emergence of the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. as dominant world forces. Seen through Eastern eyes, these years would be memorable for the successful achievement; almost throughout Asia, of national independence.

11. In the age of independence we are not yet four years old and these days of our childhood have not been without their troubles and tribulations. But what has the future in store for us? The fifties will herald the atomic age in the world and it looks as if the paradox "to him that hath shall be given more and from him that hath not shall

be taken away even that which he hath" shall be proved true. The under-developed countries can no doubt expect increasing wealth from the exploitation of their resources, both natural and human. Still the more systematic and intensive use of science, in all its forms, would continue to give to Western nations an advantage of the lead which they possess in this direction. In this connection, what applies to industry applies equally to nations, i. e. the more advanced it is, the greater are its prospects of further rapid advance. However, the old theory that the industrialisation of primary producing and under-developed countries was detrimental to the trade and interests of the more highly industrialised countries has been exploded. It was demonstrated during the forties that the more the under-developed countries develop; the larger and more varied markets they offer to the few really advanced industrial nations who are in a position to supply them with the means of increased production. In this context the problem of helping the 'Have-Nots' is fast emerging as a world problem.

To-day, there is no corner of the globe which is not attacked by the rapid absorption of Western technical, economic political and social ideas. Some of these ideas are in themselves disruptive of many of our ancient and honourable thoughts and ways of life. How much of these can we successfully save and how?

Social problems, such as these which arise from increases of population in our regions, or from a new conception of the relationship between man and woman, will become pressing and tradition will inevitably become weaker. The Fair Deal and Welfare State ideas will get a greater emphasis, and more and more will be expected of the State Governments by their peoples. The fifties, therefore, may not see the end of war and post-war monetary inflation. This inflation, in all probability, is not a mere consequence of monetary changes or economic forces. To some considerable extent, it seems a symptom and consequence of the inflation of what the people expect from their Government. People expect military, social and economic security and as, in the modern world, the ability of any individual sovereign State to deliver the goods is sadly restricted, Nations will try to reach out towards some new super-national substitutes. These groupings of people will be more according to their way of life and ideas, rather than creed or colour. Viewed from that point of view, the Commonwealth of Nations, despite its nebulous form and apparently weak integration, has a promising future as a world force for security and progress.

[Chief Minister]

In respect of political thought, parts of Asia will be vast and dangerous vacuums into which something must rush perhaps in the early fifties. The stability, which came from the belief that poverty was the will of God, has gone. We are yet too near the event of China's emergence as a Communist State to assess the proper significance of that event, but Asians alive to this problem must help in the very difficult task of filling these vacuum areas in the right way and with the right sort of ideas.

The competition of ideas during fifties would amount almost to warfare. What are the central ideas on which our civilisation and culture are based? Not only will we have to crystalise these in our minds, but these will have to stand the test of practical world wisdom and expediency.

12. We are a peaceful people by nature. Never have we waged a war of conquest. Nor has the gold bug bitten us. Renunciation rather than worldly possessions,—the search after truth, and the practice of tolerance, has been the aim and goal of the best among us. Our rank and file, however, are too easily reconciled to their misfortunes as the outcome of divine dispensation from above, and are prone not to strive with all their might to better their lot. If we could cultivate the habit of hard and honest work in our daily sphere of life, and couple it with the basic spirituality of the East—if we could learn to strive in order to reach an aimed ideal—(and the higher we set such an ideal the more worthy it would be of our endeavours) and if each one of us, in whatever sphere his life is cast, could learn to discern what is right with due regard to the general good, we could still be a great force in the world for peace and for the good of mankind as a whole!

13. And now, Sir, I will not keep you waiting any longer for the Budget Estimates for 1951-52. Our Revenue Receipts for the next year are estimated at Rs. 16,40 lakhs and our Revenue Expenditure at Rs. 16,70 lakhs, indicating a deficit of Rs. 30 lakhs. The deficit would have been higher had not a sum of Rs. 1,06 lakhs been transferred from the Revenue to the Capital account of the State and had not drastic cuts been imposed in the departmental proposals for expenditure. When we heard, about a month ago, from the Government of India that they would not be giving us any subsidy for the year 1951-52, we found it necessary that the interest charges on the Bhakra-Nangal and the Ferozepore Canal Projects should be charged to the Capital cost of these Projects instead of being met concurrently

from State revenues. This, indeed, was desirable for more than one reason. Not only would the State Budget have been needlessly disturbed by meeting these charges from the current Revenue Account; but since the incidence of the cost of these two Projects has ultimately to be shared between more than one Government, and since a major part of the total outlay on the Bhakra-Nangal Project is sought to be covered by the levy of an adequate Betterment Fee, it was only right and proper that the Capital account of these Projects should show the full capital cost thereof by the inclusion thereto of the recurring annual interest charges.

14. Heavy cuts in expenditure had also been applied in order to discharge, as far as practicable, the anticipated deficit in the Revenue Account. Ordinary expenditure proposed by Departments was reduced by Rs. 79 lakhs and New Expenditure by over Rs. 1,25 lakhs. On top of it all we decided to apply a further lump sum cut of 10 per cent in the accepted provision for Contingencies (exclusive of that relating to medicines, bedding and clothing for hospitals, and dietary expenses of Jails, Medical and Police Departments) and this cut is estimated to yield a saving of about Rs. 27 lakhs. Hon. Members will find this cut shown as a lump sum saving in the Budget Volume. I admit that such cuts are not without their adverse effects on the general administrative efficiency, but we just have to live within our means. I believe that in essence Public Finance is not very different from the management of one's individual income and expenditure, and as I loathe the idea of running into debt and of living beyond my means in my individual capacity, so I cannot countenance a deficit State Budget when there are no accumulated reserves to fall back upon. However much I may feel acutely the need of spending in certain directions in order to supply the multifarious and much-needed wants in our State, and however keenly I may be burning with the desire to improve the lot of Punjabis (and I am very conscious of the fact that in many directions their lot needs to be urgently improved!)—I cannot be a party to the Punjab's living beyond its means, for in that direction lies not only loss of credit but greater privation in the long run than is sought to be improved in the immediate present.

In spite of our financial handicaps, however, we have not overlooked the necessity for extending our Beneficent Activities and hon. Members would be glad to note that the expenditure on our beneficent departments has been steadily rising. It was Rs. 3.68 lakhs in 1948-49,

[Chief Minister]

it rose to Rs. 3,87 lakhs in 1949-50 and to Rs. 4,18 lakhs in 1950-51. During 1951-52 it is likely to be of the order of Rs. 4,32 lakhs.

15. Since partition the Central Government had extended their helping hand generously to our State and gave us a subsidy of Rs. 1,60 lakhs in 1947-48, of Rs. 1,75 lakhs each in 1948-49 and 1949-50, and of Rs. 75 lakhs in 1950-51. But to our disappointment they have not seen their way to accede to our request for a subsidy during 1951-52. They have their own difficulties I admit, but to a poor border State like ours their refusal to give the necessary assistance has come as a great disappointment amounting almost to a shock. We are spending over one crore of rupees on policing our land frontier with Pakistan and on maintaining law and order in that area, and all this expenditure we feel we are incurring in the interests of the country at large. The pre-war strength of the Punjab Police at the end of 1938 was a little over 23,000 officers and men; on the eve of partition this strength stood at 31,600 officers and men. The present strength of Punjab (India) Police force is a little over 21,500 officers and men. Thus our present strength is only 1,500 officers and men less than the pre-war strength of undivided Punjab, and about 10,000 less than the strength in the prepartition Punjab. The normal allocation of police strength to our State on the basis of the physical division of the Punjab—and without this State overnight finding itself a Border State—would have been a little over 10,000 pre-war and a little over 14,000 on the basis of the eve-of-partition strength. In our present financial difficulties it is not possible for the Punjab to bear this extra burden of over Rs. 1 crore, which as I have opined before, should legitimately be shared by the country as a whole, and should, therefore, be borne by the Central Government. We intend pursuing the question of reimbursement of this extra expenditure with the Central Government now that our request for a subsidy has been turned down, and hope that a satisfactory financial arrangement, about the incidence of this expenditure, will be arrived at with that Government.

16. As the position stands we have a deficit of Rs. 30 lakhs in the estimated Revenue Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1951-52. Heavy cuts in Revenue Expenditure have already been applied and I am afraid it may not be a very wise thing to curtail

our administrative expenditure further, for much still remains to be done to restore the disrupted economy of our State, and crippling the administrative machinery by a far too drastic reduction in administrative charges would very likely have undesirable repercussions. So far as the raising of additional revenue is concerned we have done our best already. Paragraph 4 of Finance Secretary's Memorandum gives in detail the fresh sources of Revenue which we have tapped since partition. I have, therefore been hard put to explore ways and means to meet this deficit of Rs. 30 lakhs. On the one hand I cannot see where further cuts in expenditure can be applied and on the other, I apprehend that the taxation capacity of the people of the Punjab has already been strained to the utmost limits. Our urban population are quite unable to face further taxation owing to the strain, over a long period, of high prices. In regard to rural areas, the position in this State is complicated by the fact that substantial numbers have only recently been settled on land and far from being able to contribute to State resources, must necessarily continue to depend on loans to establish themselves with the withdrawal of agriculture and shelter. We propose, however, to raise an additional three lakhs of rupees, by enhancing the Entertainment Tax from annas three in the rupee to annas four, and an additional Rs. 3 lakhs from an increase in Tariffs for supply of energy from Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme to general and bulk supply consumers in the Punjab and another Rs. 3 lakhs by suitably raising the existing Driving Licence fees, Permit fees, Registration fee, and by levying suitable stamp fee on all applications made to the Provincial and Regional Transport Authorities and the Registration Authorities. In addition to these measures we also propose to tax all forward contracts at the following rates:—

- (i) Silver — 3 annas per unit of 700 tolas, or part thereof.
- (ii) Gold — 4 annas per unit of 10 tolas, or part thereof.
- (iii) Sugar — 12 annas per unit of 25 bags ($68\frac{3}{4}$ mds) or part thereof.
- (iv) Gur — 4 annas per unit of 100 maunds or part thereof.

[Chief Minister]

(v) Bardana — 8 annas per unit of 5 bales (2,000 bags) or part thereof.

(vi) Oats — 3 annas per unit of 100 bags, or part thereof.

(vii) Shellac — 2 annas per unit of 25 maunds or part thereof.

(viii) *Jasta*

Copper, brass
or other

metals — 4 annas per unit of 35 maunds or part thereof.

(ix) Grains and
seeds other

than oats — 4 annas per unit of 200 maunds or part thereof.

(x) Any other

goods — 6 annas per unit of Rs. 1,000/- in value.

We expect to raise Rs. 15 lakhs by this taxation.

Since these Budget Estimates were prepared we have received intimation that our Excise bids for the coming year are better by about Rs. 10 lakhs so that the remaining gap of Rs. 6 lakhs has been more than bridged by these better auction bids, leaving a surplus of Rs. 4 lakhs. (*Applause*).

17. So much about the Revenue position. Now turning to the Loan account, we intend to take a loan of roughly Rs. 24 crores next year for financing expenditure on Bhakra-Nangal Projects (Rs. 13 crores), Ferozepore Canal Projects (Rs. 3 crores), New Capital (Rs. 1 crore), Rehabilitation schemes (Rs. 5 crores) and Grow-More-Food Schemes (Rs. 2 crores). With the addition of this amount of loan from the Centre, our total loan liability by the end of the year 1951-52 will amount to Rs. 70 crores. Most of the loan money is being spent on productive capital projects and as such is justified. I feel convinced that it will be possible for Punjab's future finances to repay this liability as and when these productive projects begin to earn Revenue.

18. And it only remains for me now, Sir, to thank the staff of the Finance Department for the very hard and useful work done by one and all of them during the last year.

The destinies of the Finance Department have, during the year, remained in the thorough and capable hands of Sardar Kartar Singh Malhotra (*Applause*) whose knowledge of financial matters has proved of inestimable assistance to us. I sometimes wonder what would have happened to our finances, had not an officer of the calibre of Sardar Kartar Singh Malhotra been put in charge of the department after the partition. I am sorry to tell the hon. Members that he is about to leave us, for his parent department insists on his reversion and the State will soon be deprived of his invaluable services. I must here record, on behalf of my Government, our deep debt of gratitude to him for the very valuable and efficient way in which he has piloted the ship of our finances in a period of unprecedented difficulties. He did, indeed, set a standard of work which was surpassed by none and equalled by very few other officers of Government.

Shri E. N. Mangat Rai (*Applause*) who is to take the place of Sardar Kartar Singh Malhotra is well-known for his diligence, devotion to duty and all-round ability; and I feel confident that under his guidance the department will be able to maintain the high traditions set up by his predecessors.

During the year under report there has been a change in the Under Secretaryship on the P.W.D. Finance side. Shri Gopal Dass who had made his mark and whose advice on the side of P. W. D. finances was very valuable has left us to take up the onerous job of Deputy Secretary, Bhakra Control Board. From what I know of Shri Gopal Dass's work here, I can say that he will prove his worth in his new job. The work of Shri Badri Nath Chopra, the other Under Secretary, continues to be of a very high order. His knowledge of Budget procedure is of invaluable assistance to the department. The place of Shri Gopal Dass has been taken by Shri Raghunath Dass Chadha, an experienced officer of the Secretariat, who has started well.

Shri Pyare Lal, another Assistant Secretary in the department, has recently proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement and the department is grateful to him for his meritorious services.

[Chief Minister]

Another change was necessitated by the transfer of Shri Amar Chand whose place was taken by Thakur Narinder Singh. This officer has been put in charge of the Rehabilitation work and has put in very hard and good work, thus following in the footsteps of his able predecessor Shri Amar Chand.

I shall be failing in my duty if I did not allude here to the excellent work performed by our Superintendents, but for whose assistance and co-operation it would not have been possible for me to prepare the Budget in time. The Assistants and the rest of the staff in the Finance Department have indeed put in long hours in the preparation of the Budget which I have the honour to present to the House to-day.

The thanks of my Government are also due to our able Accountant-General, Shri R. C. Khanna, whose guidance and help have been invaluable throughout the year.

Now, Sir, I beg to present the Budget for the year 1951-52.

JAI HIND (*Applause*)

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on wednes'ay, the
14th March, 1951.*

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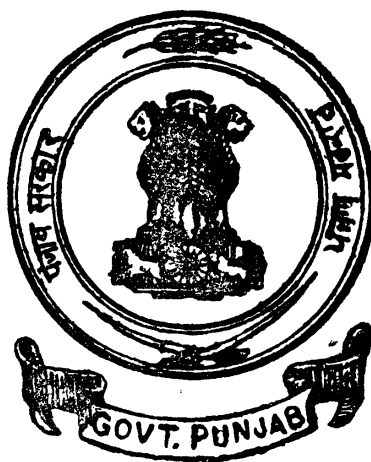
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES ✓

14th MARCH 1951

Vol. III—No. 9.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 14th March, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REFUGEE GRANTS-INAID TO SCHOOLS.

*2914. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of schools that were granted the refugee grants in-aid during the last year ;
- (b) whether the accounts of the grants referred to in part (a) above were cleared off by the recipients by the end of each financial year ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) 538.
- (b) Yes ; with the exception of a few schools. They too have since rendered accounts except one school which is also expected to do so before the financial year is over.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the hon. Minister has received any representation from the School authorities to the effect that the refugee grant-in-aid sanctioned by the Government in their favour has not been paid to them for the last two years ?

Minister : If the Lady Member brings some concrete representation to my notice, I shall make the necessary information available to her.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has he received any representation on behalf of the Cantonment Board Schools, Jullundur to the effect that the refugee grant-in-aid for the year 1949-50 Sanctioned in their favour has not been paid to them so far, as a result of which they have been forced to stop new admissions ?

Minister : I require fresh notice for this question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I want to know whether what I have stated above is a fact or not ?

Minister : I would request the Lady Member to send this question to me in writing.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has the hon. Minister received any representations from other schools, too, regarding the non-payment of refugee grants-in-aid to them by the Government ?

Minister : A fresh notice is required to answer this question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that the accounts regarding these grants-in-aid have not been finally cleared off at the close of each financial year ?

Minister : Sometimes payments are delayed due to some mistakes in the maintenance of accounts etc.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does it mean that the accounts have not been cleared off even during the period of 2 years ?

Minister : This is the opinion of the Lady Member. I did not say that.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has he received any representations on behalf of any school authorities ?

Minister : I have already given my reply to this question. However I may add that there is only one school to which the grant is still to be made.

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES.

*2439. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the time limit fixed for submitting the proposals of the delimitation of constituencies by the Punjab Government to the Central Election Commissioner ;
- (b) the time by which the proposals are to be received from the district authorities or the original proposing authority ;
- (c) the method by which the view of the M.L.As or the people in general are ascertained on these proposals and the time allowed, for this purpose ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Last year, the Election Commission, India, asked for Delimitation proposals by 9th August, 1950, and tentative proposals were forwarded accordingly. After removal of the duplicate entries from the electoral roll, the proposals will have to be modified in view of the resulting variation in the voting strength of the districts. No time limit has so far been fixed for the completion of the work.
- (b) There is no provision for calling for proposals from district authorities.
- (c) The original proposals of the Punjab Govt. were circulated amongst M. L. As for their opinion up to 15th October, 1950. A press note was also issued by the Election Commission, India, inviting public opinion on the proposals relating to parliamentary constituencies. The proposals were also examined by a committee of M. L. As set up by the Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

Shri Ram Sharma : At what stage are the proposals regarding the delimitation of constituencies ? May I know if these proposals

[Shri Ram Sharma]

have been finally sent to the Government of India or these are still under the consideration of the Government?

Chief Minister : The revised electoral rolls are not complete yet. As and when these are ready, the same would be forwarded to the Chief Election Commissioner Government of India.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the work in this connection entrusted to the Committee formed by the hon. Speaker has been completed by now or it still remains to be completed?

Chief Minister : This Committee has already submitted its report.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if any material changes have been effected in the final proposals?

Chief Minister : A fresh notice is required for this question.

Mr. Speaker : I will ask the office to circulate the recommendations of that Committee to the hon. Members of this House.

Pandit Faqir Chand : May I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether the recommendations made by the committee constituted by the hon. Speaker would be forwarded by the Government to the Chief Election Commissioner without effecting any changes in them?

Chief Minister : All the relevant papers would be forwarded to him.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the tentative proposals which our Government forwarded to the Government of India were those very proposals which were prepared by the office. Has any Committee made any amendments in these proposals?

Chief Minister : No changes whatsoever have been effected in these proposals. We forwarded all the relevant papers to the Government of India. However I may add that after the preparation of these proposals certain re-adjustments of constituencies had to be made due to increase in the number of voters, in some districts. These proposals regarding the readjustment of the constituencies were brought before the committee for its consideration. We have also requested the Central Election Commission about our intention to revise these proposals. As and when these proposals are ready the same would be forwarded to this Commission.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the proposals submitted by the committee in its last meeting held at Jullundur, would be treated as final. May I also know if the Parliamentary Committee is also empowered to effect any changes in these proposals?

Chief Minister : I cannot say off-hand whether the Parliamentary Committee as referred to by the Lady Member is empowered to make any changes in the proposals or not.

GRANT OF FIRE-ARMS LICENCES IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

*3240. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of licences granted for shot guns and pistoes or revolvers in Rohtak District since p artition;
- (b) the number of such licences granted on the presentation of un-licensed fire-arms within specific period under the instructions of the Government;
- (c) the number of cancellations and renewals respectively of cases mentioned in part (a) and (b) above together with the reasons therefor?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a. Shot guns	—	—	—	1897
Pistol/Revolver	—	—	—	753
(b) Shot guns	—	—	—	853
Pistol/Revolver	—	—	—	536
(c) Number of cancellations of licences regarding part (a)				
Guns	—	—	—	878
Pistol/Revolver	—	—	—	342

[Chief Minister]

Number of Renewals of
licences regarding part (a)

Guns	—	—	—	1019
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Pistol/Revolver	—	—	—	411
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Number of cancellations
regarding part (b)

Guns	—	—	—	311
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Pistol/Revolver	—	—	—	300
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Number of renewals of
licences regarding part (b)

Guns	—	—	—	542
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Pistol/Revolver	—	—	—	236
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Most of the licences granted under the un licenced arms scheme were cancelled on account of the licensees concerned being reported as undesirable or undeserving persons and some at their own request. Most of the other licences were cancelled owing to licensees failure to purchase the weapon. In a few cases the licences were cancelled in consequence of the death of the licensees. Licences were renewed in the case of all those who were reported to be reliable and deserving.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if any changes have been effected in the system of the renewal of licences or the same system is followed as was in vogue in the United Punjab before the Partition ?

Chief Minister : So far licences of fire-arms are renewed according to the old system. The question of making necessary changes in this old system is under the active consideration of the Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the Government has introduced a new system for obtaining fresh licences of fire-arms or for their renewal according to which the applications which have to pass through the Sub-Inspector of Police, and the Tehsildar are finally recommended by the Superintendent of Police and decided by the District Magistrate. Is this system old or new ?

Chief Minister : It is the old system.

Pandit Faqir Chand : May I know if Government has issued any instructions to the District Magistrates to consider the recommendations of the M. L. As. in this connection ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this question.

DAMAGE TO STANDING CROPS OF VILLAGES BUSANA, ETC.,
DISTRICT ROHTAK.

*2443. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the fact that during the rainy seasons, large cultivable areas of the villages like Busana etc. of Tehsil Gohana (Rohtak) remain under water causing great damage to standing crops and much hardship to the villagers ; if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to drain out the water.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. Investigations are in hand as to the possible remedies that could be applied.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the department or the officer conducting investigations regarding this matter ?

Chief Minister : So far as the drainage of the area under water is concerned, this work is done by the Irrigation Department.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if there has been any progress in the investigation operations. Has the Government received any report regarding these investigations ?

Chief Minister : I require fresh notice for this question as I shall have to make enquiries about it.

AUTHORISED ACCOMODATION IN JAILS OF AMBALA AND
JULLUNDUR DIVISIONS.

*2714. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the authorised accommodation in each of the jails of Ambala and Jullundur Divisions respectively on 1st July, 1950 and 1st December, 1950 ;
- (b) (i) the number of the prisoners confined in each of these jails on the 1st of every month between 1st July, 1950 and December, 1950 ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (ii) the number of the prisoners confined in the barracks of wards included in the authorised accommodation of each of these jails ;
 - (iii) the details of arrangements made to deviate the overcrowding in each of these jails on the dates mentioned above ;
 - (iv) whether any of the prisoners were confined in the tents or factory sheds or barracks ; if so, their number in each such barrack or tent ;
- (c) whether any guard was posted round the factory barracks or sheds ; if so, their number ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) to (c) A Statement containing the information is laid on the table. †

— — —

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY HON. MINISTERS.

***2715. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount drawn as road Travelling Allowance by each of the hon. Ministers between 1st September 1950 and 31st January, 1951 ;
- (b) (i) the total amount paid as railway fare by each of the hon. Ministers during the period referred to in part (a) above for the journeys performed by him by railway train ;
- (ii) the total mileage of journey undertaken by each of them during the period referred to above by road and rail respectively ;

†Kept in the Library.

(c) whether any of the hon. Ministers undertook any journey by air during the period referred to above ; if so, the total mileage in each case ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table. †

Sardar Sajjan Singh : It would appear that there is a discrepancy in the rate of T. A. charged by each of the Ministers as the average rate per mile worked out below would show, may I know the reason why such a discrepancy exists ?

Minister for Public Works	—	—	-/15/6 per mile
Minister for Revenue	—	—	-/11/9 Do
Minister for Rehabilitation	—	—	-/12/10 Do
Minister for Education	—	—	-/8/- Do

Chief Minister : I cannot say off-hand. T. A. might have been charged for miles covered by empty car and some might have charged for full car.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : This average rate has been calculated keeping in view the distance covered by empty car and charged at half rates.

Chief Minister : It is just possible that daily allowance might have been included in it.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Is there any proposal before the Government to impose any restriction on the travelling allowance of hon. Ministers ?

Chief Minister : There is no proposal before the Government.

Pandit Faqir Chand : I want to enquire whether the Government intends to impose any restriction upon the T. A. of hon. Ministers or not ?

Chief Minister : There is no such proposal before the Government as I have already replied.

†Kept in the Library.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the T. A. charged by the hon. Ministers is in conformity with the report of Public Accounts Committee which was adopted by this House ?

Chief Minister : Yes, this T. A. has been charged keeping in view the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware that the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee were adopted by this House? I want to know whether the amount charged in the T. A. bills of the hon. Ministers is in accordance with those recommendations or the Government has shown utter disregard of these recommendations made by the Committee ?

Chief Minister : The Government took all necessary action to give effect to the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in conformity with the Rules.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the half rate of 1152 miles covered by empty car comes to annas five per mile or annas four per mile ?

Chief Minister : I require notice to answer this question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the T. A. charged by the hon. Ministers is in accordance with the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee ?

Chief Minister : I think my hon. Sister must be knowing this as she had been a member of that committee.

Shri Ram Sharma : It appears that the hon. Ministers have charged T. A. at the rate of -/12/- per mile. Is it not a fact that the Public Accounts Committee recommended that the rate of -/10/- be reduced to -/8/- but the Government increased the rate to -/12/- per mile ? The Government instead of reducing the rate of T. A. should not have at least increased it.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member's argument is sound.

— — —

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES, ETC.

*2716. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the Travelling Allowance drawn by each of the Parliamentary Secretaries from 16th October, 1950 to 31st January, 1951 ;
- (b) the Travelling Allowance drawn by each of the Private Parliamentary Secretaries from 16th October, 1950 to 31st January, 1951 ;
- (c) the Travelling Allowance drawn by the Chief Parliamentary Secretary from 16th October, 1950 to 31st January, 1951 ;
- (d) the total mileage of journey by road and rail separately performed by each of the gentlemen referred to in parts (a), (b) and (c) above respectively during the aforesaid period ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

a, b and d.	(a and b)	(d)
	Amount of T. A.	Mileage.
Parliamentary Secretaries.		
S. Shiv Saran Singh	180 12 0	(i) By Rail 510
S. Ajit Singh	Not yet drawn	(ii) By Road 74
Thakur Beli Ram	Do	
Ch. Jagdish Chander	Do	
Ch. Samar Singh	Do	
Shri Dev Raj Sethi	200 4 0	534
S. Waryam Singh	Not yet drawn	(by rail)
Prof Sher Singh	- Do	
Pt. Bhagat Ram, Sharma	Do	
Late S. Gurbachan Singh	Rs. 488 0 0	Information not available.

[Chief Minister]

Parliamentary Private Secretaries.

S. Shiv Singh	Not yet drawn
Ch. Ma'tu Ram	Do
Ch. Harbhaj Ram	Do

(c) There was no Chief Parliamentary Secretary during this period.

Shri Ram Sharma : Tho hon. Chief Minister has stated in his reply that the Parliamentary Secretaries have not yet drawn their T. A. bills. But the required information can be supplied since they have submitted their T.A. bills.

Chief Minister : They have not drawn the T.A.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the duties of Parliamentary Secretaries have been redistributed ?

Mr. Speaker : That is not relevant.

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**RATES OF ROAD TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE ALLOWED
TO HON. MINISTERS, AND 1ST AND 2ND GRADE
GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.**

*2717. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the reasons for allowing road Travelling Allowance at different rates to hon. Ministers, and 1st and 2nd grade government officers when the cost of maintaining motor cars is the same in all cases ;
- (b) whether Government has issued instructions to the Government Transport Companies and private Transport Companies to charge road fares from hon. Ministers, and 1st and 2 d grade Government servants at rates fixed by Government for them ;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative ; the procedure adopted by the Government to ascertain the

correctness of the Travelling Allowance amount demanded and paid by Government officers referred to above ;

- (d) whether 1st and 2nd grade officers are allowed to maintain their own private motor cars for road journeys ;
- (e) the factors taken into consideration by the Government while fixing the different rates of road journey Travelling Allowance by each of the categories of officers and hon. Ministers referred to in part (a) above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Different rates of road mileage have been fixed for hon. Ministers, and Ist and 2nd grade Government servants keeping in view the type of motor vehicles they would normally maintain and the incidental expenses they would incur, according to their status.
- (b) No.
- (c) A Government servant claiming Travelling Allowance by road is required to furnish a certificate as to the mode of conveyance actually used by him with a view to determine the correctness of the Travelling Allowance claimed. In an organisation as large as Government, it is not expedient to allow travelling allowance on the basis of actuals in the case of each bill and each officer. Rates are fixed as a whole and it is recognised that sometimes there may be a gain and sometimes a loss, the aim being that, on the whole, the balance should be maintained.
- (d) Yes. Government servants of Grade II are not ordinarily expected to perform journeys by motor car and accordingly for such journeys they are not allowed mileage allowance in excess of the rates prescribed for other means of conveyance, unless it is certified by the Controlling Officer concerned that it was absolutely necessary in the public interest that the journeys should have been performed by motor car.
- (e) As at (a) above.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know why different rates of road mileage have been fixed for the Ministers and first and second grade officers. Is it because of the type of vehicles they maintain for their use ?

Chief Minister : It is not so.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Then why this difference in the rates ?

Chief Minister : That the officers may also keep cars according to their status.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The pay of a Minister is Rs. 1 350 and the pay of Financial Commissioner Rehabilitation is Rs. 1,000. In this case is not the status of the latter higher than that of the former and should not the road travelling allowance be fixed accordingly?

Chief Minister : Status is not determined in accordance with pay and moreover no officer except the High Court Judges is drawing Rs. 4,000 per mensem.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister say if none of the Officers of the Punjab Government is drawing more than Rs. 1,400?

Chief Minister : I haven't said so.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE TO HON. MINISTERS.

*2718. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :--

- (a) whether any of the 1st Grade and 2nd Grade Government officers and the Heads of Departments are allowed any conveyance allowance per mensem or per annum in addition to the road, rail or air T. A. permitted under the rules;
- (b) whether the hon. Ministers are allowed to charge fixed conveyance allowance p.m. in addition to the T. A. permitted under the rules;
- (c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative and that of part (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for this discrimination ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to rule 2.14 of Civil Services Rules (Punjab), Volume III—T.A. Rules and Appendix A thereto.
- (c) The rules have been framed in the interest of administration.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that in spite of the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that the conveyance allowance should not be admissible to the Ministers, it is still being drawn by them

Chief Minister : Conveyance allowance of the Ministers has been fixed by an Act of the Legislature and nothing can be done in the matter so long as that Act remains in force.

Shri Ram Sharma : (a) May I know then, why did the hon. Chief Minister get that recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee adopted by the House when he knew that so long as the Act was not amended, this could not be implemented ?

(b) is it not a fact that he had himself brought the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee before the House for adoption :

Chief Minister : That was done by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

Shri Ram Sharma : Was he a different person ?

Chief Minister : He was the same person but then he was acting in a different capacity.

Shri Ram Sharma : Can anybody who holds two different offices be justified in doing two contradictory things ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Leaving the Ministers, is there no other officer who is in receipt of fixed conveyance allowance ?

Chief Minister : So far as I think, there is none.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Are not the Tehsildars and Niab-Tehsildars in receipt of fixed conveyance allowance ?

Chief Minister : There is difference between conveyance allowance and traveling allowance.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Is it a not a fact that the report of the Public Accounts Committee was unanimously adopted by the House ?

Chief Minister : I would refer the hon. Member to the proceedings of the House.

**RULES OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE AND CONVEYANCE
ALLOWANCE.**

*2719 **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has ever made enquiries from their other sister States in India about the rules of Travelling Allowance and conveyance allowance allowed to the hon. Ministers, Heads of the Departments, and Ist and 2nd grade Government officers ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Yes; such enquiry has been made in respect of hon. Ministers from all State Governments, and in respect of officials of various categories from the States of Bombay and Uttar Pradesh.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister say on the basis of inquiries made from other States if he has noted any difference in the rules in question ?

Chief Minister : I don't remember.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If I give notice, will he reply to my question ?

Mr. Speaker : When the hon. Member is getting replies to his questions already put, he will get replies to the questions he will put hereafter also.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister say on the basis of enquiries made from other States if he has found any difference in the rates of travelling and conveyance allowances admissible to first and second grade officers in other States and in this State ?

Chief Minister : I have to give the same reply.

**NOMINATIONS OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS
IN THE STATE.**

***2766. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the procedure the Government adopts while making nominations of Extra Assistant Commissioners in the State :

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Nominations to the posts of Extra Assistant Commissioners are made from amongst Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Ministerial Government servants and temporary officers working in temporary departments. When there are vacancies in the cadre of the P.C.S, (Executive Branch) nomination rolls of suitable candidates are called for from the Heads of Departments concerned. On receipt of the rolls, a selection is made by Government and then the Public Service Commission are requested to adjudge the suitability of the selected candidates.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that instead of the Heads of Departments i. e. Commissioners etc. making nominations for promotion to the posts of Extra Assistant Commissioners, the Ministers themselves recommend names to them for nomination ?

Chief Minister : The procedure laid down in the rules is observed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it within the knowledge of the hon. Chief Minister that some hon. Ministers have been writing to the Commissioners to forward to them the names of such and such persons for promotion ?

Chief Minister : We have been acting in accordance with rules. The Chief Minister is responsible for seeing to it that the procedure laid down in the rules is followed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it also provided in the rules that if the Commissioner does not consider a person suitable for promotion a Minister may ask him to forward his name ?

Chief Minister : I refer the hon. Member to the rules.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Commissioner, Jullundur Division did not want to forward the names of two Tehsildars on the ground that there were better and senior men on the list who could be recommended for promotion but he was made to do so by an hon. Minister ?

Chief Minister : I have not yet seen the papers regarding the promotion of Tehsildars to the E.A.C. cadre.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister for Revenue got the names of two candidates forwarded by the Commissioner even though he was of the view that they were junior and less suitable as compared with some others ?

Chief Minister : So far as I think, this is incorrect.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : If I furnish further details of the case, will the hon. Chief Minister hold an inquiry ?

Chief Minister : The question of holding an inquiry does not arise

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the hon. Chief Minister received any report from the Heads of Departments, i. e. Commissioners that they are compelled by some hon. Ministers to forward the names of junior persons for promotion ?

Chief Minister : There is no truth in it.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Chief Minister convinced about what he says ?

Chief Minister : I am more convinced about my answer than the hon. Member is about his question.

Shri Ram Sharma : I have asked whether the hon. Chief Minister is convinced that the rules are being properly acted upon ?

Chief Minister : I have replied that I am more convinced about their being acted upon than my hon. Friend was when he put his question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the nomination roll of the son of Sardar Bhag Singh, Retired Superintendent Police, was sent for from Commissioner Jullundur?

Chief Minister : I do not know for which post is the son of Sardar Bhag Singh a candidate. If he is a candidate for the post of Tehsildar, I can only say that I have not yet seen the rolls for tehsildar-ship.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the Tehsildars be nominated as E. A. Cs. at the recommendation of the Commissioners or on the recommendation of the hon. Ministers?

Chief Minister : Everything will be done according to the rules.

RESTORATION OF FINES AND PROPERTIES TO POLITICAL
SUFFERERS IN THE STATE.

*2767. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of political sufferers whose fines and properties have been restored to them by the Government;
- (b) the number of applications for refund of fines that are still pending?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Two statements containing the desired information are laid on the table.†
- (b) 189.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : By what time will the pending applications be disposed of?

Chief Minister : No definite date can be given.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : When will the Government consider the cases of those persons to whom the fines have not as yet been refunded?

Chief Minister : Enquiries are being made.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does the Government in these cases act on the advice of the officials or it takes into account the recommendations of the non officials as well?

Chief Minister : All relevant evidence is taken into consideration.

†Kept in the Library.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that in the case of one Sardar Ram Singh the advice of a committee of non-officials consisting of Sardar Piara Singh, Sardar Harjab Singh and Sardar Ajit Singh M.L.A., was set aside and the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner was accepted?

Chief Minister : I am not in a position to say anything about specific cases off-hand.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the Government while deciding the refund cases consider the recommendations of the non-officials along with those of the officials?

Chief Minister : All available evidence will be considered.

INTRODUCTION OF PANCHAYAT SYSTEM IN JAILS.

*2784. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has considered the report of the Jail Reforms Committee and how the recommendations of that committee are proposed to be implemented?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The Report of the Jail Reforms Committee, a copy of which has already been supplied to each hon. Member of the House, is being considered by Government in stages. The recommendations contained therein have been divided into 4 categories—A, B, C, & D. The recommendations in category 'A' are those which can be implemented either without incurring any expenditure or by incurring only nominal expenditure. Recommendations in category 'B' are those which would involve some expenditure but deserve immediate implementation. Recommendations in Category 'C' can wait for better times while those in category 'D' will be reported on by the Inspector General of Prisons, Punjab, after he has consulted the other Departments concerned with their implementation.

Recommendations in category 'A' have been considered by the Council of Ministers. A statement showing the decisions taken is laid

on the table†. Necessary orders for their implementation have been issued to the Inspector General of Prisons, Punjab. Recommendations in category 'B' will be considered by the Council of Ministers very shortly while the recommendations in categories 'C' and 'D' will be considered later.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Why did the Government not consider the question of giving facilities to the prisoners as suggested by the Jail Refoms Committee by way of making bathing arrangements for them or fitting their kitchens with wire-gauze so urgent and important so as to take immediate action on it?

Chief Minister : Action will be taken on all recommendations according to the category in which they have been placed.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : But why has not this question been regarded as urgent and important?

Chief Minister : I have already said that the recommendations in category "A" have been considered and the recommendations in other categories will be considered in due course. The facilities referred to by the hon. Member will surely be considered according to the category in which they have been placed.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I ask as to why such a matter has not been placed in category "A"?

Chief Minister : Matters which involved nominal expenditure were placed in category "A" and those which called for appreciable expenditure were placed in other categories.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : How does the hon. Chief Minister think that these facilities would have cost much?

Chief Minister : I would ask the hon. Member to read my reply a little more carefully.

CHANGE IN PORTFOLIOS OF HONOURABLE LABOUR MINISTER.

*2787. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the reasons why certain portfolios have been taken away from the hon. Labour Minister ?

†Kept in the Library.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Allocation of business of Government of the State among Ministers is made by the Governor under Article 166 (3) of the Constitution of India on the advice of the Chief Minister. The change in allocation of business among hon. Ministers was made for administrative reasons.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did the Governor make a mistake in giving the portfolios or in withdrawing them ?

Chief Minister : It is a secret matter, and I cannot reply to such a question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the portfolios were withdrawn from the hon. Minister as a colleague of the hon. Chief Minister threatened that he would go against him if he were not to withdraw these portfolios ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that this withdrawal of the portfolios has become the talk of every town ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What were those departmental considerations which led to this hon. Minister being deprived of so many of his portfolios ?

Chief Minister : It is a secret matter and I cannot reply to it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that a certain colleague of the hon. Chief Minister told him that if he did not take away those portfolios from the Minister, he would work against the Chief Minister ?

Chief Minister : I know, Sir, that certain members pose to be members of my party but are working against me.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, we have taken the lead from him. He was a member of the Cabinet and he worked against his own leader.

Chief Minister : It is wrong.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : It is absolutely correct. He betrayed the leader.

Shri Ram Sharmā : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that portfolios are allotted to different Ministers on considerations of

departmental efficiency. At present one of the hon. Ministers holds portfolio for only one department while another is in-charge of a large number of these. May I know wherein lies the good of the State in this arrangement ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that I cannot answer this question as I am under oath of secrecy.

Shri Ram Sharma : How does this matter concern the oath of secrecy which the hon. Chief Minister has taken ?

Mr. Speaker : It does affect the oath of secrecy and several other things.

CHANGE IN PORTFOLIOS OF HON. LABOUR MINISTER.

*2788. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the reasons why the hon. Minister for Labour has been relieved of the charge of Departments other than that of Labour ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Attention of the honourable Member is invited to the answer given to Starred Assembly Question No. 2787†.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware of the fact that there are only twenty thousand labourers in this State who are members of labour organisations? What is the necessity of having a separate Minister for dealing with labour ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is giving expression to his opinion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Labour Department is so important that a separate Minister is required to deal with it ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : It is being said that some portfolios have been taken away from the hon. Minister for Labour as he is not keeping good health. May I know if this is correct ?

†Vide page 21 ante.

**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE SURRENDERED BY HON.
MINISTERS IN THE STATE.**

*2838. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any of the hon. Ministers voluntarily surrendered any amount out of their Travelling Allowance due to them during the months of January, February and March 1949 ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative the list of such Ministers together with the amount surrendered by each one of them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

	MONTH	AMOUNT
(b) Hon. Sardar Kartar Singh	January, 1949	Rs. 146 14 0
Hon. Sardar Partap Singh	January, 1949	Rs. 86 4 0
	February, 1949	Rs. 988 12 0

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the reason why the hon. Ministers do more touring in winter than in summer ?

Mr. Speaker : That is not relevant.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What reasons did they give for making these refunds ?

Chief Minister : It is for those who refunded these to give the reasons.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER UPPER BARI DOAB
CANAL AMRITSAR.

*2840. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any complaints of inefficiency were made by S. Sajjan Singh, M. L. A., to the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, vide his letters Nos. 141 to 143 dated 28th January 1951; if so, the nature of complaints so made;
- (b) whether any enquiry was made by the Government in the matter; if so, with what results?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. Three letters complaining of delay in the disposal of certain cases of Warabandi and splitting of outlets etc., were received on 31st January, 1951.
- (b) The complaints are under investigation.

Shri Ram Sharma : When did the investigations start and when are these likely to end?

Chief Minister : As I have already stated in my reply, the complaints were received on the 31st January, 1951, and investigations were started soon after.

BHAKRA AND NANGAL SCHEMES.

*2851. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the progress made in the Bhakra Dam Project so far and when it is likely to be completed;
- (b) the time by which the Nangal Scheme is likely to be completed;

[Dr. Sant Ram Seth]

- (c) the total amount of money that has already been spent thereon and the estimated amount which is required to complete the schemes ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) The work on the Diversion Tunnels of the Bhakra Dam is in progress. Approximately 40% of the entire enlargement on the Diversion Tunnels has been completed to date.

The Township for housing the construction personnel at Nangal has been completed. Road and Rail communications from Rail head at Rupar to the Dam site have been established.

The project is expected to be completed by the year 1957-58 provided funds are available to the extent required for each year during the course of its construction, which has been planned to be completed by 1957-58.

- (b) 1952-53

- (c) The total amount that will be spent by the end of the current year will be Rs. 22.6 crore. Rs. 85.4 crore more are required to complete the Scheme.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the estimates supplied by the hon. Chief Minister regarding the boring of tube-wells in the State were based on the assumption that the energy produced from Nangal would be used for that purpose? How is this surplus energy proposed to be consumed now?

Mr. Speaker : That does not arise out of the main question.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that Bhakra Project is likely to be completed by 1957-58 and the Nangal Project is expected to be completed by 1952-53. May I know if funds are available for the latter project?

Chief Minister : Yes, funds are available for the completion of Nangal project.

**CONSTRUCTION OF A BUND NEAR DHARAMKOI RANDHAWA
DISTRICT GURDASPUR.**

*3005. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a representation was made to him by Mahasha Anant Ram, President, Tehsil Panchayat Union, Batala, District Gurdaspur, for the construction of a bund near Dharamkot Randhawa, when he visited Chonawala, District Amritsar and Dera Baba Nanak, District Gurdaspur ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that when the Commissioner Jullundur Division visited Dera Baba Nanak a representation was also made to him in this connection ;
- (c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) An estimate for repairs to Dera Baba Nanak Bund near Dharamkot Randhawa has been prepared and is under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does the hon. Chief Minister remember that during discussion of the situation created by floods, he gave an assurance that dams would be constructed or repaired before the next rainy season ? May I know if the Government intends to complete that work in time ?

Chief Minister : The Government will do as much as possible.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What steps has the Government taken to assure the people that their difficulty in this behalf would be removed in time ?

JHAJJAR ROAD

***2444. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the period for which the Jhajjar Road in Rohtak Municipal limits is lying in a bad condition;

(b) the reasons for not repairing or reconstructing it ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(a) For the last one decade.

(b) Before partition, the financial position of the Committee was poor. Steps are, however, now being taken to have the road reconditioned.

Shri Ram Sharma : When did the financial position of Rohtak Municipal Committee become bad and when did it improve ?

Minister : So long as the condition of Rohtak Municipal Committee was bad it could not repair that road. The hon. Member must have noticed that the road is under repair now.

Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Minister has stated that the financial condition of Rohtak Municipal Committee remained bad for a decade. I wish to know as to when did it improve and upto which day did it remain bad ?

Minister : I have already replied that question.

FOREIGN TECHNICIANS FOR NEW CAPITAL.

***2852. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that a deputation consisting of 2 or 3 high officials of the Government visited a few foreign countries to employ foreign technicians for designing and planning the New Capital at Chandigarh ;

- (b) the monthly salary of each such technician and other terms of service, if any ;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred on the visit of the officers referred to above to foreign countries for the purpose ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes (Two officials only).
- (b) (i) Architectural Adviser to Government, Punjab, at £ 2000/- per annum as honorarium plus £ 30/- a day as daily allowance for his stay in India subject to a maximum of £ 4,000/- per annum inclusive of honorarium.
- (ii) Two Senior Architects at £ 3,000/- each per annum (Rs. 40,000/- per annum and Rs. 3333/- per mensum each).
- (ii) One Senior Architect at £ 1,800/- per annum (Rs. 24,000/- per annum and Rs. 2,000/- per mensem).

Their terms of service are governed by the agreement executed by them on the form prescribed by the Punjab Government.

- (c) The High Commissioner for India, London, has not yet intimated the expenditure incurred on the two officers' delegation which visited Europe. The Estimate of the expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,000/- excluding salaries of the two officers which would have been paid in any case

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : The Estimates Committee criticised this expenditure in connection with sending of Government officers abroad for recruiting technicians and recommended to the Government that it should obtain the approval of the House for this action. Does the Government propose to act on that recommendation ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a request for particular action.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Are these two officers who went abroad for recruiting technical experts better qualified technically than those whom they had to select ?

Chief Minister : I do not possess the exact list of their qualifications.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the Chief Engineer who went abroad for making selection of experts not capable of doing the work himself ?

Mr. Speaker : This is a question of opinion.

Shri Parbodh Chandra : May I know if it is in the knowledge of the hon. Chief Minister that the persons who have been enlisted possess higher technical qualifications than the persons who went to enlist them ?

Chief Minister : Their qualifications are in their respective lines and departments.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know how a person could appoint a man possessing qualifications in a line different from his own ?

Chief Minister : My learned Friend has no knowledge in the matter of recruitments. He should try to acquire that.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the names of the officers who went abroad for this purpose ?

Chief Minister : Mr. P. N. Thapar, and Mr. P. L. Verma, Superintending Engineer.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that Mr. P. N. Thapar has nothing to do with engineering ?

Chief Minister : He is the administrator and the second member of the delegation was an engineer.

LIBRARIES MAINTAINED BY PANCHAYAT DEPARTMENT.

*2962. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of Libraries working under the Panchayat Department in different parts of the State;
- (b) the total amount spent by the department annually for purchasing books for these libraries;

- (c) the authority which selects these books, and the criterion adopted by which the books for the purpose are judged;
- (d) the names of the book-sellers from whom these books are purchased ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) 25 libraries at tehsil headquarters and 705 libraries in villages under panchayats.
- (b) Rs. 6,000/- on tehsil libraries and Rs. 4,000/- on village libraries.
- (c) A committee consisting of an officer of field staff and two officials of Head Office. This Committee consults the panchayats regarding the languages in which they need the books and the names of the books and then makes the selection keeping in view the type of books suited for villages.
- (d) There is no approved list of book-sellers from whom the books are purchased. The purchases are made from the open market by the aforesaid committee after obtaining quotations.

Shri Virendra : May I know the qualifications of the officials who are deputed to make purchases of these books ?

Minister : I cannot tell that off-hand.

Shri Virendra : May I know if they are educated ?

Minister : All officers are educated.

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Minister please, tell their names ?

Minister : I require notice.

Shri Virendra : May I know if the hon. Minister has also been consulted in this matter ?

Minister : Consultation with me was not necessary, since the matter is not so important.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the books are purchased on having a look at their titles or after going through them ?

Minister : They are purchased after going through them.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the subject matter of a large number of books purchased for these libraries is not good ?

Minister : Books are always purchased after considering their subject matter. Their names are sometimes misleading.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that there are about 70 libraries under the panchayats and Rs. 4,000 have been allocated for them. In this way, every library gets about Rs. 5/10. Does the Government not consider this small amount as insufficient ?

Minister : Yes, it is insufficient. It will be enhanced when we have more funds.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that so long as this Government is in power, nothing will be done to improve the lot of the people ? (*Interruptions*)

Minister : This Government has already done a lot for the people

Shri Virendra : Is it a fact that the Education Department maintains a list of approved books for the libraries ?

Minister : Books are purchased after selecting them from those lists; but some are selected otherwise also.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TRANSPORT CONTROLLER.

* 2649. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the post of Deputy Transport Controller has been filled up; if so, since when and by whom;
- (b) whether the case of the person appointed was submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval; if so, the nature of recommendation of the Public Service Commission ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

- (a) It is not clear to which particular post of Deputy Transport Controller, the hon. Member refers.
- (b) The particular post or person referred to may be named first.

Shri Virendra : On a point of order, Sir. In my original question I had mentioned the name of the person about whom information is required. I do not know who has omitted the name, with the result that information is being denied to me.

Mr Speaker : Are there more than one Deputy Transport Controllers?

Shri Virendra : I don't know.

Parliamentary Secretary : There are three Deputy Transport Controllers.

Mr. Speaker : I am sorry I cut out the name from the question being under the impression that there was only one Deputy Transport Controller. The hon. Member can now tell the name and get the information he requires.

Shri Virendra : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state the number of the Deputy Transport Controllers?

Parliamentary Secretary : They are three.

Shri Virendra : May I know their names?

Parliamentary Secretary : First is Mr. Amrit Lal, Deputy Transport Controller, Operations; second is Lala Sita Ram and the third has not yet been appointed.

Shri Virendra : May I know when Lala Sita Ram was appointed?

Shri Virendra : Is it a fact that the Public Service Commission was not consulted before making this appointment?

Parliamentary Secretary : Public Service Commission was informed according to the rules.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the Parliamentary Secretary has invited trouble for himself by disclosing the names of the Deputy Transport Controllers? (*Laughter*)

Parliamentary Secretary : No, that is not a fact.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what action the Public Service Commission took when it was informed of the appointment of Lala Sita Ram ?

Shri Ram Sharma : When would Lala Sita Ram complete six months of service ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it in the knowledge of the hon. Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary that the Public Service Commission protested against the appointment of this man ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if this Lala Sita Ram is the same person who was rejected by the Public Service Commission in the united Punjab ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if he was rejected by the Public Service Commission of the Utter Pradesh ?

Chief Minister : It is possible, he is the same man. But these supplementaries are irrelevant owing to the fact that the question is silent about the name of the particular Deputy Transport Controller.

Mr Speaker : I am sorry to say that the Government is not straight enough in giving replies to certain questions with the result that I have to allow more supplementaries.

Chief Minister : Sir, my submission is that the name of the person about whom information was required was not given in the question and, therefore, we could not collect the necessary information. In such a case how can we reply to questions as to whether that person was rejected by the Public Service Commission of U. P. or the united Punjab, or not.

Mr. Speaker : I have to allow supplementary questions so that the hon. Member may get some information. If the Government have no knowledge they should clearly say that they have no knowledge. But all the same, it is my view that questions which should be answered in certain cases, are avoided by the Government or some definite and clear answers are not given. In such cases I allow more supplementaries to be asked till I find that the hon. Members have got some information.

Chief Minister : May I most respectfully draw your attention to the fact that if the Government does not want to give any reply they can keep quiet and similarly they in reply to supplementaries also can keep silent. I respectfully request you to allow those supplementaries only to which you can see that Government can reply.

Mr. Speaker : How can I know that the Government can reply to a particular supplementary or not. The only thing by which I can judge a supplementary question is that it should be relevant.

REPORT OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 1950-51

Thakur Pancham Chand : Sir, I present the Report of the Estimates Committee on the Budget Estimates 1950-51.

TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 1951.

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) :
Sir, I beg to move :—

That Rule 23 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government Business be transacted on Thursday, 15th March 1951.

Sir, last time I stated that the work in connection with the Budget was to be finished before 31st of March; so the Government intends taking tomorrow for official business. For non-official business we have 22nd and 29th. So the hon. Members will have ample opportunity for such business on those two days.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That Rule 23 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government Business be transacted on Thursday, 15th March 1951.

leader of the House not to take non-official days. But as the Punjabi saying goes :—

ਵਡਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਕਿਹਾ ਸਿਰ ਮਥੇ, ਪਰਨਾਲਾ ਓਥੇ ਦਾ ਓਥੇ।

बड़ियाँ का क्या सर मथे, परनाला ओथे का ओथे।

In spite of repeated requests from all quarters the Leader of the House is adamant in taking non-official days. In October Session it was said that the Session was short and the business before the House was heavy so non official day should be utilized for official work. Now in the Budget Session, even though the Session is quite long, the same excuse is put forth. Has any astrologer or some hakim told that the session must be adjourned by 31st of March? If the Government has heavy work to dispose of, the session should continue even after 31st of March. There is no reason why non-official day should be taken. We are, as a matter of fact, prepared to have one or two sittings more if the Government so desires. We are prepared to forego even holidays for that purpose. Then why is it that the rights of the hon. Members are being usurped in this manner? It is injustice to the hon. Members and the public at large. On official days, the rules are such, that the hon. Members are unable to bring in measures to their liking. So I would request the Leader of the House to withdraw this motion.

Mehra Rambr Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, I don't wish to oppose the motion now. In fact, the Government can take a non-official day for the purpose of transacting official business. But there should be some urgent and immediate need for it. It is my opinion that some important problems should be discussed if such day is to be taken at all. The hon. Members should be allowed to discuss such matters as are of urgent nature and which concern the people generally. The problems that the public in our State is facing should be fully discussed and solved. In this connection, I wish to bring to the notice of this House that although the Parliament is discussing the Budget, but still it is able to find and spare time to discuss the adjournment motion which was recently tabled before it. It considered it proper to take steps in this important matter. But this State has strange ways of its own. Although many problems concern us deeply yet we have not been able to discuss them in the House. An opportunity should be given for the

Sir, the Supplementary Estimates, which were presented to the House the other day, were passed by it day before yesterday. But under the rules it is necessary to pass an Appropriation Bill relating to these estimates. I, therefore, in pursuance of Article 204 (1) of the Constitution of India, read with Article 205 thereof put forward this Bill and commend it to the House for approval.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That the Punjab Appropriation (No. 3) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) :
Sir, the Appropriation Bill, introduced by the hon. Chief Minister, includes an item of rupees one lakh, which has been demanded in connection with the destruction of locust swarms, which have invaded our State. Sir, in the beginning of this Session we were given an assurance that herculean efforts were going to be made for combating the locust menace. So we passed the supplementary demand for this purpose without any loss of time. But what is the situation in the State, that has arisen as a result of the invasion by the locust swarms. I would just refer you to a news item appearing in the Tribune of 13th March, 1951.

Mr. Speaker : To which Demand does this expenditure relate and on what page of the Supplementary Estimates does it appear ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : It relates to demand No. 9 and it appears on pages 22 and 23. Well, Sir, I was going to quote a news from the Tribune with regard to the locust menace in Kangra. It runs thus :

The Kangra valley is under the threat of the 'winged' menace. Locusts have invaded more than half a dozen places, like Kulu Baijnath, Palampur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Dharamsala, Mangwal, Rohlu and Jassur stretching over an area of 100 miles. Mr. R. N. Luthra, Deputy Commissioner is guiding anti-locust operations.

Palampur sector was cleared by over 1500 military, police and public volunteers fighting under the supervision of S. Balbir Singh Randhawa, A. D. M.

In Hamirpur, operations were spear-headed by the public. Farmers smoked out locusts from every field. Dharamsala was attacked by swarms for two hours. Military help was summoned. Soldiers and college students won everybody's appreciation by their tireless and splendid work.

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No report of any appreciable damage has been received so far at the headquarters. The valley is not yet out of the wood. Fresh swarms are reported to be heading towards Palampur from Darang Mandi. The District lacks efficient fighting equipment. In Dharamsala operations alone, only 2 of the 20 stirrup-pumps were in working order. Import of pumps and flame-throwers alone can make the fight really effective.

Well, Sir, this news was from Dharamsala and now another news from Amritsar has come. It also appears in the Tribune of 14th March, 1951. The district of Amritsar has been invaded by a new and a big swarm of locusts. The news runs thus:—

Three more locust swarms invaded Amritsar District yesterday, the biggest of them crossed the Beas last evening. Twenty villages of Amritsar and Tarn Taran tehsils, between the 10 miles belt from Sheron Bahga to Vairawal are affected.

Military authorities have detailed more troops. Besides thousands of villagers, civilians and officials are engaged in the task of extermination of locusts. S. Narinder Singh, Brigadier, Sarfar Nand Singh and Chaudhri Bhim Singh have visited these villages.

Vairawal and some villages, which were cleared of locusts earlier, are affected once again. Damage to trees and fodder is reported.

The matter does not stop here. There is yet another news about the locust menace.

Reports received from Kangra District suggest that several swarms of locusts have settled over the three tahsils of Kulu, Palampur and Hamira.

The situation in Amritsar district, which was only recently attacked, is stated to be growing worse with the arrival of fresh swarms. In Jullundur District only five villages in Nikodar Tehsil are now affected.

You will see, Sir, that these news fairly indicate the difficult situation created by the locust swarms.

Mr. Speaker: Since the guillotine is to be applied at 6 O'clock, I think a time-limit should be fixed for speeches. So I fix 30 minutes and 15 minutes.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Since I have to speak a lot on this Bill and when there are very few hon. Members who would participate in

the discussion, I request that you may be pleased to give me more time.

Mr. Speaker: I think 30 minutes are sufficient for the hon. Member.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Very well, Sir. Some time back we received reports to the effect that for the first five or six days of the invasion of locusts in Hoshiarpur district, the Deputy Commissioner failed to take effective steps for the extermination of locusts. In this connection, I may point out that when a meeting of the officers of the locust affected districts took place, the Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur remarked that bangles should be sent to the people of Hoshiarpur. Now, Sir, if a Deputy Commissioner of one district can say things like that regarding another district, then it can well be imagined, how far the officers of that district have failed to discharge their duties in respect of destruction of locusts. Then, what do we find about the efforts made in the Kangra District to destroy the locusts? This district lacks efficient equipment necessary for fighting the locust menace. It is reported that in Dharmsala operations a good number of stirrup-pumps were found to be not in working order. Similarly reports emanating from Jullundur indicate that there has been more of a show in the locust destruction operations than of a solid work. I am of the opinion that if the work of exterminating locusts had been tackled properly, then this menace would have been brought sufficiently under control by this time. Now, Sir, it was on January 28 of this year that the locusts swarms visited Ludhiana District coming there via the Patiala Union and then they swarmed Ambala and other districts. Only a very few swarms came from Pakistan but mainly they came through PEPSU. Now from 28th January to this day of 14th March, the period is sufficiently long. If the Government's endeavours to combat the locust menace during a period of one and a half month, have not proved a success, then it becomes a matter of great anxiety. I have no mind to censure the Government on this score because this locust menace has a direct bearing on the food problem which my party has decided not to make a political question.

Mr. Speaker, I feel, Sir, that our State is faced with a serious calamity. The conditions obtaining at present in our State are such

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that one cannot do without arriving at the conclusion that in the districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, and in some areas of the Ferozepore District, the crops have suffered a very heavy loss due to lack of rains. If we do not have rains in time, I am afraid, there would be a tremendous deficit of foodgrains in our State. At the same time there is no denying the fact that it is not within our power to control rains. But so far as the locust menace is concerned, it is within our power to fight it and thus exterminate it. As a matter of fact we can undertake the destruction of locusts to a great extent. But it has been experienced and I am really constrained to remark that our Government instead of employing new methods is following old lines in combating the locust menace. By following the old lines, our Government will be instrumental in creating worst and dreadful type of famine conditions in our State. Only a few days ago, I was given to understand that the Central Government were going to depute some experts to help us in combating the locust menace. I do not know whether they have arrived and started the work. In case they have arrived I do not know in what areas have they started their work. However, there is no denying the fact and I am sure, my hon Friends will agree with me when I say that the destruction and the extermination of the locust swarms with unabated perseverance and strength is the crying need of the hour. So far as the Punjabis are concerned, they are not scared by *Jivhatya* as people in other States feel that it is a sin to kill the locusts. In fact they are out to kill any insect or animal which puts their very existence in jeopardy. This is not all. They are prepared to co-operate with the Government in combating this menace. It is abundantly clear from the information which I have been receiving from time to time from the various sources of the Government that the people of our State are co-operating with the Government in fighting this menace. Moreover, the officials of the Government have expressed their appreciation more often than once to the effect that people co-operated with them and assisted them in the task of exterminating the locust swarms. Under the circumstances, I really fail to understand the reason why our Government has not been able to exterminate the locusts from the State. Here I cannot do without saying that our Government has failed to control the situation so far as the all-out destruction of the locusts is concerned. It is really a matter of deep regret that so far our Government has been very slack in its efforts to deal with the situation. In fact it has adopted a very weak policy towards this problem of vital importance. What I mean to point out is that if all-out efforts are not made to combat

the menace of locusts with unabated perseverance and strength, I am afraid, our State of Punjab will be in the clutches of a dreadful famine in the same way just as the other States have already suffered a lot on account of the natural calamities which befell them last year. The locust visitations have already had very bad effects both in the urban and the rural areas. It will not be out of place to mention here that the people in the urban areas are already facing the troubles and miseries and now the people in the rural areas have also been badly affected as far as edibles and potables are concerned. If the invasion by the swarms of locusts continues on different parts of our State, then it will have very bad repercussions. Under the circumstance, I would like to lay emphasis on the point that no time should be lost in taking effective steps to exterminate the menace caused by the invasion of the locusts. Even a minute's delay is dangerous and thus detrimental to the interests of both the people and the Government. So far as the people of our State are concerned, I may assure the Government that they will not be found wanting in co-operating with it in giving all possible assistance in exterminating the locusts. As I have already stated that they have not been found wanting in co-operating with the Government so far as this matter is concerned. Instances in this connection are not wanting. Volunteers from Jullundur rushed to the rural areas in thousands to help the local population and the Government in fighting the menace of locusts. I happened to meet most of these volunteers who complained one and all that the arrangements of the Government were very unsatisfactory and that it was due to this mismanagement that they could not even do 1/10th of the work which they were ordinarily in a position to do in the event of adequate arrangements made by it. It is very much regretted that due to the weak machinery of the Government these swarms of locusts could not be destroyed for all times to come. Now that the conditions are worsening day by day, it is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to adopt effective measures in this direction.

The other point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is regarding the co-operative gardening colonies for which Rs. 5,050/- have been demanded by the Government as is evident from Demand No. 2 which relates to the Department of Agriculture. The Co-operative Garden Colony Scheme has already been dealt with at length on page 23 of the Supplementary Estimates. As a matter of fact Government has acknowledged this fact that in

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the pre-partitioned Punjab the Agriculture Department had made a special effort to develop horticulture. There are no two opinions on the point that the progress was so rapid and so great in the pre-partitioned Punjab that it was a source of inspiration and envy to the rest of India. The new scheme regarding the garden colonies was started in the State in the beginning of the year 1949. I can say on the basis of my experience which I have gained after visiting different places that there has not been any improvement in the development of the garden colonies. If at all there has been any development it has been on paper only, or in other words in name only, but from the practical point of view there has been no improvement whatsoever worth the name. So far as the post-partitioned province, and now the State of Punjab is concerned, garden colonies should be set up at as many places as possible. It is really a matter of gratification that the Director of Agriculture has made a very useful scheme. As a matter of fact the whole Punjab is obliged to him for such a highly beneficial scheme. But it is very much regretted that efforts are not being made to work out this scheme. If adequate steps are not taken in this direction, I am afraid, this scheme will continue to remain in the cold storage like the Welfare Fund which was created and ultimately done away with. Care should, therefore, be taken to see that this scheme does not continue to remain a paper-scheme only, and that it is instead worked out as soon as possible. Government should make it a point to lay as many garden colonies as possible so that the people of our State, majority of whom are agriculturists, may also emulate the Government and thus take to gardening. Government should make all-out efforts to encourage people to lay as many garden colonies as possible. The argument that it is the intention of the Government to adopt some other ways and means to help the people in the matter of laying gardens, because the Rehabilitation authorities have stopped affording facilities to people in the form of loans and grants etc., for laying garden colonies, does not sound well. I am of the opinion that no time should be lost in taking adequate steps in the matter of laying garden colonies. If this is done, I am sure, those of our up-rooted brethren from Pakistan who are deeply interested in gardening would be highly obliged to the Government. Such a step on the part of the Government will be instrumental in adding more income to the State Exchequer. It is, therefore, necessary for the Government to encourage people in laying as many gardens as possible. This and this alone is the crying need of the hour.

Further, a mention has been made on pages 79-81 in the Supplementary Estimates about the Capital Outlay on Electric Schemes (outside the Revenue Account). Necessary provision has been made in the Budget to work out these schemes. I had also pointed out to the Government during the Session held in October 1950 that our Electricity Department is very inefficient and its inefficiency is distinctively visible in the fact that at the time of preparation of annual Budget Estimates it asked for 5 lakhs of rupees for the execution of various schemes and now it has put forward a supplementary demand for Rs. 14 lakhs. Besides this, I have my own grouse-nay the whole Punjab has in fact a grouse against the incompetence of this department as it has allowed 9,000 K. W. of electricity to the West Punjab when it is required urgently in our own State. The schemes which are mentioned at pages 79-81 of the Supplementary Estimates are admittedly the result of people's own efforts. I know that in many towns people made earnest efforts by submitting several applications to the Government for the supply of electricity and in response to their persistent demands the Government has now decided to execute these schemes for which supplementary demand has been made before the House. Apart from this, large quantity of electricity is badly needed in the surrounding areas of Ludhiana district. People of this ilaqa have made several requests to the Electricity Department but there has been no encouraging response from the Department. The exigencies of the situation demand that the surplus electric energy which is being given to Pakistan should have been utilised for the benefit of these people. In spite of the repeated requests made by these people, the department has not cared to pursue this question in order to remove their genuine difficulties. The result is that the department's absurd policy of allowing 9,000 K. W. of electricity to the West Punjab in preference to the needs of our own people continues to be the subject of carping criticism by all people here. So far as this supplementary demand is concerned, I am sure that it will be passed by the Assembly but all the same I would like to bring such matters to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister who I suppose is in charge of the Electricity Department.

Mr. Speaker : No, it is under the charge of P. W. D. Minister.

Sardar Bachan Singh : It may be so but the whole responsibility for running the administration efficiently lies on the hon. Chief Minister. I would have been glad if a still greater sum had been

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asked for in this connection as incurring of such expenditure is always productive and is in the interest of the State at large. I know the Government has incurred expenditure amounting to crores of rupees on Grow-More-Food schemes but I fail to understand why the Government does not provide electricity to the people of rural areas who go from door to door requesting the officers to give them electricity. I may say that with the supply of power there is increase in revenue of the Government and also increase in food production. Besides this, on account of the low level of sub soil water near Ludhiana the people of that ilaqa who are very enterprising are keenly desirous of getting electric power for their use but the Government's efforts to meet their demands are exceedingly slow. It so appears that the Government is not making any effort in this direction and if it had provided 2,000 or 3,000 K. W. of electricity to this ilaqa, I think it would have given a strong impetus to the Grow-More-Food Campaign. The people of my ilaqa do not entirely depend upon the Government to sink tube-wells for them. They are very sturdy and enterprising themselves and would sink tube-wells if electricity is made available to them. They also require electricity for the installation of pumping sets. Such a scheme is advisable and profitable too. When the country is faced with the problem of food shortage, the red-tapism in the Government administration causes inordinate delay for the schemes to materialise. Such a delay in the maturing of schemes connotes inefficiency in the Electricity Department. I wish there had been a planned scheme for providing electricity to every nook and corner of the State. I understand that the Government had formulated a scheme for sinking 258 tube-wells in Jagadhri but now the Government intends to sink about 20 or 25 tube-wells and the sinking of the remaining tube-wells has been postponed.

Chief Minister : I may inform the hon. Member that a contract for sinking 225 tube-wells has been given to a firm and we hope that about 150 tube-wells will be sunk within a period of two years.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I may be excused if I ask whether this contract has been given to the son-in-law of Mr. K. M. Munshi, Food Minister of India ?

Chief Minister : No, this contract has been given to a foreign firm.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Thank you, Sir, for the information supplied. I understand that the Government propose to instal thermal plants for supplying energy to areas in Ambala Division. But the hon. Chief Minister has remarked that electricity generated by means of the thermal plants will prove expensive. If it is so, the supply of energy should be made available from Ohl river hydro-electric scheme. I would appeal to the Government that it should take immediate steps to supply electricity which is in great demand to the rural areas. I am sure that the quantity of electricity which is being sent to the West Punjab can easily be utilised in one district of the State. If the Electricity Department had addressed itself seriously to the task of providing electricity in the rural areas out of the bulk supply which is being spared for Pakistan, it would have produced marvellous results in stepping up food production. But it is no use brooding over the errors of omission and commission of the past. The Government should pay its utmost attention to this important problem.

Then it will be observed, Sir, that a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is provided under Demand No. 10 at page 29 in connection with rural housing scheme. From the figures that the Rehabilitation Department has given us it appears that about 6 lakhs houses were left behind by Muslim evacuees in rural areas out of which only $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs were habitable. So far as I know, out of these $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs habitable houses about one lakh houses were destroyed by heavy rain and floods which visited various districts of the State last year. I am basing all these facts on Government's figures. So at present there are only $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs evacuee houses in rural areas which are fit for habitation and when it is clear that the number of these houses is extremely inadequate to accommodate displaced rural population, how does the Government claim that the problem of rural rehabilitation has been solved? Is it because the rural people cannot raise their voice so vociferously and vigorously as the town people and do not know how to agitate collectively? While for the resettlement of urban population, so many housing schemes such as eight-marla-plots-scheme have been formulated, nothing has been done to tackle the problem of housing shortage in rural areas. It is far from my intention to suggest that Government should stop building houses in towns. On the other hand, I consider it as the duty of the Government to provide a house to every homeless refugee family from West Punjab. But when it is

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claimed that rural rehabilitation is complete while the fact of the matter is that as many as 2 lakhs people in the rural areas are shelterless, I cannot but raise my voice of protest against the treatment being meted out to the rural population but for whose unremitting labour despite the severe cold of the plains of the Punjab and the attacks of malaria to which they were constantly exposed after the havoc wrought by the last floods. this State would not have been able to increase its food production.

All that our Government has done to solve the problem of rural housing is to demolish the ten per cent houses which had escaped the ravages of floods in order to clear the way for setting up model villages. I am here reminded of the reply that the parent of a good-for-nothing son gave when he was asked if his son could read, write and talk. The father is said to have replied that he was not proficient in the first two but a master of the third. So is the case with our Government. God knows when the model houses will be erected though in the meanwhile even the small number of habitable houses which had not been damaged by floods have been demolished to make way for the former.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you are aware evacuee land has been allotted to 4 lakhs families in this State alone. Besides these people, the number of other displaced persons who have settled in villages is not less than one lakh. What this Government proposes to do to provide them with housing accommodation is to give them loans up to a maximum amount of Rs. 1,000 each and for this purpose a provision for Rs 5 lakhs has been made. Now out of this amount, money will be spent on preparing blue-prints, demarcating sites and roads and the remaining sum would be utilised for granting loans to the people for building houses. And I doubt very much if any person will receive more than Rs. 250 or three hundred. Does the Government expect these uprooted people who have come to India after having lost their all to be able to build a house with such a meagre amount? Is it by making this provision of Rs. 5 lakhs that the Government claims to have solved the problem of rural rehabilitation?

On the other hand, Sir, just imagine what the Government is doing to solve the problem of housing shortage in towns. It has already built 4 thousand houses and ten or fifteen thousand mud huts

to provide accommodation to the urban displaced population. And now eight-marla sites are being prepared to build as many as ten thousand new houses and for this purpose a sum of Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 lakhs has been provided. Moreover, the houses are proposed to be built by the Government itself and then they will be given to the urban people on easy instalments. This makes all the difference between the treatment accorded to the urban and the rural population. While all this has been done for urban rehabilitation, what has been done to provide shelter to the homeless ruralities? Demarcation of some roads has been done and one or two model houses have been built and no more. This small amount that has been provided is just an eye-wash. In fact, the Government has no intention to do anything for the agriculturist population but for whose labour our food production would not have increased by two lakhs tons. Was it not the duty of the Government to undertake to build houses for them as it has done in the case of urban displaced persons? I have, no doubt, sympathy with those urban people who are still without a house to live in but at the moment I am thinking of those voiceless people for whom the Government has not built a single house. With these words, I want to draw the attention of the Government to these urgent matters and I hope that it will not neglect them in future. The demand has already been passed and so it is not for me to urge at this stage that it should be disapproved.

Shrimati Sita Devi: (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, this Bill is now to be passed only as a matter of formality as the Budget has already got the approval of this House. It is no use offering any opposition to the passage of this Bill. Still even at this stage, I would like to make a few suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Chief Minister. My first suggestion concerns Demand No. 29 on page 63 of the Supplementary Estimates (Second Instalment). As has been given in the Government explanation, a sum of Rs. 33,460 has been asked for for developing industries in Kulu. The whole of this amount is meant to cover salaries of some officers, clerks and chaprasis. A big sum of Rs. 13,650 is meant only for two officers, and I have fears that the whole of the amount asked for may go waste. This scheme of developing industry in Kulu was started in the year of grace 1949 and no progress has been reported till now. I am led to think that all these schemes relating to the development of industry are paper schemes.

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and nothing practical is being done. If some payable results were to be achieved by putting these schemes through nobody would grudge any expenditure on them but the pity is that while sanction is obtained from this House for spending money on various schemes no satisfactory results are shown. I am sure that the Kulu industrial scheme has not proved a success. If it had the hon. Chief Minister would have made a frequent mention of it in his speeches as he has done of the Nilokheri and other schemes. (A Voice-Better inquire from Thakur Dalip Singh). I have inquired about this scheme from my hon. Brother Thakur Dalip Singh and he informs me that my impressions are absolutely correct. I have apprehensions that this scheme may also be like the Chandigarh or the Capital scheme which was undertaken about four years ago and as yet shows no signs of materialization. If my fears come right this huge sum of Rs. 33,460 will be wasted and this public waste is not likely to redound to the credit of our Government. Here I do not mean to suggest that this money should not be granted as the House has already given its approval for expending it. What I wish to impress upon the hon. Chief Minister is only this that when the House has given its sanction for the expending of this money it may kindly be well-spent and some tangible results shown. We will certainly have no complaint against the Government or for that matter against anybody if the State gets proper returns for the money spent by it.

My second suggestion relates to Demand No. 25 on page 81. Under this Demand a sum of Rs. 1,70,000 is required for making electricity arrangements at Kalka. It is said that as the private company which supplied electricity to Kalka has failed and as the Railway authorities are not in a position to help, arrangements are to be made for getting energy from Chandigarh and for this purpose a huge sum of Rs. 1,70,000 is required. I very well appreciate the difficulties of Kalka so far as want of electricity in this town is concerned. I wish that these difficulties should be removed as soon as possible. We should certainly take some steps to improve this town as it is going to be so very near our capital. But again my fears are that despite so much expenditure this town may still not have adequate arrangements for electricity. In my opinion it would have been much better if instead of undertaking this scheme for supplying electricity to Kalka a sum of Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000 were advanced as a loan to Mr. Bogra for carrying out repairs to the machinery and to continue to supply

electricity to this town Mr. Bogra's company had been doing quite good work in the past and there would have been no harm if some money had been advanced to him by way of a loan. As a matter of fact I fail to understand the reason why so much expenditure should be incurred when our purpose could be very easily served by giving a loan of a few thousand rupees. So far as my experience of this Government goes, I think that despite the approval by this House for necessary funds, it has'nt the capacity to put through any useful schemes. It is probably the case of the Hindustani adage:

ना नौ मन तेल होगा ना राधा नाचेगी

ना नौं मन तेल होगा न राधा नाचेगी ।

However, this supply of electricity is not a matter which should be lightly treated. Electricity has become a necessity of life these days and the people of Kalka would be put to great hardship if we do not take the necessary steps for its supply. I, therefore, earnestly request the Government that in case it is not possible to get work done through Mr. Bogra, it should do all in its power to implement its own scheme so that the people of Kalka are saved from the difficulties arising from want of electricity.

Sir, I also wish to say a few words about item No. 2 under Demand No. 17 on page 48. Under item No. 2 of Demand No. 17, a sum of Rs. 2,500 has been asked for in connection with the basic school at Oel. So far as the establishment of basic schools in this State is concerned, I think there will be hardly a Punjabi living amongst us who will oppose such an idea. At present, at any rate, we stand in need of any number of such schools. But the question is whether we are going to get a y adequate returns from this expenditure on the basic school at Oel. During the bye-election in Tehsil Una, I had an opportunity of going to Oel. Most of the essential things are not available there. If the basic school, which has been opened there had been started somewhere else, it would have yielded better results. Neither water nor raw material is available there. It costs much more to import raw material from outside. There is no suitable means of transport for going to Oel. The money spent on this school would have yielded better results, if it had been opened at some other place. The articles manufactured in that

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school do not bring satisfactory return. I feel that our hon. Chief Minister has some special love for Oel,

Mr. Speaker : Please don't impute motives.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I do not mean to impute motives. Everybody has a liking for something and it appears that the hon. Chief Minister has some special liking for Oel. I wish to inform the House about a visit paid to this school by His Excellency the Governor. He enquired from one of the persons engaged on leather work and doing quite an advanced work as to how long ago he started learning work at the school. Village people are quite simple. He innocently replied that he had started learning his work since the previous day only. Similarly, another person replied that he lived at a short distance from that village and had started coming to the school only two days back. Whenever some important person has to pay a visit to this school, villagers from near about are brought there and shown as students of that school. I mean to point out that the expenditure incurred and the show put up in connection with this school is not yielding any useful result. A very responsible person told me that in fact there was no regular student on the rolls of this school. When it is necessary to make a show, simple village folk are collected there and are shown as trainees. Basic schools are important institutions and should be opened in the State but these should be situated at such places where these might prove useful. The school at Oel is not doing any good. When we spend money on a certain thing, we should see that it is not being misused or wasted. These were the things to which I wished to draw the attention of the House. I hope that when this Bill is passed, the Government will ensure that the money granted to it is properly spent.

Shri Amar Nath Vidvalankar (Non-Union Labour) (Hindi) : Sir, after the House has passed all these demands, I do not propose to analyse them in speech. There are certain important points in this Bill to which I wish to draw the attention of the House. If the remarks of the Estimates Committee on the Supplementary Budget are examined, it would be noticed that it drew the attention of the Government to several things. For example, it remarked with respect to Demand No. 16 relating to Major Head Charges on Irrigation Establishment that—

This Demand was approved but the Committee unanimously disapproved the Government's action in sending the delegation road consisting of

very senior officers for recruiting technicians which the Committee were convinced could be competently done by the Indian Missions abroad. In this connection, the Committee suggested to the Government that in future delegations when intended to be sent abroad should be sent only after the expenditure had been approved by the State Legislature.

I hoped that the report of the Committee would be acted upon but.....

Mr. Speaker : That Demand has been passed by the Assembly. The hon. Member should not attack that decision.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I am not objecting to this Demand but wish to say that in the light of the observations made by the Committee, I expected the hon. Minister in-charge of Finance to give necessary assurance to the House. We are not creating healthy precedents by ignoring the remarks of the Estimates Committee or the Public Accounts Committee. I think that these two Committees are constituted for examining and analysing the Demands incorporated in the Finance Bill. The House is not in a position to examine these so thoroughly as these Committees can. These Committees are, therefore, responsible on behalf of the house for the safe custody of public funds and, therefore, should command highest respect. I want the Government to give an assurance that it proposes to act on the recommendations of these Committees. Another thing in connection with which I wish the hon. Minister in-charge of Finance to give an assurance to the House is the observation made by the Estimates Committee at page 4 of its report. It says—

The Committee believe that there is a tendency in the various departments of the Government to spend the whole amount placed at their disposal without due regard to economy to obviate the necessity of having to explain to the Finance Department later on the reasons why the department did not ask for less if it did not need to spend the whole amount.

The Committee has complained that instead of effecting economy, the Heads of Departments spend all the money left at their disposal at the end of the year. Last time also, the Public Accounts Committee stated in its report that the Heads of Departments did not thoroughly scrutinise the demands made by them. It is surprising that the Government has to bring Supplementary Demands twice in a year. It only means that the controlling officers have no control on the budgetted amounts of their departments. They do not examine their

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expenditure thoroughly and are sometimes not aware of the monthly expenditure of their departments. I shall request the hon. Minister to ensure that it does not become necessary for the Government to ask for supplementary expenditure again and again. The departmental Heads should thoroughly scrutinise and control expenditure of their departments. We shall be setting up a bad tradition if we ignore the reports of Finance Committees like the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committees. The hon. Minister should explain the position of the Government with respect to objections recorded by these Committees. If it does not agree with some of their observations, it should advance reasons for that. The reports of these Committees which are set up for controlling expenditure should be shown due regard. These reports should not be treated with contempt or with indifference. It appears that the hon. Chief Minister treats the reports of these two committees with contempt. If that is the case, it would tantamount to the contempt of the House. Then, Sir, I want to draw your attention to Items Nos. (2) and (3) of Demand No. 3. This item which relates to the repair of residential buildings in the estate under the Government Central Workshops amounts to Rs. 3,33,300. I have received reports that the quarters of the poor labourers have not been properly repaired. Although I have not personally made enquiries about this matter, yet the Government should see that this money is not spent only to repair the houses of the officers as is being alleged. It has been reported to me that no attention is being paid to the repairs of the roofs, floors and drainage of the quarters of the labourers while most of the money is being spent to repair the houses of the officers. I think the House would agree with me that most of this money should be spent on the repairs of the houses of the people who are mostly responsible for the running of the workshop. If the Government really follows the Congress ideals, it should see that the moneyed people should be the first to suffer and the last to gain while the poor should be the first to get any advantages from the Government. I, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister to see that this money is properly utilized for repairing the quarters of the labourers and workmen. Even before the last rains, they were in a dilapidated condition. But after the heavy rains, their condition has become still worse. It is but right that they should be satisfactorily repaired now. Besides, I would request the hon. Chief Minister to clarify in precise terms his Government's position with regard to the two committees of

this House, namely, the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Sardar Man Singh Jathedar (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Sheikhpura West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have risen to say that the Deputy Commissioner of my district i. e., Karnal has done really commendable work in fighting the locusts with the help of all the Government machinery at his disposal such as Police, Food, Civil Supplies and Agriculture officials. For four days, the locusts continued to fly over our district. But I am glad to say that the damage done by them is not much thanks to the hard work done by the officers. Such officers should be given Saropas i. e., laurels for meritorious services. They are prepared even for further invasions of the locusts. They have instructed the influential persons of the villages to follow the locusts wherever it goes. This programme is very useful for the people and it is praiseworthy.

Thakur Dalip Singh : (Kangra South, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, two hon. Members have already referred to Kangra District before me in connection with the Appropriation Bill now before the House. They have mentioned it in connection with locust invasion and the development schemes. It has been said that the hon. Ministers have every sympathy with Kangra. But I would like to point out that this sympathy is only lip sympathy. I am reminded of a Punjabi saying that the daughter is the minister of the house but she can't touch the cupboard.

धीये घर बार तेरा पर छिक्के हथ न लावीं
पीछे पठ घाट उतरा पठ छिक्के उँघ ना लादीं ।

As regards Hamirpur, it is a far off place and is neglected even by the hon. Ministers. At present, Kangra district along with some other parts of the State is faced with the calamity of locust invasion. This calamity has not spared even far off Kangra. The locust invaded it from two or three sides. At some places, arrangements were made to destroy it ; but at others no preparations were made. For instance, the area of outer Saraj has once again been the victim of a new calamity. Previously, the people of this area suffered on account of the famine and floods and now they are suffering on account of the locust invasion. The locusts have eaten the standing crops and the leaves of the trees in this area. This area should, therefore, get special aid

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from Simla because it is possible that the Deputy Commissioner of the district might not be able to do much. Similarly, Hamirpur has been invaded by the locust. Now this is an out of the way place and it is not possible to reach it in less than two days. I, therefore, submit that the Government should make anti-locust arrangements such as the supply of spray pumps, kerosene oil etc., and the stationing of military troops at all the tehsil headquarters in the district, so that they may be used at the time of the locust invasion. I was at Dharamsala on the 24th and 25th February when it was invaded by the locust. At that time, I saw that only two pumps were in working order. Pumps are essential in these operations in our district, because there are large jungle areas and the locust settles down on the trees. It is only with the help of pumps that it can be destroyed. I, therefore, submit that special instructions should be issued in regard to Kangra so that speedy arrangements might be made to fight the locust at the proper time.

Sir, here I wish to point out that from the provision of one lakh in the Budget for this item the name of Kangra district is missing. Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and Amritsar Districts are mentioned therein. But why is it that Kangra has been excluded in this matter? Does the Government not know that Kangra has suffered equally? My submission is that our District should not be ignored. As a matter of fact, in order to increase the production of foodgrains and fodder etc., it is essential that such help should be given. During the rainy season, Kangra District also suffered on account of floods. The hon. Chief Minister stated that because the officers did not make any report, so Kangra was not declared a flood-affected area and consequently no help was considered necessary. My submission is that the Government should make further inquiries in the matter and find for itself that help is necessary in the case of Kangra District also.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of this House is regarding the development schemes in Kangra District. I congratulate the Government on its kind intentions towards Kangra District in this matter. But may I draw the attention of the Government to the fact that so far no solid work has been done and no development in Kangra District is visible. Of course, some time back, the Department of Industries sent an expert to study herbs and to make a report in the matter. But so far as the question of report is concerned, I can say that though the study was undertaken, estimates were made

but no results are forthcoming. During the last two years, nothing substantial has come out of the scheme. It is a matter of regret that although officers have been appointed, but no laboratory has been started where experiments can be made. The herbs are brought to Kasauli for experiments although, as a matter of fact, during the journey such herbs get dry and lose certain properties.

I would most humbly submit that a laboratory should be set up in Kangra itself so that a study of the plants and herbs be made in their natural shape. In this connection, I would like to suggest that, if the Government really desires to set up a factory for herbs, it should constitute a Board. A capable person, having love for and knowledge of the district, should be made in-charge of this work and Chairman of the Board, so that he may work earnestly and vigorously for its development.

The third thing to which I should make a reference is the Bhakra Control Board. I agree that there was a need for such a Board but what I wish to submit here is that although lakhs and crores of rupees are to be spent by us, there is no member of this House on the Bhakra Control Board. It would have been in the fitness of things if the Chairman of this Board would have been either our hon. Chief Minister or the hon. Minister for Public Works Department. At least, some hon. Member of this House should have been appointed to the Bhakra Control Board so that those who have an interest in the successful execution of this project might have been represented therein. With these words, I appeal to the hon. Chief Minister to pay heed to my submissions.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards Civil Works. We find that in the Supplementary Estimates for 1950-51 on page 28, there is a Demand for the development of Sarhali Harike Road amounting to Rs. 10,33,000. I congratulate the Government on the fact that it is going to construct a road in our ilaqa, but the manner in which the work is being done is most deplorable. All rules and laws have been thrown to the winds. As a matter of fact, the Public Works Department is already notorious for the way in which it undertakes such works. This department is unmindful of the rules and laws in the matter of acquisition of land for the construction of roads. The overseers go about acquiring such land and taking possession of it without giving any compensation to the owners. In

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some cases, no compensation is given even after two years of taking the possession. The proper procedure is that land should be acquired through the Revenue Department. But here the conditions are such that Public Works Department takes over the possession and the land is acquired by the Department of Revenue after a year or even more has elapsed. I know that in Harike village some land was taken possession of by the Public Works Department in February but formally the possession was given to the Public Works Department by the Revenue Department in October. I don't say that the Government should not acquire land at all. What I mean to say is that the laws of the country should be properly observed in this respect. The officials of the department should not indulge in arbitrary acts because such acts, in fact, obstruct the smooth working of the Government itself.

Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government is that while the roads are constructed, earth is taken from the adjoining land. This spoils the fields by the sides of such roads. Nobody listens to the cries of poor owners of such fields. The pits that come into existence as a result of digging are not filled in by the department and no compensation is given for them. There are no rules and laws in respect of giving compensation for them.

Then, I would draw the attention of the Government to page 37 of the Supplementary Estimates. There is an item 'Advances for Rehabilitation' occurring under demand No. 14. Now the object of earmarking this amount under the Demand in question is to advance loans to the refugees for the repairs of evacuee houses. I do not know in what manner these loans have been advanced to the displaced persons in other areas, but I am fully aware of how the same are being given in my ilaqa. Now there is a village named Algon in my ilaqa. At the time of giving these loans, the officials of the Revenue Department announced that only those persons would be eligible for the loans, who would render begar in the excavation of a certain water channel, the opening ceremony of which was recently performed by His Excellency the Governor. So all those persons who had rendered this forced labour got Rs. 250/- each for purposes of effecting repairs to their houses which had been damaged by the floods. In this connection, I have to make a mention of another fact also. In this village Algon, a large number of houses had been seriously damaged or destroyed by the floods and consequently a good many people were

rendered shelterless. I personally know of at least 25 persons of that village, who could not find any place to take shelter in. This was also due to the fact that all those houses which had escaped damage from floods were occupied by the refugees. So these persons as also the refugees of villages Khtanke and Sarja Mirza erected huts in the fields. What I want to drive at is that in the first instance Government did not advance loans to all such people and if at all it gave anything, it gave only a paltry sum of Rs. 250/- per family for repairs. May I ask how many rooms can a zamindar build with this meagre sum? As the hon. Members are aware, the minimum needs of a zamindar are a kitchen, a store for fodder, an animal shed and at least two rooms for his own use. In other words, he is required to build five big rooms at a cost of Rs. 250/- which the Government has advanced him. I fail to understand as to what is the basis on which Government has calculated that the loan of Rs. 250/- will be quite sufficient to meet the requirements of a zamindar in the matter of effecting repairs etc., to his house.

Now I would invite the attention of the House to the Medical Demand appearing on page 51 of the Supplementary Estimates. But before I proceed with this, I want to tell the House in this connection that I had tabled an Assembly question to the effect that the District Board, Gurgaon, still owed a sum of Rs. 24,000/- to the Muslim teachers and that the Government should ask the District Board concerned to make the payment forthwith. In reply, the Education Minister, the hon. Sardar Narotam Singh stated that the Government could not interfere because the District Boards were autonomous in such matters. Now under the Medical Demand to which I have made a reference, there is an item of money which is intended to be spent on checking the spread of epidemic of malaria in the villages. In this connection, I would cite an instance which will clearly indicate how the District Board of Amritsar makes arrangements for the appointment of doctors in the village dispensaries and provision of other medical facilities to the people, particularly, for combating the malarial epidemic in the rural areas. In my ilaqa, malaria is in full swing during the months of November and December. Now there is a village named Sabraon in the district of Amritsar and there exists a District Board dispensary also. Since October last and up to the present moment, no doctor has been appointed to that dispensary to look after the medical needs of the people. The people of Sabraon as also those of the adjoining villages represented to the District Board, Amritsar and

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sent deputations to it for the appointment of a doctor but the District Board would not budge an inch. It turned a deaf ear to all their entreaties in this respect. The result was that when there was no malaria, the doctor was working alright in the dispensary, but when the malarial epidemic set in, the doctor was conspicuous by his absence from the dispensary. (*Laughter*) And the dispensary is still going on without a doctor. Now the difficulty is that our Government cannot interfere in the affairs of the District Boards but at the same time it is extending financial help to them for combating malaria epidemic. I am of the opinion that the autonomy which the Government has conferred upon the District Boards in these matters will spoil them. On the one hand, the District Board of Gurgaon is hesitating to pay the balance of money to the Muslim teachers, which is still outstanding against it and on the other Government has made it independent in its internal affairs with the result that now it cannot interfere in the matter and compel the District Board to make the payment. I fail to understand how and under what rules Government has made the District Boards autonomous in their own spheres. According to the rules, the District Boards are under the Government and it can interfere in their affairs whenever it finds it absolutely necessary to do so. I think, not to talk of interference, it can bring about supersession of the local bodies if the circumstances so demand. But the policy of the Government in this regard is that of vacillation and the District Board, authorities know it full well that it is a weak Government and nobody can question their actions. They are also aware that the Government has no control over them. I feel that owing to the weakness of the Government and its failure to bring the defaulter to book, wholesale corruption has set in in the administration. I also want to submit that the people of my ilaqa are experiencing great difficulties on account of the misplaced latitude which the Government has given to the District Board, Amritsar. Then as I have already stated, the District Board of Gurgaon is trying to obliterate the secular character of the administration by withholding the payment of the balance of money, which it owes to the Muslim teachers.

Besides this, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an item viz., Expansion of the Government Transport Services appearing under demand No. 22 at page 69 of the Supplementary Estimates. The hon. Members will perhaps remember that in June last, for seven or eight days, Omnibus Service was started between Jullundur

and Amritsar, under the aegis of the Government. But this service was stopped after a short period despite the fact that it was a very lucrative business. Now if the information that has come into my possession in connection with the suspension of the Omnibus Service on this route, is correct, then I think, we should hang our heads in shame. I don't think any further elucidation of the subject is needed, because the causes leading to the suspension of this Omnibus service are quite well known to the hon. Members. I am strongly of the opinion that Government should desist from doing anything which may result in the loss of confidence of the people in it. Now wherever omnibuses have been started by Government, for instance, from Amritsar to Raja Sansi, Atari Border, Tarn Taran, Jhabal, Majitha, Bhikhiwind etc., they are considered to be running under certain rules framed by the Government. But what do we find in actual practice? I think no where in any other department, the rules are so flagrantly violated as is being done by the authorities controlling these Omnibus services if the seating capacity of a bus is 38, then the conductor would pack 45 passengers in it. Once I had an opportunity to travel by an omnibus run by the Government. I enquired of the Conductor why he was over-loading the bus by allowing more passengers to be seated than what the actual seating capacity of the bus permitted. He replied that he had the permission of the Transport Department to seat passengers 25 per cent over and above the actual seating capacity of the bus. I wrote to the Transport Department as well as the hon. Minister in-charge of it for verification of the statement made by the conductor of that omnibus but so far I have not received any reply from any quarter. Besides this, sometimes the conductors over-load these omnibuses, particularly on the Amritsar Tarn Taran route while taking pilgrims to Tarn Taran for a dip on the occasion of Amavas to such an extent that the very life of the passengers is put into jeopardy. As a result of this frequent over-loading, the machinery of the omnibuses goes out of order very soon. Consequently, the passengers are put to a great difficulty. Very often we come across omnibuses standing by the roadside being repaired. Their breakdown takes place due to over-loading of the passengers. This indicates a very sad state of affairs. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that it should take steps to bring about a complete stop of the flagrant violation of the rules by the conductors of the omnibuses run by the Transport Department.

Then I would like to make a mention of another fact. I had put n Assembly Question enquiring as to why certain two villages had been

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exempted from the payment of punitive tax levied in connection with the stationing of punitive police posts there. The law on the subject lays down that only those people can be subjected to the imposition of the punitive tax in whose village punitive police posts have been quartered. Besides this, the amount of punitive tax so levied cannot be totally remitted. But Government has gone against its own law by exempting the people of these two villages from the payment of the punitive tax. So when Government itself commits violation of the rules, then who can stop its officers from doing so? Now that we have achieved independence it is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to do such things which any future Government may not be able to do. There is no check or any effective control over the activities of the members of the staff of the Omnibus Services. In fact, they are free to do anything and everything according to their own sweet will.

There is one thing more towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Government and that is, that a restriction has been imposed upon the private transport companies to provide for both the lower and upper-class seats in their passenger buses while the omnibuses or in other words the Government buses have no such conditions to fulfil. I really fail to understand the reasons for making such a discrimination. If we go through the relevant provisions of the Constitution, we will find that every citizen has equal rights and opportunities in every walk of life and there is no provision for making any discrimination whatsoever. Under the circumstances, I would like to know from the Government the reasons why the rules governing the operation of the buses of the private companies are not applicable to the Government buses. When it has been found necessary to have upper class and lower class seats in private buses, why should not the same classification of seats exist in the Government buses too?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Government has not felt it necessary to make the classification so far as the Government buses are concerned.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: I have in my possession a copy of the letter which the private transport companies submitted to the Government to the effect that they may also be permitted to run their buses on the same lines as the buses of the Government-operated services are being run. Government should pay its pointed attention

towards this important matter and make an all-out effort to bring the private companies and the Government Omnibus Services on the same level. First of all, it is the bounden duty of the Government to follow the rules and regulations strictly. The rules and regulations which are applicable to private buses should also be made applicable effectively in the case of the Government buses. As a matter of fact it, should not in any case allow any of the concerns run by it to resort to such irregular practices as are instrumental in causing inconvenience to the general public. If the hon. Minister for Education wants to give full autonomy to the District Board, Gurgaon, then will it not be a flagrant injustice to the minority community? If such like state of affairs continues to exist then the secular character of the State will be nothing but a farce. Does this autonomy mean that the officers should exercise unfettered powers? Our Government will have to pay a heavy price for giving such an autonomy. So far as we are concerned, we will not be affected as we would manage our affairs somehow or other in the villages. But I would, however, impress upon the Government the desirability of maintaining strict discipline in the administration. I am really pained to find that the complaints of the people are not properly heard by the Omnibus Services which are managed by the Government. Sometime back, I made a complaint to the officers of an Omnibus Service pointing out to them why the buses happened to be over-crowded and allowed to accommodate 45 passengers instead of 38. But I am sorry to say that no satisfactory reply was given to me. I would, therefore, strongly appeal to the Government that it should act with firmness and should strictly follow the rules and regulations so that it may function efficiently and effectively. The administration of the Government should not be such that the officers should be allowed to have a free hand to do whatever they like. I would also suggest that the Government should not fight shy of taking strong action against the delinquent officers who violate the rules and regulations of the department. But what we find is that undeserving persons are prospering whereas the efficient and the honest are altogether ignored. I hope the Government will make endeavours to put a stop to this system of autonomy that has been conferred on the District Boards. This sort of latitude which the local bodies enjoy is nothing short of lawlessness or disorder or an open revolt against the Government. This state of things must end forthwith. Besides that, I would also like to submit that the forced labour which is exacted from the zamindars should be stopped. I would like to suggest that Government should

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ask the District Boards to submit reports regarding the disposal of grants made to them by it. With these words, I close my speech.

Pandit Jiwan Lall : (South West Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a few submissions with regard to the Grow More Food Campaign. On the one hand, all-out efforts are being made by the Government to step up food production and on the other scant attention is being paid to the conditions under which people are living at present in the rural areas. I am really constrained to remark that the people of Ballabh Garh Tehsil whom I also represent here in this House are facing untold hardships and tribulations at the hands of the local authorities. You will be surprised to hear, Sir, that 4 tehsildars were transferred from this tehsil in a period of 12 months. The poor zamindars of this Tehsil who had applied for taccavi loans for the construction of wells which have already been sanctioned in their favour by the Government have not been paid to them so far. This has caused much inconvenience to the people of the villages of this tehsil. They have not been able to construct wells as payments of the taccavi loans have not been made to them so far.

Further, I would like to bring this point home to the Government that the authorities do not pay any heed to their oft-repeated requests for making the taccavi loans available to the zamindars as soon as possible. I would like to place before you a few facts about the Naib Tehsildar who put the people to much inconvenience during the tenure of his office as officiating tehsildar. On the one hand, he would show high-handedness to the people and on the other he would avoid paying any heed to their grievances. The Naib Tehsildar is deaf and cannot hear what people say. This is not all. He would take three to four hours to deal with a case with the help of an instrument which helps him to hear and thus cause great inconvenience to people who cover long distances in connection with the hearing of their cases. I went many a time to him personally and requested him to make payment of taccavi loans already sanctioned by the Government in favour of the zamindars with a view to enabling them to construct their wells. I also brought this point home to him that if the money ear-marked for the grant of taccavi loans remained undischarged, then it would naturally be surrendered to the Government and the people who had applied for the loans would not be able to construct wells. But I regret to say that all my efforts to convince him proved futile. I am really pained to remark that this official is

so careless and ease-loving that he would not care to listen to the grievances of the people. Sometimes this official would not come down from his roof where he would take rest for hours together, even during the office hours, to hear the complaints of the people who would continue waiting till he would find it convenient to come down. This is how to day-to-day administration is being run in my tehsil. Under the circumstances, I would request the Government to put an end to the negligence of this official. If the officials continue to be negligent, I am afraid, there would be confusion worse confounded in the day-to-day administration of our State.

It is a matter of deep regret that the officers, both high and low, who do not care to look into the grievances of the people should not be taken to task. So far as the high officials are concerned, they are not particular to look into the grievances and complaints of the people. During their tours they are very anxious to return to their respective headquarters the same evening. It is clear from this that they do not find any time to move about in the villages to hear the grievances of the people. Tour programmes of the Deputy Commissioners are prepared in such a way that they return to their headquarters the same evening.

Mr. Chairman : I would ask the hon. Member to confine his discussion to a particular demand.

Pandit Jiwan Lal : Sir, I am speaking on the Grow-More-Food policy of the Government.

Mr. Chairman : May I know which page of the Supplementary Estimates he is referring to.

Pandit Jiwan Lal : I have not seen the page. I would submit, Sir, that the Government should take serious notice of the negligence of duty by its officers. It should exact full work from them otherwise I am afraid that no scheme of the Government is likely to materialise.

(At this Stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bhagat Buja Ram : (Loharu, Pataudi, Dujana States) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I agree with my hon. Friend Pandit Jiwan Lal that officers who make tours in connection with the Grow-More-Food campaign only do so for making their T. A. and care little for the benefit of poor zamindars. The village cooperative societies that

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have been formed are doing no real service to the people. They collect money and then return it after keeping the amount with them for a year or so. No measures have been adopted by the Government to give impetus to the Grow-More-Food Scheme nor any taccavi loans have been advanced to the zamindars for the purchase of bullocks. There is an acute scarcity of food-stuffs and cloth in villages and the people are experiencing great difficulty. There is a general cry among the public that this Government has brought in its wake manifold troubles for the poor and they had never witnessed such a worse situation before. The cloth has disappeared from the market in the rural areas and people have to wait even for days to get the sometimes supply of food-grains. In many villages people are starving.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member to confine his discussion to a particular demand of the supplementary Estimates.

Bhagat Buja Ram : Sir, I would appeal to the Government to provide food to these people. It should also make arrangements for sinking tube-wells in the villages so that there may be large production of cotton. In the area of tehsil Bhiwani, Loharu and Jhajjar there is no drinkable water but the Government has not made satisfactory arrangement for sinking of tube-wells in that area. If this arrangement is made cotton can grow in abundance in that area. Poor people are being harassed by the officers in the villages and the result is that everybody is condemning the Government unsparingly for this maladministration.

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : Sir, before giving reply to the debate, I would thank my hon. Friends who have taken part in the discussion and have made valuable suggestions to the Government. Mention has been made by some of my hon. Friends of such things about which it would be difficult for me to say anything in reply because discussion today must be circumscribed to the appropriation of those particular demands which are contained in the Supplementary Estimates. So it would naturally be difficult for me to give a reply to those Members for all that has been said by them by way of general remark. My hon. Friend Shri Amarnath Vidyalkar has remarked that the Government should state what action it has taken on the recommendations of the Estimates and Public Accounts Committees. I must say that he has been very unfair to me when he said that I treat with contempt the recommendations of these committees. I

have been a member- rather Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee which concluded its labours only recently. My hon. Friend knows full well that I helped the Committee in conducting the examination of the Appropriation Accounts. I afforded every facility to the Heads of Departments who came for oral examination and cross-examined them in such a way as non-official members would do. First the Supplementary Estimates were sent to the Estimates Committee for its approval and then placed before the House. If the Committee of Estimates after considering the departmental demands for various grants suggested any cut, the Estimates were sent back to the departments concerned for effecting necessary economy. In such cases the explanation of the Head of Department was called and the demand was resubmitted to the Estimates Committee for its approval. At the time of submission of the second instalment of Supplementary Estimates, I had been personally meeting the members of the Estimates Committee and explaining to them the Government's point of view. It would thus be amply clear how much importance we attached to the reports of these committees. I would, therefore, say that my hon. Friend has done me great injustice by accusing me of showing contempt to the recommendations of these committees. My hon. Friend had remarked that the Estimates and Public Accounts Committees make closest scrutiny of the Budget Estimates and see if there is any scope for reasonable economy. I full subscribe to his views. I would submit, Sir, that the objections made by the Public Accounts Committee on the Budget Estimates of the previous years were submitted to the Auditor General and necessary action was taken by the Government on the report of the Auditor General. Just as the Auditor while making audit of the accounts of any Government department points out certain irregularities and is competent to call for the explanation of the Head of Department for his errors of omission and commission in the same way the Public Accounts Committee exercises the same powers with regard to scrutinizing the estimates of each department. I would submit, Sir, that the objections made by the Public Accounts Committee on the Budget Estimates for the year 1947-48 are more or less of a procedural nature. All those instructions are being strictly observed by the departments. The decision of the Public Accounts Committee also affects the procedure of the Budget Estimates when passed. The Budget Estimates for the year 1950-51 were sent to the Estimates Committee which, after careful study of the expenditure incurred by certain departments, made some suggestions to the Government.

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Even the Supplementary Demands are not outside the purview of the Estimates Committee. We invariably accept its recommendations provided the work and efficiency of various departments do not suffer thereby. If, however, we feel that the acceptance of any of their recommendations will prove detrimental to the efficiency of work in any department, we place before them our point of view and try to convince them. As regards the position of the Committee, it is guaranteed by the Constitution and when it is a statutory body how can we think of by-passing it. But before acting upon its recommendation, the report of the Department concerned has to be taken into consideration.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I have made a suggestion that in future when the Government has to send a delegation, it should seek the approval of the House before hand

Chief Minister : Sir, I fail to understand how the suggestion of my hon. Friend is practicable. Is it possible for us to call a session of the House everytime we have to send abroad Engineers to recruit technical personnel or to purchase the necessary machinery or to get training in some work or to prepare designs in connection with the projects for which money has already been voted under the relevant demand by this hon House? If this suggestion is acted upon, there will be great delays and the progress of work will be hampered. And as to the necessity of sending such delegations it is clear that huge projects like the Bhakra Dam cannot be completed without the help of specialists and experts in the line and without the necessary equipment and machinery and for both these purposes a visit to foreign countries becomes essential. It should also not be forgotten that after the grant has been made by this House for a particular project, the accounts of expenditure are maintained according to the Manual of the Public Works Department and the money is not squandered away. Moreover, such proposals as the sending abroad of a delegation for recruitment of technical personnel and purchase of machinery are first examined by a Cabinet Sub Committee and then by the Bhakra Control Board so as to have the approval of the Government of India and other States which are interested in the project and are going to have a share in the waters. Since it was decided to complete the project departmentally, the sending abroad of a delegation to recruit experts was approved.

Then, Sir, I would like to reply to the objection as to why the Chairman Public Service Commission and the Finance Secretary were sent abroad as members of the delegation. No doubt for procuring machinery and getting training in the work of preparing designs, it is the Engineers alone who can be sent-but when it was a question of recruitment, it was necessary to send the Chairman Public Service Commission because under the rules every post carrying a pay of more than Rs. 150/- has to be filled through the Public Service Commission. And for settlement of the terms of service and emoluments, the prior concurrence of the Finance Department is necessary. It was for this reason that the Finance Secretary also accompanied the delegation. If the whole of the Commission had been deputed to tour the foreign countries for recruiting technical personnel, the Government would have to bear more expenditure. So the approval of the House was sought to send these two officers abroad.

Then, Sir, reference has been made to the 'winged pest', I mean the locusts. It is our misfortune that one woe follows another and this State falls a prey to one calamity or the other. It was with the greatest difficulty that we had endured the loss and damage done by heavy rains and floods last year. We had yet hoped that the damage to Kharif crop would be made good by the Rabi crop. But, alas, we had reckoned without the host of locusts. Sir, as you know the extermination of locusts has become an international problem and an international committee exists to find ways and means of fighting this pest and protecting the crops from its attacks. So far the practice has been to employ all the energy and strength to destroy the eggs and the hoppers and the destruction of locusts in adult stage has always been regarded as a very difficult, almost impossible task. But, Sir, it is to the credit of the people of this State that they have been straining their utmost to destroy even the adult locusts by carrying on the operations in the cold at night when the locusts were perched upon trees and could not fly away. An objection has been raised that the Government has sanctioned only a sum of Rs. one lakh to fight the menace of locusts and with this amount it may not be possible for the Deputy Commissioners to achieve much. I would like to point out for the information of the hon. Members that all the money that was demanded up to the time of the preparation of the Supplementary Estimates was included in them but that does not mean that if more will be demanded it will not be sanctioned. I might also inform the House that we had not asked the Deputy Commissioners to get our prior

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sanction before spending any money on anti-locusts campaign. On the other hand, as soon as we came to know of the arrival of locusts we wrote to the Deputy Commissioners of all the districts and not only those of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur informing them that they could draw as much money as they considered necessary from the Treasuries without the prior sanction of the Accountant General as an emergency measure and that the necessary sanction would be obtained by the Government later on. So every Deputy Commissioner had our permission to spend as much money as was deemed necessary.

In this way every Deputy Commissioner is authorized to spend as much as he likes on plans concerning the destruction of locusts. And if I am not divulging a secret, I may, for the information of the House, say that even today we have been considering ways and means of killing locusts and have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5,42,000 for this purpose. This amount of rupees five lakhs and forty two thousand is to be spent only on equipment and it is in addition to the sum which is placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioners for rewarding people who collect the eggs of the locusts or who help in the killing of the hoppers. Of course, if there are any savings out of this amount this year they will be utilized next year.

Sir, with the exception of Kangra District I can say that no stone has been left unturned anywhere in destroying the locusts. As for the presence of the locusts in Kangra, District my hon. Friends Thakur Pancham Chand and Thakur Beli Ram went to Narkanda side to collect information in this behalf but unfortunately their information cannot be regarded as correct because it is all based on hearsay. Now we are deputing the Commissioner to make the necessary inquiries. So far as the attack by locusts of the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur Districts is concerned, I may tell the hon. Members that we set up a Board to organize a regular campaign against the locusts. Needless to say, that this Board has rendered a yeoman's service in the accomplishment of this task. Here at Jullundur and Hoshiarpur not hundreds but thousands of maunds of eggs and very large numbers of hoppers were destroyed. The people of Jullundur particularly took the matter so seriously that hundreds of them would go out in the night to fight this menace. For killing hoppers vast trenches covering hundreds of miles were dug up and all this

was due to the efforts of this Board. It is now learnt that unfortunately for all of us the locusts have reached Pepsu as also the Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts. But I am glad to say that in District Amritsar the volunteers and the military killed 80 per cent of the adult locusts which were spread over a distance of about 30 miles. These military men and the volunteers also dug up big trenches to kill the hoppers. These volunteers and the military men have worked in such close collaboration with each other that they have wiped out the distinction between the official and the non-official effort. They have very effectively demonstrated that if the officials and the non-officials join hands wonderful results can be achieved. Here I take the opportunity of showing my deepest gratitude to all these friends. (*cheers*). I bow my head to these people who actually felt that the saving of the State from this disaster was their individual and personal work. I must also mention the very useful work that our college students did in this connection. These brave students of our State which they studied in the college during the day were out in the fields during the nights to kill the locusts and destroy the eggs and the hoppers. They have shown a wonderful spirit and I have every praise for them. Some people suggested that these students who had helped in fighting the locusts may be exempted from taking the coming examinations and may be given the benefit of appearing in the next session. It was a good suggestion and I talked this matter to the Vice Chancellor of the University. He had absolutely no objection in giving this concession. But credit goes to the students that they never asked for it. Not even a single student made such a demand and I am proud of the fact that our student community is imbued with so much of zeal and spirit of sacrifice. (*Cheers*). So I may assure my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh that no pains will be spared by any Punjabi in surmounting the difficulty which has unfortunately overtaken us.

Sir, so far as District Kangra is concerned, I have already stated that the Commissioner has been asked to collect the necessary information. But I may assure my hon. Friend Thakur Beli Ram that the locusts will not be able to cause any great damage in that district as that is a cold place. Locusts cannot live in a cold place. My hon. Friends will recall that in District Hoshiarpur the locusts first went to Una and from Una they made their way to Hamirpur. But Hamirpur being a cold place the locusts had to beat back. However this does not mean that as the locusts cannot do much harm we may destroy them at leisure. We cannot even for a second entertain such an idea and we will do our level best to destroy them in as short a time as possible and at any place at which they

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may be found in the State. The experts tell us that we will have to carry on our efforts till the month of July as the locusts will continue to lay eggs till that month.

Now a little about the Cooperative Garden Colony Scheme. Here my hon. Friends should not lose sight of the fact that the provision in this connection is meant for a few months and not for the whole year. The very fact that this provision has been asked for the Supplementary Budget adequately shows that. And then there is another thing and it is this that the Government cannot afford to spend on all requirements of the scheme. The Government can provide for the advice of the experts and so far as the setting up of nurseries or tube-wells is concerned that work is to be done by the cooperative societies. In the United Punjab gardening was not done on a cooperative basis. There it was a matter of individual enterprise and all investment of the gardens was made by the individuals. The Government only arranged for expert advice. No doubt water was supplied from the canals where it was possible to do so and we also undertake to give canal water if we can spare it after attending to our grow more-food requirements. As for the setting up of the tube-wells is concerned, that will have to be done by the cooperative societies.

Sir, my hon. Friends have made a mention of the electricity schemes. I may tell them that the making of this provision in the Supplementary Estimates and then in the Second Instalment of the Supplementary Estimates clearly shows that we prepare our schemes as and when the demands of the public are received by us. It is quite a different thing that at times we may not be able to put them through. But sometimes when a scheme cannot be acted upon the fault does not always lie with the Government. It has been many times seen that while the Government is ready to carry out the scheme the people concerned back out and the scheme fails.

In the case of Jullundur, I can tell the hon. Members that all those who asked for electricity, were supplied the same. That scheme is working very satisfactorily and I hope that when others see its success, they will also ask for it. Whenever we receive demand for electricity from a certain place we get it surveyed. Formerly, we did not possess transmission lines and therefore could not meet the demands of people, but now when we have got the necessary material, we are in a position to supply as much electric energy as might be required. We prepared Panipat Electricity Scheme, because we were told that

the people of that area were in need of electricity. A plant of the power of 750 kilowatts was set up at first and another plant of 2500 kilowatts was procured for being installed afterwards. To start with, a plant of the capacity of 750 kilowatts was set up, but there is demand for 200 kilowatts only. I thought that at first the demand was always less and it was not possible to meet the expenditure but later on it was likely to increase and then the scheme would be profitable. With this idea a plant was installed at Panipat.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Has the hon. Chief Minister tried to obtain an idea of the demand for electricity at Ludhiana ?

Chief Minister : I cannot give these figures at present, but I shall be able to do so after two or three days after obtaining these from the Secretary concerned. I like the hon. Members asking for such details. We supply 9,000 kilowatts of electricity to Pakistan. Under the agreement we have to supply them 2500 kilowatts, but we actually supply them 6,500 kilowatts extra in order that we might earn more for meeting the loss incurred by us at other places. As I have already submitted, we are incurring loss in electricity schemes at various places. Had we not supplied 9,000 kilowatts to Pakistan, we would have suffered a loss of ten lakhs of rupees annually on electricity schemes.

Then, Sir, reference was made to the Rural Housing Scheme of the Government. I beg to submit that what the Government has done so far in helping the construction of rural houses could not be mentioned in these supplementary demands. This subject can be fully discussed during the general discussion of the Budget. It has been said that the Government has not given sufficient help to the people in the construction of rural houses and that the sum of five hundred thousand rupees is quite insufficient. I wish to tell the hon. Members that in those villages where all the houses belonged to Muslims or these were not in habitable condition, it was decided to avail of the opportunity of constructing model villages. The damaged houses were levelled; roads were constructed and the model of houses to be erected there was presented to the people. Proper care was taken to see that suitable facilities were afforded to those who were allotted lands in those villages and in the case of others land was given according to their status. It was also decided that these people should be advanced money and also supplied the building material required by them. According to this scheme four hundred villages have been surveyed so far and their alignments have been made. The Public Works

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Department was asked to do the surveying of five hundred villages. They have completed this work with respect to four hundred villages. According to our scheme we propose to make one thousand model villages.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Has the Government built houses in some villages ?

Chief Minister : The Government has built no houses in the villages. In the towns we built 4,200 houses. Mud huts were constructed by the Relief Department and the other houses were built by the Rehabilitation Department. There is difference between these two departments. Relief is intended for the transitional period. A person can live in a mud hut constructed by the Relief Department till he gets accommodation from the Rehabilitation Department. Moreover, mud huts were built in refugee camps where thousands of displaced persons were concentrated. The Government constructed 4,200 houses in the towns. Only recently, when a Bill was introduced for seeking permission to sell the unsold houses to local persons, it was strongly objected to. It should be remembered that in the case of Government-built houses, the expenses of the Public Works Department are also charged from the buyers of those houses. This could be done in the case of houses built in the towns, but my hon. Friends would agree that it would not have been proper to charge such expenses from the villagers. There the people have always constructed their houses themselves. In addition to this, the Government has offered 6,800 sites for houses in the towns.

Then, Sir, objection was raised to an item of expenditure under Kangra Industrial Development Scheme. An hon. Member said that I had special love for district Kangra. My hon. Friend Thakur Dalip Singh gave suitable reply to that observation. In this connection, I beg to submit, that we are not discussing the main Budget. This is a supplementary demand and relates to the expenses incurred in surveying the area for a definite purpose. The amount originally sanctioned was exhausted and as the work had not yet finished, supplementary demand has been made for getting the survey completed. The development of an area can be undertaken after getting it properly surveyed. Then only it can be known as to which industries can be set up there. I have travelled throughout Kangra valley not for doing any political propaganda but as one interested in village industries. There is plenty of water power available in Kangra

and raw material also is available there. If finished goods are manufactured there, transport would be required to take it to other places. So long as suitable means of transport do not exist, it is not advisable to manufacture these. The Industries Department can only advise, but that too is possible after the necessary survey has been done. This demand relates to the expenses of the surveyor. What can I say if even this thing is objected to? I shall be able to explain our schemes during general discussion of the Budget. At that time, I shall also explain the result of survey.

Then, Sir, it was said in connection with electricity that the Government proposed to supply electricity to Kalka from the plant to be set up at Chandigarh while the Electric Supply Company Kalka wanted only Rs. 20-25 thousand to set up the plant there, which the Government refused to give. I think if I answer this criticism now it might go against the Electric Supply Company. But still I must say a few words. We asked the Electric Supply Company to set up a plant and to continue to work till the end of its present term. But it does not want to invest more money in the concern, perhaps for the reason that only a small part of its term is now left. Besides, the Government had no place to set up a plant at Kalka. This could not be done due to another reason also. After a year or so, we shall get electricity from Nangal project and the transmission lines will pass through Chandigarh and Kalka for the purpose of extending them to Simla. For this purpose, it is better to set up the plant at Chandigarh than at Kalka. If we set it up at Kalka, it would stand in between Simla and Chandigarh. Due to these considerations, we decided to set up the plant at Chandigarh. When we get electricity from Nangal, 600 k. w. would be required by the East Punjab Railway Workshop. So naturally, the transmission lines will pass through Chandigarh.

Then, Sir, it has been said that I have special regard for Oel. This is but natural because the worker who has worked at a certain place for a certain purpose comes to have some attachment to it. But nothing extraordinary has been done in selecting Oel as a centre for training rural workers. The fact is that it had some good background for this kind of work and some work had already been done there. It has been objected that there will be no market for the products of the Centre at

[Chief Minister]

Oel and the raw material will be brought here from other places. I may inform the hon. Members of the House that this basic school is not an industrial training school. The training imparted here is agricultural and for this purpose only two things are required, namely, land and implements. It was, therefore, not necessary that the Government should consider things like raw material etc., while opening this Centre at Oel. What is required is land, seeds and implements and as regards the produce, it will be consumed in the area itself. And then the amount set apart for this school is only Rs. 1, 500 some of which is meant for the purchase of implements and some for the tube-well to be bored over there. The question of the availability of the raw material does not arise in this case.

Then, Sir, the tours of the Chief Engineers have been criticised and reference has been made to the recommendation of the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. Regarding these I have already explained the position of the Government. It has been said that the houses of the poor have not been repaired. I have no material with me regarding this matter just now. I shall, however, make enquiries and shall try to reply about it at the time of the general discussion. Besides there will be discussion on the Irrigation demand also. It can be replied even then. Yet another objection has been raised that there is no Member of the Assembly on the Bhakra Control Board. This Board, I may inform the House, deals with financial and technical matters and the Punjab Government is represented on it. The hon. Members are not taken on such committees. Their job ends when they approve the project and sanction funds for it. After that it is the business of the administrators and the technical personnel to execute the scheme. It was said even before as to why I did not become the Chairman of the Control Board. How could I become its Chairman in view of the fact that three other States are also represented on the Board? There will be a representative of the States Ministry either from Rajasthan or PEPSU on the Board. It is an inter-state concern and as such it could not have as its Chairman the representative of a single State. Sir Chandu Lal Trivedi is the Chairman not as the Governor of Punjab but in his personal capacity.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of information, Sir. Is it not a fact that the Punjab shall bear 80 per cent of the expenditure to be incurred on this Project?

Chief Minister : Punjab's share will be 60 per cent and not 80 per cent. We have every say in the administration of the project. Nothing can be done without our advice and approval.

Then, Sir, it has been complained that the Government has not so far paid compensation for the land acquired by it for Sarhali Harike-Ferozepur Road. I cannot disclose definite information about this matter as it is a strategic road. I may, however, inform the hon. Members that there are two stages for the acquisition of the land. Firstly, it is requisitioned for the purpose of starting the work. Secondly the acquisition proceedings are initiated. So long as the land remains requisitioned, the Government pays rent for it. But if the acquisition proceedings are started, the Government pays $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest on the total value for the period for which the compensation is not paid. Anyway, I shall be able to tell after making necessary enquiries as to why compensation has not been paid so far.

Sir, an objection has been raised against the employment of labour of the villagers in the flood-affected areas of Amritsar District in the task of digging channels there. As a matter of fact, the villagers were not forced to give such labour. They came forward of their own accord. In fact, the times have changed and now in every place people are coming forward to do such work themselves voluntarily. It is the duty of every citizen to do social service in every sphere of national life. In this particular case rain water collected in the fields and the villagers thought it dangerous for their crops. So in their own interest they considered it necessary to drain it out by means of digging channels. Consequently they approached the Irrigation Department which made alignments. The villagers dug the channels themselves working day and night in an area of many miles and drained out the water standing in the fields. In this way they brought the land under cultivation. Such tasks can only be achieved by co-operation and a spirit of social service among the people. My submission is that the habit of working with one's own hands should be cultivated. I can even go to the length of saying that every one irrespective of his social status should work with his own hands. If I had enough of power to do so, I would make even the rich people work with their own hands. They would not be allowed to buy labour for them with their riches. Manual labour should have a dignity which at present it does not command, especially among our educated people. I would like to point out here that our farmers have traditionally a love for labour. On the eleventh day of the moon when

[Chief Minister]

the farmers do not go to their fields they work in the villages for removing depressions etc. If we say that it is possible to achieve progress without doing any work at all, then we may have to wait till doomsday. In Amritsar District we have a plan for digging eleven channels. Two of these have been dug in less than a week's period and their length is about seven miles. The villagers have worked honestly and earnestly at the channel because they knew that it was in their own interest to do so. Even now the Government is receiving demands for alignments from the people in the villages. They are prepared to work themselves because they know that it is not possible for the Government to supply labour for them and to spend huge amounts at this time of financial stringency. Moreover, the farmers know that such channels are useful for them all and so they work at them in a spirit of social service. So under these circumstances it does not look proper to say that the Government is taking 'begar' from the villagers. It has been remarked that the Government told the villagers that only those of them who worked at the digging of channels would be given help in the construction of their houses. This allegation is quite baseless. I have myself met and talked to the villagers of that area. There is no question of any compulsion in taking work from them. They did the work voluntarily.

As regards the question of Rural Housing, my submission is that due to floods and excessive rains houses have fallen in the rural areas in large numbers and the Government is trying to help the people as much as it can. I hope the hon. Members realise that for a Government it is a very hard task to give financial help beyond a certain limit. So, hard pressed as we are in respect of funds, we have tried to give grants to those who are not in a position to return. But in other cases we are giving relief by way of taccavi loans. As a matter of fact, people try to get as little loan as possible because the taccavi loans are always to be returned. So the sufferers and the displaced persons work for themselves in building the houses and they try to spend as little as possible on them. With a spirit of service they have built for themselves houses having one or two rooms according to their individual needs within the amounts given as taccavi loans. In fact they don't need bigger houses and they are unable to do so financially also. Taccavi loan is not the whole of the amount which a person stands in need of. It is generally a part of it, the rest is made up by the person getting the help. So we do realise that such persons have,

in fact, to bear sufferings in spite of what the Government is in a position to do for them. In cases which deserve more help, we give grants as well. For instance, in the case of Harijans, widows, and orphans, etc. We have provided for help by way of grants. This provision is over and above the amount of rupees five lakhs which has been provided for the purpose of Rural Housing Scheme.

There is the question of District Boards regarding which some criticism has been levelled by the hon. Members but due to the shortage of time I am unable to reply to them now.

Regarding Amritsar Omni Bus Service, one of the hon. Members has pointed out that public is experiencing a lot of inconvenience because of the permission given by the Government in carrying twenty-five per cent extra passengers. In this matter I would like to point out that the concession of carrying twenty-five per cent extra passengers was allowed to the buses in the State on account of the shortage of petrol. Now that there is no such shortage the concession has been withdrawn two or three days back—except for local and suburban routes.

In connection with the scheme for the multiplication and distribution of American cotton in Hariana tract under demand number 27, I would speak in the general discussion on the Budget. What Shri Buja Ram Bhagat had said I was unable to follow. So I cannot reply to his points. I have tried to explain the position of the Government on the points raised by the hon. Members. So I think the hon. Members will now give their assent to the Appropriation Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Appropriation Bill (No. 3) be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 2 and 3.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Schedule.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Schedule be the Schedule of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 1.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That title be the title of the Bill.

That motion was carried.

Chief Minister : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Appropriation Bill (No. 3) be passed.

The motion was carried.

The House then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Thursday 15th March, 1951.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES ✓

15th MARCH 1951

Vol. III—No. 10.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 15th March, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMPLAINT BY SHRI CHAHAT KHAN AND OTHERS OF VILLAGE PATKHERI, DISTRICT GURGAON.

*2836. **Sardar Baehan Singh:** Will the hon Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) i) whether any complaint by Shri Chahat Khan, village Headman and other villagers of village Patkheri, tehsil Ferozepore Jhirka, district Gurgaon was forwarded by S. Sajjan Singh, M.L.A., vide his letter No. 934, dated 13th July, 1950, to the hon. Minister for Revenue in which serious allegations were made against a certain revenue officer of Ferozepore Jhirka tehsil; if so, the copy of the complaint be laid on the Table ;

(ii) whether any enquiry was ordered by the Government in this case; if so, the name of the investigating officer ;

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

- (iii) whether the investigating officer sent for the complainants and recorded their statements; if so, when and where;
- (iv) the total number of the complainants who signed the application and the number of the complainants who appeared before the investigating officer to give evidence;
- (b) the result of this enquiry and the action, if any, taken by the Government in the matter;
- (c) whether any suits were filed by any of the landowners against the defaulting tenants before the visit of this officer to this village and decreed by this officer; if so, the number of such suits till the date of his visit?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(a) (i) I regret, no such complaint is traceable. Sardar Sajjan Singh was reminded regarding his letter of the 13th July, 1950, in August, '950, and was requested to supply a copy, but he did not care to supply the same and consequently no action could be taken.

(a) (ii), (iii), (iv), (b) & (c) Do not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the Government would institute an enquiry into my complaint if I produce a letter of the Secretary, Anti-corruption Committee in which he acknowledged my complaint?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the administration of the Government so inefficient that it has not been able to make enquiry into my complaint?

Mr. Speaker : That is the opinion of the hon. Member.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the Government prepared to make an enquiry from its department as to why my complaint is not traceable if I produce a postal receipt as the complaint was sent under registered cover acknowledgment due?

Parliamentary Secretary : You should have sent a copy of that complaint.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I sent a copy of it and that was acknowledged by that department.

Parliamentary Secretary : If the hon. Member gives a copy of that complaint the Government will make an enquiry.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN THE STATE.

*2853. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of places where the work of consolidation of holdings has been started in the State ;
- (b) the time likely to be spent on its completion ;
- (c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred there-on ;
- (d) the number of staff engaged at present in this connection ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

- (a) 432 villages.
- (b) By 31st August, 1951.
- (c) Rs. 15,40,000.
- (d)

Settlement Officers	—	—	—	2
Consolidation Officers	—	—	—	7
Assistant Consolidation Officers	—	—	—	25
Inspectors (Supervisory duty)	—	—	—	91
Inspector candidates (doing original work)	—	—	—	22
Peshi Kanungos	—	—	—	18
Sub-Inspectors	—	—	—	475

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know what practical work has been done in this direction ?

Minister : The work is in progress and if the hon. Member wants to know how much progress has been made I would ask him to give a fresh notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the consolidation work has been completed in any village or in any district ?

Minister : I have already stated that the work is in progress.

—————

**TERMINATION OF THE SERVICES OF SUB-INSPECTOR AND
SENIOR CLERK OF THE CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT,
AMRITSAR.**

*2441. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the services of a Sub-Inspector and a Senior Clerk of the Civil Supplies Department, Amritsar, were terminated in the month of November, 1949, without assigning any reason ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the enquiries held against those subordinate were held by the Department and the Additional District Magistrate and nothing was found against them ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes, the enquiries were held but it is incorrect that nothing was found against them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether any warning was given to these officials or any opportunity was afforded to them to explain their conduct?

Minister : Enquiry was made against them through the Special Inquiry Agency. The allegations against them were that they had intimidated shopkeepers and for this reason their services were terminated.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not the policy of the Government to afford full opportunity to such persons for explaining their conduct before taking any action against them ?

Minister : I do not like to add to what I have stated above.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not necessary under the Rules that the person should be afforded full opportunity to explain his conduct ?

Minister : The services of temporary hands can be terminated.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I may inform the hon. Minister that a person who has got six months service to his credit cannot be called a temporary hand.

Minister : I am thankful for the information given by the hon. Member.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know for how long these officials have been in Government service ?

Minister : I require notice to answer this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether these officials were in Government service in prepartitioned Punjab ?

Minister : I can't say. If the hon. Member wants to get this information he should give fresh notice.

WORK CENTRES.

*2648. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of Work Centres opened by the Relief and Rehabilitation Department in different parts of the State ;
- (b) the places where these centres have been opened ;
- (c) the number of persons receiving training in these centres ;
- (d) the monthly expenditure incurred by the Government in running these Centres ;

[Shri Virendra]

- (e) the monthly income, if any, which the Government receives from these centres ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) 41.
- (b) Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Ambala, Jagadhri, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Palwal and Hissar.
- (c) 1497 in January 1951.
- (d) The average monthly expenditure on these work centres is about Rs. 1,75,000 inclusive of capital expenditure on buildings and machinery, and salaries of Technical staff.
- (e) The average monthly income from sale of goods produced in these centres is about Rs. 55,000 which is gradually rising.

Shri Virendra : As these work centres are running at a loss, may I know what steps the Government propose to take to make them self supporting ?

Minister : The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether Government has taken any steps to provide work to the persons who have received training in these work centres ?

Minister : These work centres have been opened only to provide work to the trained persons.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the persons who work in these centres get enough work to be able to support themselves and their families ?

Minister : It is difficult for me to say how much work is given to each worker.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the articles that are manufactured in the work centres are sold in the market at the usual market price ?

Minister : Yes. Many such articles are readily sold in the market.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that large stock of leather goods, such as slippers etc., which have been manufactured in these centres is lying unsold as the price of these manufactured articles is high as compared with other similar articles in the market ?

Minister : I require notice to answer this question.

RESTORATION OF PROPERTY TO SYED ABUL HAQ OF JULLUNDUR.

*2651. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government has restored the property of Syed Abdul Haq of Jullundur, who had migrated to Pakistan and has now returned to India ?

The hon. Sardar Isher Singh Mujhall :

Sheikh Abdul Haq has not returned to India. He came to Jullundur on a temporary visit and is at present at Lahore as an evacuee. No application was ever made by Sheikh Abdul Haq for restoration of his property and the Custodian did not pass any order for such restoration.

Shri Virendra : Is the Government aware of the fact that Syed Abdul Haq has come to India and is occupying a house in Delhi. How is it that the Government has no knowledge about this ?

Minister : I do not know if he has come to Delhi. He had come to Jullundur to see his bungalow but he has not applied for the restoration of his property.

Shri Virendra : The hon. Minister has stated that he has not come to India, may I know whether he has any definite information that he has not returned to India ?

Minister : I only know this much that he came to Jullundur sometime back.

—————

**QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO VILLAGERS
OF TEHSIL LAHORE.**

835. **Sardar Bachah Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of displaced land-owners of village Jahman, tehsil Lahore and the total area of land they were entitled to under the quasi permanent allotment scheme;
- (b) (i) the names of villages situated within the area of their allocation in the districts of the State and Pepsu where they were temporarily settled;
- (ii) the number of the persons referred to in part (b) (i) above who were temporarily settled in the village referred to above;
- (c) (i) number of the persons of village Jahman who were allotted no land on temporary basis within the area of their allocation and the total area they were entitled to under the quasi permanent allotment scheme;
- (ii) whether all the persons referred to in part (c) (i) above have been allotted lands in the villages referred to in Unstarred Question No. 342 (c) put by Sardar Sajjan Singh on 25th October, 1949; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) (i) whether any of the persons referred to in part (c) (i) above have been allotted lands in villages other than those referred to in part (c) (ii) above; if so, their number and the area they were entitled to;
- (ii) the list of the villages in which they have been allotted lands under the quasi permanent scheme and the total area allotted to them;

- (e) whether Government proposes to allot them lands under the quasi permanent scheme in the villages referred to in part (c) (ii) above; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) (i) whether any displaced landowners who were not the sitting allottees in the village referred to in part (c) (ii) above have been settled under the quasi permanent scheme in preference to the displaced landowners of village Jahman; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (ii) the total area they have been allotted in these two villages?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) The total number of displaced landowners of village Jahman, tehsil Kasur is 835 and they were entitled to allotment of a total area of 3189 standard acres and 11½ units.

(b) (i) Collection of necessary information with regard to the names of villages situated within the area of allocation of the State and Pepsu where 835 displaced land-holders of village Jahman were temporarily settled, would not be commensurate with the labour and trouble involved.

(b) (ii), (c) (i) (ii) } As in (b) (i) above.
 (d) (i) & (d) (ii) }

(c) Each application for review of allotment of land is being considered on its own merits.

(f) (i) The two villages referred to in the answer to unstarred Assembly question No. 342 (c) were reserved for displaced persons from Lahore tehsil as a whole and not from village Jahman alone. The question of preference to displaced landholders of village Jahman in these village does not therefore, arise.

(f) (ii) As in (f) (i) above.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that in reply to my question 20342 referred to in (c) (ii) the Government had given a definite assurance that the displaced persons from village Jahman will be allotted land in villages of their choice? If this is true why have some of them been allotted land in different villages?

Minister : The villages in question were allocated for displaced persons from tehsil Lahore and not those from village Jahman alone.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Has the hon. Minister replied to this question after having gone through the reply given to my previous question under reference ?

Minister : I don't want to reply to it.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Does the hon. Minister know that before reply to my question No. 342 was given the D.R.R. had passed orders that refugees from village Jahman should be allotted land in these two villages ?

Minister : So far as I think there was no such order that they must be allotted land in these two villages only.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If I show those orders to the hon. Minister, will he take necessary action in the matter ?

Minister : Yes.

FOODGRAINS EXPORTED AND IMPORTED

*2963. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total quantity of foodgrains given by the Punjab to other States in India during the last one year;
- (b) the total quantity of foodgrains received by the Punjab from other States, during the last one year ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) 2,22,308 tons.
- (b) Nil.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN IN THE STATE.

*2915. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the work done by the students in connection with the grow more food campaign in the State during their vacation was successful;
- (b) whether the Government intend to repeat the same experiment this year also ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) and (b) Yes.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has the Government received any resolution from the Headmasters' Association to the effect that this experiment has proved detrimental to the studies of the students ?

Minister : I can't say. If the hon. Lady Member gives notice I shall let her know.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that the Government has received representations from educational authorities of various schools and especially the Headmistress, Government Girls School, Jullundur that these vacations should be abolished as they did not benefit to the students?

Minister : In view of the fact that the grow-more-food campaign is of paramount importance the Government cannot agree to this demand.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know how far the work in connection with the grow-more-food campaign has progressed as a result of the efforts of school-going children ?

Minister : Those who have contributed nothing towards it should do so.

Shrimati Sita Devi : How many students did any work in this connection ?

Minister : Those who have taken no part should do so in future, especially those living in towns.

PUNJAB EDUCATION CODE.

***2916. Shrimati Sita Devi.** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the pre-partition Punjab Education Code is still followed for the guidance of schools in the State;
- (b) whether the Government intends to modify the said code to suit the new set up?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh.

- (a) Yes, with some modifications.
- (b) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know what are those modifications?

Minister: If the hon. Lady Member gives notice I shall let her know.

FEES OF HARIJAN STUDENTS.

***2917. Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the fees of Harijan students for the period 1st April, 1950 to 30th September, 1950 have not been paid by the Government so far; if so, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh:

No. It is not a fact. Government have made payments, to the extent of Rs. one lac i.e., the full amount earmarked for this purpose during the current year.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Has it come to the notice of the Government that the Harijan students have not so far been granted fee concessions? Hasn't the Government received representations to this effect?

Minister : No, this is not a fact though it is true that owing to mistakes in the relevant papers submitted by the education authorities some delay is inevitable. Payment has been made in this connection by this time.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is there no provision in the rules to instruct the school authorities to submit the relevant papers by a certain date ?

Minister : Government does not mind even if they commit some mistake. It refers the matter again to them.

Shrimati Sita Devi : When once the papers are returned to them for correction, doesn't the Government direct them to submit them again by a certain date or at least before the expiry of the financial year ?

Minister : Instructions to this effect are no doubt issued but sometime they are not observed by them.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What action does the Government take if its instructions are ignored.

Minister : Their attention is again drawn to them.

PUNJAB ADVISORY BOARD FOR BOOKS.

*2918. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon^r Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the members of Punjab Advisory Board for Books of the Education Department have been permitted to write and submit books to the Government;
- (b) whether the reviewers of the new books appointed for the purpose belong to this State or outside ;
- (c) the basis on which the members of the Punjab Advisory Board for Books have been nominated ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that headmasters of certain schools have been nominated to the said Board ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) The Punjab Advisory Board for Books has ceased to exist from 1st October 1950. The question of permission to the members to write and submit books to Government, therefore, does not arise. Government has, however, laid no restriction on anyone, including members of the Provincial Advisory Board of Education (a new body which does not deal with books only but with the entire field of education). No member of this Board will have any hand in the prescription of his own books.
- (b) The matter being treated as a close secret, it is regretted that the information cannot be supplied at this stage.
- (c) The Provincial Advisory Board of Education was constituted from among members of the Punjab Education Department, representatives of the University and the Legislative Assembly and Headmasters of High Schools.
- (d) In nominating 4 Headmasters of privately managed high schools to the Provincial Board of Education Government fully kept in view the qualifications and experience of the individuals concerned and their representative character.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the members of the Provincial Advisory Board of Education will be permitted to write books? If so, how will there be any impartiality in the matter of prescription of books if they will be allowed a hand in this matter?

Minister : The members of the Board will have no hand in the prescription of their own books. Reviewers will be appointed for this purpose.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if only those four Headmasters who have been nominated to this Board have the necessary experience and ability for this work?

Minister : In making these nominations the Government kept in view their qualifications and experience, though I don't say others are not capable.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Are those qualifications to be found in these four Headmasters only?

Minister : When the hon. Lady Member will come to know their names she will admit the correctness of what the Government has done.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Doesn't the Government think that it would be better to provide for the election of the representatives of teachers to the Board? Would it not be a more progressive step than the principle of nomination?

Minister : It is not easy for every body to fight elections and canvass votes. Moreover elections might not return persons of requisite qualifications.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : What is the harm if the seats of Headmasters on the Board are filled by election from old teachers and headmasters of various schools? This procedure is being followed in some other States also

Minister : In which States?

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : In Madhya Pradesh and several other States?

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, HOSHIARPUR.

*2219. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government College, Hoshiarpur is being handed over to the University; if so, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : A proposal to this effect is under the consideration of Government

Shri Prabodh Chandra : When was this proposal received and for how long will it remain under the consideration of the Government?

Minister : This proposal was received on the 9th October; it is under consideration since that date.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : How long will the Government take to consider it?

Minister : It is not possible to give a time-limit, and I can only say that some inquiries are being made in connection with this proposal at the present.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has in the same breath said that firstly the matter is under consideration and secondly that inquiries are being made, obviously for its implementation. May I know whether the first answer is correct or the second?

Shr. matī Sita Devi : Is it a fact that all this is being done to provide some officers of the Government who are about to retire from service?

Minister : The proposal is being considered to retain in service some educationists of very high qualifications who would not like to be given subordinate places in other institutions.

Shrīmatī Sita Davi : I request the hon. Minister kindly to answer my question namely whether this proposal is being considered to provide some officers of Government who are about to retire from service?

Chief Minister : It is an incorrect allegation.

TERMINATION OF THE SERVICES OF LADY WELFARE WORKERS IN THE STATE.

*2921. **Shrimati Sita Devi** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the services of Lady Welfare Workers in the State have been terminated; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether he has received any representation from the Lady Welfare Workers whose services have been terminated; if so, the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether any attempt has been made by the Government to absorb the Lady Welfare Workers in some other department of the State?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) Yes. These posts have been abolished with effect from the 1st March, 1951 owing to the lean finances of the State.
- (b) The representations are under consideration.
- (c) The matter is under consideration.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does not the Government feel that where hardship must have been caused to the lady welfare workers by the termination of their services the rural areas have also been deprived of the very useful work which these workers were doing as a result of fifteen or twenty years' experience at their back?

Minister : The Government has to look to so many things.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On the one hand, the hon. Minister has said that owing to financial stringency the department has been abolished and on the other he says that some representations have been received and they will be favourably considered. May I know whether the first part of his answer is correct or the second ?

Minister : Both parts of my answer are correct. The department has been abolished but the representations will be considered to accommodate the affected lady workers in other departments e. g., the District Boards, Municipalities or say the Health Department.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Has the department been abolished as there is now no necessity for the Lady Welfare Work ?

Minister : No, it is not because of that.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : What was the nature of work which these lady welfare workers were doing ?

Minister : These lady welfare workers were working in connection with health matters, development of industry in the villages and the education of the ruralites.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Has some other arrangement been made for these matters after this department has been abolished ?

Minister : This work had to stop with the termination of services of the Lady Welfare Workers.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : As the hon. Minister has said that attempts would be made to absorb the lady welfare workers in other Departments, may I ask whether those departments in which they are to be accommodated are under-staffed ?

Minister : We have written to these departments but replies have not yet been received from them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will some honest attempts be made at absorbing these lady welfare workers or are these promises just an eyewash ?

Minister : Honest attempts will be made.

Shrimati Sita Devi : How is it that this department has been abolished owing to financial stringency when the Government is carrying on with so many unnecessary departments ?

Minister : The Government has no unnecessary department.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that so many officers have been unnecessarily employed in the Secretariat just to favour them ?

Chief Minister : It is an incorrect allegation.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, is it parliamentary to lose temper in the House ?

Mr. Speaker : Neither losing temper nor making too many interruptions is parliamentary.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, is it constitutional on the part of the hon. Chief Minister to come to the rescue of hon. Minister when he is helpless ?

Mr. Speaker : There is joint responsibility.

**UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION OF A HOUSE BY A READER
OF A COURT AT ROHTAK.**

***2466. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether a complaint of unlawful occupation of a house, consequent arrest and then litigation was made against one Reader of a court at Rohtak to the Anti-Corruption Committee; if so, the result thereof;
- (b) whether any correspondence was exchanged between the Government and the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak on the point of departmental action against this Reader ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. The complaint was enquired into by the district authorities, but the allegation was not proved.
- (b) Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the Government kindly say as to what action was taken against the complainant when his complaint was found to be wrong ?

Chief Minister : Action was taken by the Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Had it the courage to do so ?

Chief Minister : It has the courage and it did take the necessary action.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What was the action taken ?

Chief Minister : Notice is required for this question.

DRAIN-OUT SCHEME OF SEM WATER IN DISTRICT KARNAL.

***2498. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the scheme to drain out the sem water and supply it for the crops in District Karnal ;

[Shri Ram Sharma]

(b) the work already done in this connection ;

(c) whether any complaint from the residents of villages Ghair and Solarpura has been received by the Government in this connection ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The Hanouri Drain is maintained by the Government to drain-off the water, but there is no scheme to use its water for irrigation purpose.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes. One Shri Din Dayal of village Ghair made allegations of bribery and the complaint is under investigation.

GAUGE READERS.

*2720. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the starting pay per month of a Gauge Reader (Pansalawis) in the Irrigation Department ;

(b) when their present scale of pay was sanctioned ;

(c) whether the scale of pay referred to in part (b) above was ever revised; if so, when and with what results ;

(d) the Dearness Allowance allowed per month to the Government employees referred to in part (a) above ;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the scale of their pay;

(f) (i) the least academic qualifications for the recruitment of Gauge Readers ;

(ii) whether there is any proposal before the Government to revise their scales of pay;

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The starting pays of various classes of Gauge Readers in the Irrigation Department are as follows :—

(i) Class I Gauge Readers — Rs. 19/- P. M.

(They also get an extra allowance ranging from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 5/- P. M. for important sites like Headworks and Main Line Regulators)

(ii) Class II Gauge Readers — Rs. 17/8/- P. M.

(iii) Class III Gauge Readers — Rs. 16/- P. M.

(iv) Season Gauge Readers Class IV — Rs. 15/- P. M.

(b) Present scale of pay was sanctioned with effect from 1st June, 1944.

(c) Their scale of pay prior to revision in 1944 was Rs. 12/- to Rs. 18/- P. M.

(d) Rs. 25/- P. M. for each class referred to in part (a) above.

(e) The revision of the scale of pay recently sanctioned in 1951 is as below :—

Gauge Reader Grade I — 40—1—50.

-do- II — 30—1—50.

-do- III — 25—1—30.

The Dearness Allowance shall be in addition.

(f) (i) Vernacular Middle.

(ii) As per item (e) above.

GAUGE READERS.

*2721. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of the Gauge Readers (Pansalnawis) in Jandiala and Majitha Divisions of the Upper Bari Doab Canal

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

respectively for recording the canal water level at the tails of the different minors and distributaries in the month of December, 1950.

- (b) the total mileage each one of them has to undertake daily to inspect and record the tail gauges when the water is flowing in the canal ;
- (c) whether any conveyance arrangements have been made for them; if so, the details thereof ;
- (d) (i) whether the Gauge Readers referred to in part (a) above were allowed any cycle allowance per month during 1947-48 and 1948-49 ; if so, its rate per month ;
- (ii) whether this cycle allowance has since been stopped ; if so, the date thereof together with the reasons therefor ;
- (iii) whether the Government proposes to re-introduce this cycle allowance ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) The number of Gauge Readers employed for this purpose in December, 1950, is :—

Jandiala Division	—	7
Majitha Divison	—	6

- (b) The daily mileage for each of the Gauge Readers is noted below :—

Majitha Division.

1. Kathu Nangal	—	17
2. Lalu Ghuman	—	20
3. Bagga,	}	— 8 to 10 miles each
4. Fatehgarh Churian,		
5. R. D. 80,819 Lahore Branch and		
6. R. D. 96,000 Lahore Branch		

Jandiala Division.

1.	Khara Rest House	—	—	12 to 25 miles
2.	Naushehra Rest House	—	—	8½ miles
3.	Khawaspur Rest House	—	—	30 miles
4.	Rasulpur Rest House	—	—	20 miles
5.	Minhala Rest House	—	—	23 miles
6.	Minhala R. H. (2nd G. R)	—	—	30 miles
7.	Valtoha R. H.	—	—	30 miles

(c) They have to make their own conveyance arrangements.

(d) (i) Yes, at Rs. 4/8/- per month, if the beat is more than 10 miles and a cycle is maintained.

(ii) No.

(iii) Does not arise.

LIQUOR AND FOREIGN WINE SHOPS IN THE STATE.

*2722. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) the number of new liquor and foreign wine shops opened in the different districts of the State between 15th August, 1947 and 31st December, 1950 ;

(ii) the names of the places where these shops have been opened and the reasons therefor ;

(b) the total income derived from the Excise Duty on liquors foreign wine and opium, respectively, during the years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1948-49 and 1949-50 ;

(c) the total quantity of liquor and opium consumed in each district of the State during each of the aforesaid years ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (d) (i) the total income derived from Excise Duty on liquor, foreign wine and opium in each district of the State during each of the year mentioned above,
- (ii) the total quantity of Bhang consumed in each district during each of the years referred to above ;
- (e) the total quantity of opium purchased by the Government during each year referred to in part (b) above and the total price paid therefor ;
- (f) the total quantity of opium sold by the Government during each year referred to in part (b) above and the total sale price received from the opium vendors ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) to (f) Eight statements marked 'A' to 'F' giving the required information are laid on the table.†

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware of the fact that the residents of these places, where new liquor shops have been opened, protested against the opening of these? What action has the Government taken on those protests?

Chief Minister : Protests were received from some places but I am not in a position to give details unless the hon. Member gives notice of that question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Government taken any action on the representations made by the people ?

Chief Minister : I require notice of that question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the people of Gurdaspur and Batala have protested to the Government against these shops being opened in thickly-populated places ?

Chief Minister : I require notice of that question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Punjab Government received no instructions from the Government of India that in keeping with the latter's policy this Government should open no new liquor shops?

† Kept in the Library.

Chief Minister : This does not arise out of the main question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The figures given for various districts in the Statement 'D' supplied by the hon. Chief Minister show that there was increase in the consumption of liquor and opium in the year 1949-50 as compared with 1948-49. May I know the cause of this increase ?

Chief Minister : Those who use these things will be able to give this information. I, however, feel that there has not been any appreciable increase.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What steps has the Government taken to check increase of consumption of these things in Ferozepore and other districts ?

Chief Minister : Consumption of these articles cannot be effectively reduced by any Government scheme. If some private societies act in this behalf, they might achieve success.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the Government prepared to recruit social workers for this work ?

Chief Minister : In my opinion this kind of social work should not wait till workers are paid something for doing it. Social service is generally honorary.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if tenders were invited at the time of opening these shops, or were the licences given to those whom the Minister concerned liked to oblige ?

Chief Minister : In most of the cases tenders were invited, while in some cases the licences were given to other suitable persons.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Were Government rules observed at the time of giving licences for opening liquor shops in Ludhiana and Gurdaspur ?

Chief Minister : Nothing is done against Government rules.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES IN THE STATE.

*2723. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) (i) whether any new hospitals or dispensaries have been opened by the Government, Local Bodies, Aided Societies, respectively, in rural or urban areas of any districts in the State between the 15th August, 1947 and 31st December, 1950; if so, their particulars i. e. localities in which they have been opened ;
- (ii) the date when each of them was opened ;
- (b) the total amount actually spent by the Government on the maintenance and repairs of the buildings the hospitals and dispensaries during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively ;
- (c) the total amount awarded to the local bodies and other private societies and the repairs of maintenance of hospitals and dispensaries run by them during each of the years mentioned above ;
- (d) the total amount spent by the District Boards, Municipal Committees and other private societies which receive aid from Government for running hospitals and dispensaries during each of the years referred to above from their own funds ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) (i) and (ii)

A statement is laid on the table.†

The exact dates when the institutions started functioning are not readily available and will be intimated to the hon. Member later.

(b) Year	Maintenance Charges	Cost of additions and alterations.	Total
1948—49	Rs. 23,83,933/-/-	Rs. 69,759/-/-	Rs. 24,23,456/-
1949—50	Rs. 25,32,411/-/-	Rs. 80,326/-/-	Rs. 26,12,737/-

†Kept in the Library

The figures of expenditure on repairs are being collected and will be intimated to the hon. Member later.

(c)	Year	Rs.
	1948—49	8,30,352/-/-
	1949--50	11,62,344/-/-

(d) The required information is not readily available and is being collected. It will be conveyed to the hon. Member later.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that twentythree or twentyfive lakhs of rupees were spent on the opening of hospitals and dispensaries. How much of this amount is paid to Government officers in the form of their salaries and how much actually goes to benefit the public ?

Chief Minister : I cannot give these details off-hand.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that only five pies out of a rupee are spent for the actual benefit of the people, while the rest of it is paid to Government officers as their salaries ?

Chief Minister : All these figures have been given in the Budget which is shortly going to be discussed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; The Government proposed to open a dispensary and a school for an area of five miles. May I know when this scheme is going to materialise ?

Chief Minister : This depends on the amount of money available for this purpose.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In the present conditions and according to the system adopted by the present Government, is there any likelihood of that dream materializing in the next ten, fifteen or even twenty years ?

Chief Minister : The Government is doing as much as possible in that direction.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What steps has the Government taken so far to attain that objective ? At present, there is one dispensary, and one school for an area of fifty miles. What has the Government done to reduce this area to forty miles or thirty miles ?

Chief Minister : I shall request the hon. Member to go through the reports of the working of different Government departments which have been circulated among the hon. Members.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES IN THE STATE.

+2724. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) (i) the number of hospitals and dispensaries which were run by the Government during the years 1948—49 and 1949—50 for the benefit of different Government Departments and which were not open to public ;
- (ii) the names and the localities of these hospitals and dispensaries ;
- (iii) the total cost borne by Government for running each of these hospitals and dispensaries respectively during each of the years referred to above ;
- (iv) the reasons for not opening them to the public ;
- (v) the total number of in-door and out-door patients of each of these hospitals and dispensaries during each of the years referred to above ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(i) Year	Number of Hospitals and Dispensaries
1948—49	34
1949—50	34

- (ii) & (v) A statement (Annexure I) is laid on the table.†
- (iii) The required information is being collected and will be intimated to the hon. Member later.
- (iv) A statement (Annexure II) is laid on the table†

†Kept in the Library.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In Annexure II to the statement supplied by the hon. Chief Minister, it is stated with regard to canal dispensaries that-

As the entire cost of maintenance of canal dispensaries is borne by the Irrigation Department, none of these institutions can be thrown open to the public without the consent of that department.

May I know if this canal department is a foreign department so that the Government has to obtain its permission before throwing open these dispensaries to the public ?

Chief Minister : If my hon. Friend reads the whole of the reply, the position will become clear. For his benefit, I shall read the entire reply again.

As the entire cost of maintenance of canal dispensaries is borne by the Irrigation Department, none of these institutions can be thrown open to the public without the consent of that department. In places where no other arrangement exists for affording medical relief to the population residing in the surrounding area, a canal hospital or dispensary is thrown open to the public, with the concurrence of the Irrigation Department, on the condition that the entire expenditure involved on this account is met from the Health Department.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know what is the necessity of obtaining the consent of the department concerned for throwing open a dispensary to the public ?

Chief Minister : Every department has to spend funds according to the allotments made to it by the Finance Department. Consequently, the consent of the Department concerned is necessary in such cases.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know why the concession which has been given to the people living around the Canal Dispensaries has not been given to those living around the Reformatory Settlement Dispensary ?

Chief Minister : The Reformatory Settlement Dispensary is situated in Amritsar where other hospitals are within the reach of general public.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the distance of the Reformatory Settlement Dispensary from the Civil Hospital ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the number of people living in the Reformatory Settlement ?

Chief Minister : I have not got this information in my possession just now.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister please state the difficulties which the Government has to face in throwing open the dispensary to the people who are living near it ?

Chief Minister : Sir, it is a request for action.

Mehra Ranbir Singh : May I know how many Canal Dispensaries have been thrown open to the general public and how much expenditure has been incurred on that account ?

Chief Minister : I shall be able to give the information if notice is given.

OVERSEERS.

*2725. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Overseers considered fit to hold charge of Sub-Divisions are promoted to officiate as Sub Divisional Officers in the Irrigation Branch ; if so, the basis on which these promotions are made ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that promotions and demotions are based in the case of officiating Sub-Divisional Officers according to a ranking list ; if so, what is the principle adopted in its preparation and ranking in it of individuals declared fit for promotion ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the State Government has laid down a definite policy for promotion to higher ranks strictly according to seniority in the said Department; if so, is that policy being adhered to in the case of officiating Sub-Divisional Officers during the preparation of the list mentioned in part (b) above ;
- (d) (i) whether the list mentioned in part (b) above was revised during the years 1949 and 1950 by the Chief Engineer according to the policy laid down by the Government and stated in part (c) above ;

- (ii) the number of times the list has been revised during the last one year and a half ;
- (iii) whether the basis for revisions remained the same on the occasion of each revision as had been laid down by the Government ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that certain very senior Overseers officiating as Sub-Divisional Officers have been recently reverted and juniors retained; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. In making promotions, the following are taken into consideration :—
 - (i) Length of permanent service as Overseer.
 - (ii) Whether the Overseer has passed the Departmental Professional and Revenue Examinations
 - (iii) His record and suitability for promotion.
- (b) Yes. The principles adopted in the preparation of ranking list are the same as detailed above in reply to (a) of the question
- (c) Yes ; subject to the conditions detailed in reply to (a) above.
- (d) (i) to (iii). The old list is under revision taking into account the past service as officiating Sub-Divisional Officer and the case has been referred to the Public Service Commission for advice.
- (e) Some juniors have been retained in preference to seniors on account of their long officiating service as Sub-Divisional Officers.

COMPILATION OF THE HISTORY OF FREEDOM MOVEMENT.

+2772. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has received any request

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

from the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for help in the compilation of the history of the Freedom Movement in India ; if so, the action taken by the Government in this connection ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. The available material has been supplied to the Government of India, Ministry of Education.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the nature of the material sent to the Government of India by the Punjab Government in this connection ?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Government of India has sent a number of reminders to the Punjab Government to the effect that the material sent by it is much less than the share of the people of this State in the Freedom Movement ?

Chief Minister : I know better about this matter than the hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker : I think it would be better if the House also knows it.

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall collect the necessary material.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I can place on the table of the House a letter from the Government of India to the effect that the Punjab Government has not supplied the required material. May I know if the Government has contacted any person in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India to the effect that living material should be consulted ?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if any steps have been taken by the Government in this matter ?

Chief Minister : I require notice to answer the question.

Shri Virendra : Which department of the Government has collected the material ?

Chief Minister : The Chief Secretary has collected the material from various quarters.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Chief Secretary, while collecting the material, wrote to the Congress organization or any other societies or he sent the information to the Government of India of his own accord ?

Chief Minister : The necessary information can be given if the hon. Member gives notice.

Shri Virendra : May I know if the Punjab Government consulted the records of the C.I.D. while collecting the material for this purpose ?

Chief Minister : I can give the details if notice is given.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know if the hon. Chief Minister considered the Chief Secretary a sufficient authority for this purpose or some committee was also consulted ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied that the material was collected by the Chief Secretary. Notice is required for giving more details.

DETENUS.

*2922. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of detenus confined in Punjab jails under the Punjab Public Safety Act upto 15th February 1951;
- (b) the number of detenus released up to 15th February 1951 ;
- (c) the scales of their diet allowance and clothing allowance separately ;
- (d) the number of detenus getting family allowance at present ;
- (e) the number of detenus confined and interned in their native villages ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :—

- (a) 4939. Both under the Punjab Public Safety Act and Preventive Detention Act.

[Chief Minister]

- (b) Practically all the detenus detained under the Punjab Public Safety Act have either been released or their detention has been converted into one under the Preventive Detention Act.
- (c) A statement showing the scales of diet allowance and clothing allowance for detenus under the Preventive Detention Act is laid on the table.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) None under the Punjab Public Safety Act .

Statement showing the diet allowance and clothing allowance granted to detenus in jail.

Class of detenus.	Diet allowance.	Clothing allowance.
	Rs. a. p.	
1. Communists ...	2 8 0 per day	They are granted a sundry allowance of Rs. 16/- p. m. for the purchase of clothing, toilet articles, newspapers, periodicals and shaving facilities to non-Sikhs.
2. 'A' Class ..	2 4 0 ..	No clothing allowance is given to them. They are supplied clothes at Government expense.
3. 'B' Class ...	1 12 0 ..	Ditto.
4. 'C' Class ..	No allowance is given to them. They are provided diet as to 'C' Class convicts.	Ditto.

Shrimati Sita Devi : It is stated in the statement that has been supplied to me that the 'A' class prisoners are given daily allowance of Rs. 2/4 annas and they are supplied clothes by the Government. May I know how those prisoners manage to get toilet goods and other sundry things in the absence of any other allowance ?

Chief Minister : The allowances are given according to the rules. Besides the Government does not take upon itself the responsibility of providing everything to the prisoners.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if it is not the responsibility of the Government to meet the requirements of the detenus ?

Chief Minister : The detenus are given all the facilities that are given to 'A' and 'B' class prisoners.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know why non-Communist detenus are not given the allowance of Rs. 16 which is given to the Communist detenus ?

Chief Minister : They are given the same allowance as is given to other 'A' class prisoners.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS CORPS.

*2964. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total strength of the National Volunteer Corps in the State District-wise ;

(b) the functions and duties of the National Volunteer Corps at present ? .

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The total sanctioned strength of the Punjab Volunteer Corps in the State district-wise is as under :

District.	Hony. D. S. Ps.	Platoon Comm- anders.	Platoon Officers.	Volunt- eers	Head Constab- les.	Foot Constab- les.
1. Hissar	1	20	40	400	4	8
2. Rohtak	1	16	33	330	4	8
3. Gurgaon	1	20	43	430	4	8
4. Karnal	1	25	50	500	5	9
5. Ambala	1	20	42	420	3	9
6. Simla	--	6	12	120	1	5
7. Hoshiarpur	1	15	30	300	4	9
8. Jullundur	1	14	29	290	5	9
9. Ludhiana	1	16	32	320	5	9
10. Kangra	1	14	28	280	3	6
11. Ferozepore	1	26	60	600	6	10
12. Amritsar	1	25	59	590	8	16
13. Gurdaspur	1	16	36	360	4	10
Total :--	12	233	494	4940	58	116

[Chief Minister]

(b) The functions and duties of the Punjab Volunteer Corps at present, are to impart rifle training to the Civil population of the state, to assist the police on the occasions of fairs and festivals, pursuit of criminals, traffic control, guarding Government property, dispersing rioters, collecting of intelligence and organising Village Defence and Air Raid Precautions.

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state why the strength of the National Volunteer Corps has been reduced ?

Chief Minister : In view of our Finances it was considered proper to spend less in this direction. We are spending as much as we consider proper.

Shri Virendra : Where lies the harm in doing away with it altogether ?

Mr. Speaker : This is a suggestion.

Chief Minister : Thank you for the suggestion. It will receive the best consideration.

Shri Virendra : Thank you.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the difference in the nature of duties of police and the National Volunteer Corps. Can the purpose for which National Volunteer Corps is recruited be not served by increasing the strength of the police ?

Chief Minister : Police is a permanent establishment for maintaining law and order while National Volunteer Corps is a temporary organisation meant to be used for emergency purposes and in fairs etc. Cost of police training is heavy, so it cannot be made to serve the purpose for which National Volunteer Corps is recruited.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not possible to reduce expenditure by reducing the number of permanent police and taking work from the part-time members of the National Volunteer Corps ?

Chief Minister : National Volunteer Corps is primarily meant for fairs and gatherings and for other emergency purposes only. They are given training in that respect.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the policy of the Government with regard to the work of the National Volunteer Corps has been an utter failure and that there have been complaints of dishonesty, loot and corruption ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a question of opinion.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know whether any help was extended by the National Volunteer Corps as such, in such emergencies as Grow More Food Campaign, anti-ocust campaign and rural uplift work ?

Chief Minister : I want notice to supply that information.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the emergency occasions on which the services of National Volunteer Corps were utilized ?

Chief Minister : I cannot tell that now. A notice is required.

AUTHORISED ACCOMMODATION FOR PRISONERS IN JAILS.

*2966. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the authorised accommodation for prisoners in all the Jails of the State ;
- (b) the present population of Jails ;
- (c) the action, if any; taken by the Government to meet this shortage of accommodation in Jails ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) 3994.
- (b) 8238 on 3rd February, 1951.
- (c) Government is alive to the situation but is handicapped by paucity of funds. However, the buildings of the Central Jails at Ambala and Ferozepore are being extended to provide additional accommodation for 720 and 533 prisoners respectively. The Camp Jail at Hissar is

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being converted into a Pucca Jail for 800 prisoners. Additional accommodation for 533 prisoners has since been completed in the Central Jail, Ferozepore. The building of the District Jail, Amritsar, is also to be extended to provide additional accommodation for 500 prisoners. This work will commence from 1951-52 and Rs. eight lacs have been provided for this purpose in the Schedule of New Expenditure. It will be recognized that with a weak budgetary position provision of additional accommodation can be achieved only in stages.

HOLDING OF REGULAR CLASSES FOR CIVIL SECRETARIAT EMPLOYEES.

*2988 **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has recently made some special arrangements to train Civil Secretariat employees in noting, drafting and general Secretariat practices, by holding regular classes ;
- (b) whether any arrangements have been made by the Government to cultivate new outlook and a new spirit in the personnel of the Secretariat, in order to raise the general standard of honesty and efficiency and inspire the Government services with the true spirit of service ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know what arrangements have been made in this connection ?

Chief Minister : One Senior Superintendent has been appointed for the purpose of giving such training.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know whether such training, as I have mentioned in part (b) of my question, will be imparted by the Senior Superintendent ?

Chief Minister : The Senior Superintendent is in-charge of the work. Others will be invited to give lectures as considered desirable.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Will non-officials be invited to deliver lectures ?

Chief Minister : The matter is as yet under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether there is any person in the Civil Secretariat who is competent enough to give lectures on honesty, efficiency and such other qualities ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Is there any among the hon. Ministers who can do so ?

Mr. Speaker : Not allowed.

AGE CONCESSION TO DISPLACED PERSONS.

*3014. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Government of India have extended up to 31st December, 1951 the concession regarding the relaxation of age limit by three years in favour of displaced persons for all selections and examinations held by the Union Public Service Commission ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the reasons why the Punjab Government has withdrawn a similar concession enjoyed by displaced persons in the State ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. This fact came to the notice of Government on the 2nd March, 1951.
- (b) The matter is under consideration.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister has stated in his reply that the matter is under consideration. The Central Government has issued instructions while our Government has not done anything in this connection. Does the Government know that the refugee students have already suffered on account of that, if so, when do the Government propose taking steps in this matter ?

Chief Minister : The matter was brought to the notice of the Government on 2nd March and today is 15th of March only. So it is under consideration.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the date by which the Government will arrive at any decision in this matter ?

Chief Minister : I am unable to give a definite date because before arriving at any decision we have to collect some data also.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I have some approximate idea about the time that the Government will take ?

Chief Minister : It is difficult to give any idea of time here.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does the Government realize that the refugee students are put to a loss ?

Chief Minister : Yes, we do.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the decision of the Government of Punjab in this matter will be in conformity with that of the Central Government ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say about that beforehand.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HOUSES LEFT BY MUSLIM EVACUEE LANDLORDS IN THE STATE.

684. **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of (i) Serviceable houses, (ii) Repairable houses and (iii) Tors, left by Muslim Evacuee landlords in the State ;

- (b) the number of allottees who have been allotted more than one house ;
- (c) the number of allottees who have been allotted only one house ;
- (d) the number of persons who have not been allotted any house, and the manner³ in which it is proposed to provide them with housing accommodation ;
- (e) the number of serviceable houses which have since been changed into repairable ones and how many repairable houses due to damage by rains, etc. have been changed into tors since the last survey by the Rehabilitation Department ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

**HOUSES LEFT BY MUSLIM NON-LANDHOLDERS IN
THE STATE.**

685. **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of (i) Serviceable houses, (ii) Repairable houses and (iii) Tors, left by Muslim non landholders in the State and how many of them have been turned into tors or rendered unserviceable due to rains, etc., since the last survey thereof ;
- (b) the number of non-landholder families who have been allotted more than one house ;
- (c) the number of non-landholder families who have been allotted one house ;
- (d) the number of non-landholder families who have not been allotted any house so far in the State ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

ALLOTMENT OF EVACUEE HOUSES IN THE STATE.

685. **Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of the families of (i) Landholders, (ii) Non-landholders, (iii) Shopkeepers, (iv) Harijans, (v) Kamin's (Artisans), who, after migration from West Punjab and the States of the United Punjab, have settled down in the State ;
- (b) the number of (i) Serviceable houses, (ii) Repairable houses and (iii) Tors, now available, for allotment, including those already allotted in the State ;
- (c) the number of families of (i) Landlords, (ii) Non-landholders, (iii) shopkeepers, (iv) Harijans, and (v) Kamins each, who have been allotted evacuee houses in rural areas in the State ;
- (d) the number of landlords who have taken possession of the houses and are actually residing therein and the number of absentee allottees of houses who are not actually using the houses allotted to them ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

FILING OF REVIEW APPLICATIONS IN THE STATE.

*687. **Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state : .

- (a) the total number of review applications filed so far against allotment of houses (rural) in each District of the State ;
- (b) the total number of review applications so far disposed of in each district ;
- (c) the total number of review applications which have been rejected so far in each district ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) (b) and (c). The required information is given in the statement which is placed on the table.†

FILING OF REVISION APPLICATIONS IN THE STATE.

***688. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of revision applications regarding allotment of houses so far filed in the courts of Deputy Commissioners, against the orders of Revenue Assistants in the State ;
- (b) the total number of revision applications so far disposed of in each district ;
- (c) the total number of revision applications which have been rejected in each district ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) (b) (c). The required information is given in the statement which is placed on the table.†

CONSTRUCTION OF TAIL OUTLETS OF GILPAN MINOR.

***689. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the tail outlets of Gilpan minor which irrigate the lands of village Wan, Tehsil Patti, were constructed just within the area of the road of this village ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

†Kept in the Library.

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- (b) whether the Government is aware that as a result of this construction, traffic beyond these tail outlets on the road had been practically stopped ; if so, the steps Government proposes to take to remove this difficulty of the cultivators; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) (i) whether the Government proposes to take any action against any officer or officers responsible for this wrong construction ;
- (ii) the amount spent for the construction of these tail outlets ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Tail is constructed just outside the area of the road referred to. The latter part of the question does not arise.
- (b) There is some hindrance to traffic across the water courses irrigating Wan. The responsibility of building culverts over watercourses is that of irrigators themselves.
- (c) (i) Does not arise.
- (ii) Rs. 300/-

CANAL OUTLETS OF GILPAN MINOR.

*690. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area under the command of each of the canal outlets coming out from Gilpan minor and irrigating the lands of village Wan, Tesil Patti, District Amritsar ;
- (b) the area actually irrigated by each of these outlets during the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 respectively ;
- (c) (i) whether there has been any deficiency in the irrigated area ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (ii) the steps ; if any, Government proposes to take to make up this deficiency?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) & (b) The required information is given in the statement which is attached.

(c) (i) The irrigation figures for 1949-50 of outlet R. D. 64615 T. L. are a bit low as the outlet was constructed only in 7/49 and also because the zamindars could not do proper irrigation due to tension on the border in 1949.

The irrigation is expected to improve during 1950-51. Booking of Rabi crop (1950-51) is in progress yet and the figures are not ready.

(ii) Does not arise.

Statement showing irrigation figures of village Wan on Gilpan Minor for 1949-50 and 1950-51.

Serial No.	Name of channel.	R. D. of outlet.	Name of village.	Permissible area.	Actual irrigation.		Remarks.
					1949-50	Kharif 1950.	
1.	Gilpan Minor	64615 T. R.	Wan	474	474	202	Booking of irrigation of Rabi 50-51 is in progress yet.
2.	do	64615 T. L.	do	477	407	240	

RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES AT GILPAN MINOR.

691. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any of the bridges over the Gilpan minor of Basarke distributary (Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle) was damaged between 15th August 1947 and 31st December 1950, if so, their number ;

(b) whether any of them has been repaired or reconstructed ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

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- (c) (i) whether any deviation through extension from Burji No. 55 or 56 of this minor has been made between 15th August 1948 and 31st December 1950 if so when ;
- (ii) the number of the bridges to be constructed over the extension referred to in para (c) (i) above ;
- (iii) whether any of these bridges has so far been constructed ; if so, their number ;
- (iv) whether the Government is aware that in the absence of the bridges referred to in part (c) (ii) above the zamindars of village Dall, District Amritsar are experiencing great hardship; if so, the steps, taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes, two bridges.
- (b) One has been repaired and the construction of the other is in progress.
- (c) (i) Yes, in 1948-49.
- (ii) One bridge.
- (iii) The construction of the bridge is in progress.
- (iv) The difficulty of the Zamindars will be removed shortly as soon as the above mentioned bridge is completed.

NEW OUTLETS ON GILPAN MINOR.

692. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) (i) whether any new outlets were sanctioned permanently by the Canal authorities over the Gilpan Minor to

irrigate the barani lands of village Dall, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar during the year 1950, if so their number ;

- (ii) the area under the command of each of the outlets referred to in part (a) (i) above; together with the area actually irrigated by each of them during the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 respectively;
- (b) whether the area actually irrigated falls short of the fixed ratio; if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava

- (a) (i) No.
- (ii) Does not arise.
- (b) Does not arise.

NEW ELECTRIC CONNECTIONS IN JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

693. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of applications for obtaining new electric connections for domestic and trade purposes, respectively, received by electric authorities in each municipal area of Jullundur Division between 1st June 1950 and 31st December 1950 ;
- (b) (i) the number of applications disposed of in each of the areas referred to in part (a) above up to 28th February 1951 ;
- (ii) the number of applications accepted and rejected, respectively, up to 28th February 1951;
- (c) (i) the number of applications referred to in part (a) above which were disposed of within one, two and three months, respectively, after their receipt ;

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- (ii) the number of applications referred to above which were disposed of within four, five and six months of their receipt and the reasons for delay;
- (d) whether Government proposes to fix a maximum period for the disposal of the applications referred to in part (a) above ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

**CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WATER CHANNEL IN DISTRICT
AMRITSAR.**

694. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether there was any proposal put forward by the Amritsar District authorities to the Government to construct a new water channel to irrigate the barani lands of villages Sur Singh, Bhikhiwind and Mari Samra ; if so, the decision, if any, arrived at by the Government in the matter ;
- (b) whether any steps have so far been taken by the Government to enable the irrigation of the barani lands of village Kale, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar ; if so with what result.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes, but the proposal was dropped as the area of the villages was found uncommended after detailed investigation.
- (b) The barani area of Kale cannot be taken up for extension of irrigation so long as supply is not withdrawn from Pakistan.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, before I proceed with my speech, I consider it my duty to offer my thanks to you for reviving the old convention of letting the Opposition initiate the general discussion of the Budget. Sir, you are also an experienced parliamentarian of a long standing and you are well aware that the object of the annual Budget of a Government is to afford an opportunity to review the working and activities of the Government for the previous year and to criticise its policy formulated for the next financial year. I assure, you, Sir, that I fully realize the responsibility of the task that has been entrusted to me and I will keep in mind the dignity of the House while giving expression to my views. (*Hear, hear*). With these words I advert to my subject.

Now, Sir, our Congress Government has been holding the reins of office for the last three or four years in this State and whatever it has accomplished during that period is also before the public. I may submit that the people were jubilant over the attainment of independence by this country, because they had high hopes from the Congress Government, which succeeded the previous regime. Now this Government was formed by that premier political party which had always made high sounding professions to set up Ram Raj after the liberation of the country from the foreign yoke. It goes without saying that Mahatma Gandhi had always dreamt of the establishment of a Ram Raj when India had achieved independence. Now we have to see what sort of Ram Raj has been brought into being by the Congress Government in this State and what comparison does it bear to the Ram Raj of the days of yore. I will just take you to Ajudhia where two sportsmen, namely Lord Rama and his younger brother Bharat, were engaged in a football match. The football was not made of an ordinary leather but it symbolised the Raj of Bharatvarsha. Bharat entreated Rama to sit on the throne because it was his right, being elder to him. Lord Rama would not agree saying that the throne belonged to him since their father had so desired. But what type of Ram Raj are we experiencing? We find that the members of the Congress Party are fighting with each other for power. During the last four years we have witnessed manoeuvrings and conspiracies by one set of members against another set of the members of the same party. We find that one member has been trying to show down the other, and grab power for himself. I want to ask whether this is the

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same Ram Raj which used to exist during Lord Ramas' and Bharat's time. I feel deeply pained to see that those very people who cried themselves hoarse for the establishment of Ram Raj are flying at each other's throat for their selfish ends. They have, as a matter of fact, lost sight of the spirit of sacrifice obtaining in the Ram Raj of Lord Rama. Their bickerings have resulted in creating an unhealthy atmosphere in the State. It is possible that my words may pinch my hon. Friends but I am not alone in saying so. The consensus of opinion in the State is that they have vitiated the atmosphere of this land. Even the 'Tribune' which is the most popular paper of the Punjab, is at one with me in this respect. I would just quote an extract from the editorial of its today's publication.

Mr. Speaker : Better avoid the mentioning of the name of the newspaper.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Very well, Sir. That newspaper says :—

Frankly speaking, members of the Assembly seem to be pre-occupied with the problem of Ministry-making and unmaking and they do not exercise vigilance over the use of public money which the people have a right to expect from them.

This extract fully indicates the state of affairs obtaining in this State and perhaps this is the reason that our administration of today, which should have been very strong, is very weak and hollow to the core. We deprecate the services for their inefficiency. But may I ask those who indulge in condemning the services, whether they have ever cared to make a self-introspection as to who are actually responsible for this? Is it those who carry out the policy formulated by my hon. Friends or they themselves who have framed the policy?

Now I put before the House another specimen of the Ram Raj of our dreams. Lord Ram respected public opinion to such a degree that when he heard an unhappy remark made by a washerman about Maharani Sita, he sent her away in exile, without caring that she was shortly to give birth to the heir of his kingdom. But what do we see here? We find that the Government does not take into consideration the public sentiment. It flouts public opinion. You are aware, Sir, that there was an iron scandal in this State. The police had apprehended many persons who were involved in this scandal. The

people were strongly of the opinion that anybody suspected of indulging in blackmarketing in iron, should be severely dealt with by the Government. It was incumbent upon Government to institute cases against them. But whereas Lord Rama, out of respect for public opinion, exiled his dear Maharani Sita, our Government despite the fact that police had material and cogent proofs against the blackmarketers, withdrew cases against them.

The result is that the people have begun to think that the intention of the Government was not to stop this scandal but to encourage blackmarketing in the State. It is obvious that when this thing comes before the the general public, living both in urban and rural areas, who do not understand all the affairs of the State, they will naturally conclude that our Government has no intention of stopping black-market and profiteering activities of a certain section of people but encouraging it instead. Mr. Speaker, you can very well differentiate between the Ram Rajya brought about by this Government and the Ram Rajya of old days. Sir, there is yet another instance which I would like to place before you from the Ramayana and that is this. Rama amassed all the forces that he could possibly get to wage war against Ravna who had forcibly carried away Sita while he was away in the jungles, with a view to bringing her back. As a matter of fact it was for the purpose of teaching a lesson to Ravna that he fought with him, killed him and destroyed Lanka and thus succeeded in getting back Sita. This is how things were happening in the old days of Ram Rajya. Now let us see what is happening in the Ram Rajya of to-day. To-day hundreds and thousands of our women and girls are still marooned in Pakistan and our Government has not been moved to take any action to bring them back. These unfortunate women and girls have pinned their hopes upon our Government that it would take immediate steps to bring them back to their own homes. Mr. Speaker, these unfortunate women and girls who had never lived such a miserable and painful life are still crying for succour and help and yet, Sir, you have not taken any steps to bring them back.

Mr. Speaker : It is the Government that is responsible and not I. (*Laughter*)

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I know it, Sir, that I am making these submissions to the Government through you. I also know it that if I make these submissions direct to the Government then you will be

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

pleased to rule that I should address the Chair and make my submissions to the Government through you.

Sir, what I wish to submit is that we should learn a lesson and try to act upon those words which we speak to the public outside. At the same time I submit that our administration has weakened and is weakening day by day and that corruption is rampant in the administration. I alone do not hold this view. Many leaders of high repute have also expressed themselves fully to the effect that corruption in the administration is the order of the day. I have got a cutting with me. It is from the Tribune of 10th March, 1951 and it is about the remarks of a renowned personality in connection with the corruption in administration. I would like to read out a few lines of her speech as reported by the Tribune. I would also like to add here that the speaker is no less a person than Shrimati Bhagwati Devi herself, who is the eldest sister of President Dr. Rajindra Prashad. This 80 years old lady has in the course of her speech on a cut motion in the Bihar Assembly said :—

Shri Virendra : Sir, it has nothing to do with the Punjab Assembly and the Punjab Government.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : It is the business of the Parliament.

Mr. Speaker : These things should be mentioned when the General Administration will be under discussion. At this time the hon. Member should discuss the Budget as a whole.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I know what my hon. Friend who interrupted me used to say in the past, I mean before partition. I have gone through most of the budget speeches made by him in the United Punjab Assembly before the Partition. Sir, it has taken me two days to go through those speeches and I will not hesitate to quote similar passages from the speeches of those of my hon. Friends who have been interrupting me during my speech.

Chief Minister : Sir, I have not raised any objection to what my hon. Friend has been saying.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I am talking about my hon. Friend Chaudhri Kartar Singh.

Shrimati Bhagwati Devi says :—

The whole administration from Patna to Delhi is corrupt and greatly responsible for the distress of the people....

(*Vocie* : not relevant) (*Laughter*)

Perhaps my hon. Friends are pleased to hear that the administration is corrupt from Patna to Delhi only. Through you, Sir, I would like to bring this point home to them that if they think that it does not concern them then they are sadly mistaken. Mr. Speaker, if you were to feel for yourself the impression which the people outside have about the administration of our State, you will be convinced that the few lines, that I have quoted above in connection with the corruption in the administration also apply to our administration. The impression of the people in the services from the highest to the lowest ranks and of the people both in the rural and urban areas or in other words the general public, about the administration of our Government cannot be removed by their laughter. My hon. Friends should realize that the opinion held by Shrimati Bhagwati Devi is about the same party which is in power to-day or in other words which is occupying the Treasury Benches here in this august House.

Mr. Speaker : Is the hon. Member discussing the Congress Party ?

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I think, Sir, I am quite justified in criticizing the Congress Party which is represented by the Government here in this House. I quite remember Sir, how during the Unionist regime the members of the Opposition in the United Punjab Assembly instead of criticizing the then Unionist Government used to criticize the Unionist Party.

Mr. Speaker : That is a matter between the Unionist Party and the Congress Party ?

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Of course, Sir, I wish it to be so.

Chief Minister : Then I will also reply.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : He may reply by all means.

Well Sir, I was submitting as to what opinion the people outside the House have formed about the Government and the Congress Party which is represented by it in this House.

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

Further, Shrimati Bhagwati Devi is reported to have said :—

If the popular Government did not mend its ways and functioned truly as a welfare State to relieve the distress of the people, it would come to grief.

The way the Government was tackling the problems facing the people was making the prospect of Ram Rajya of Mahatma Gandhi's dreams distant.

Sir, what I wish to submit is that what I have stated above is supported by no less a personality than Shrimati Bhagwati Devi herself who is a recognized leader in our country.

Further, my hon. Friend who occupied the Opposition Benches in the United Punjab Assembly and who are now occupying the Treasury Benches in this House used to cry from their house-tops that they would fight to the end for safeguarding their civil liberties. But to-day we find that they do things quite contrary to what they professed then. The position regarding the civil liberties in this State is that there is hardly any place where Section 144 has not been promulgated by the Government. In this connection I am reminded of an anecdote which I will relate to the House. Once at the dead of night some dacoits raided a village and succeeded in plundering the property of many villagers. While they were busy in selecting the choicest articles from the booty, the villagers woke up and made noise. (*Interruptions*).

We all know that everybody contributed his mite to drive out the thief i.e., the foreign rulers from the shores of India. Some of the patriots like Sardar Bhagat Singh were sent to the gallows and others courted imprisonments for long terms in their ardent desire to achieve independence.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Were they not your 'Mai Baap' ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. From the remarks that he made in the beginning of his speech, I was expecting from the hon. Member that he would give some constructive suggestions and would not make personal remarks. Now I feel that he is going towards personal affairs and would request him to avoid these things.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, is it obligatory on the Opposition to make constructive suggestions ?

Mr. Speaker : I would give as much time as the Opposition would like to have to make constructive suggestions.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Sir, I will not make a mention of anything which may in any way offend you but I really fail to understand why my utterance of plain truth is making my Friends so uneasy.

Mr. Speaker : Under the Rules the hon. Member can get 30 minutes. Provided he is within limits and uses dignified language, I may give him some more time.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Sir, I was submitting that when the people woke up and made a noise many other people assembled and the dacoits ran away leaving the property. After collecting the property they put it in their own houses. Afterwards the distribution of that led to quarrels amongst themselves as everybody claimed that property as his own. After the attainment of independence our Friends are behaving exactly in the same manner and appropriating all the booty to themselves. They must know that everybody has a right to live in the State and to have equal share of all the advantages that have resulted after the attainment of independence. Let us admit that these congress-men dedicated themselves to the cause of nation and made strenuous efforts to drive out the alien rulers for ever from our land but it is only fair and proper that they should show a little sense in equally distributing all the property that has come into their hands by assuming the duties of master in our own home

Besides this, there is no civil liberty in the State under this Government. The men of I.N.A. who had made innumerable sacrifices in the cause of freedom are today in the prisons. Our heart bleeds when we see the condition of Captain Dhillon who dedicated his whole life for the sake of the country. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar and Master Hari Singh whose views came into conflict with the Government are today rotting in the jails. There are others who have gone underground as they could not enjoy civil liberty outside. Even the Socialists who worked shoulder to shoulder with the congress-men in their fight for freedom are detained in the jails. It would, therefore, amply show that these congress-leaders who were once the lovers of civil liberties are now throwing all those golden principles to winds. Wherever we may go we find that Section 144 is in force in every district of the State. Even the President of the State Congress is not immune from the spying of C.I.D. Staff. After his speech which

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he delivered at Ludhiana that 90% of Government officials are corrupt the Government has begun to watch his movements.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Do you defend the activities of the Communists?

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I am not at all in favour of communism nor do I like that it should ever come in India. But the methods which the Government are adopting are an open invitation to communism. The hon. Chief Minister has himself made a mention of this in his Budget speech which he delivered on the floor of this House. On page 8 of the Budget speech he says-

to him that hath shall be given more and from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

It is not I who said this but my hon. Friend Sardar Shiv Saran Singh who so enthusiastically got up on his seat to put a question to me must know that this is what the hon. Chief Minister has said in his speech. I am among those persons who wish that communism should never raise its ugly head in our country but I am sorry to say that the way in which our Government is functioning is making the State's atmosphere congenial to the spread of communism. We at the same time feel that communism can do us no harm. We are not very big landlords that our lands will be snatched away from us. We have no money on which they will lay their hands upon. We may be rather gainer in that setup but such a fear must haunt the big capitalists whose resources are inexhaustible. But in spite of this I think there is not a dearth of patriotic people in our country who would do or die but never tolerate communism in our country. Now I would like to focus the attention of hon. Members on the Budget Estimates. Before doing so I am reminded of a story which may be of some interest to the hon. Members of this House. There was a bania who had a wife and three or four children. He had to cross a river. Before actually allowing himself and his family to wade through the water of the river he wanted to make sure how deep the water was. He measured the depth of water at one or two places with his measuring stick. After making necessary calculations he came to the conclusion that he and his family would be able to cross the river safely. So they all started and when they had gone a little forward they were all carried away by the swift currents of the river

and were drowned. Before drowning the Bania screamed and he was heard saying that-

ਅਰਬਾ ਫੀਟਾ ਯੂਂ ਕਾ ਯੂਂ ਕੁਝਾ ਸਾਰਾ ਫੁੱਕਾ ਕਯੋਂ।

ਅਰਬਾ ਫੀਤਾ ਜੁੰ ਕਾ ਜੁੰ ਕੁੰਬਾ ਸਾਰਾ ਡੁਕਿਉਂ ਬਾ ।

If the Government had looked upon all men as equal and had made right calculations the situation in the State would have been better. But what we find to day is that there is a general cry among the public that the conditions to-day are far worse than they used to be in the British regime. This is not my opinion, Sir, nor an opinion of any political party but every man in the street is to-day condemning the Government unsparingly. Sir, if you travel by rail or by bus you will hear the same talk about the mal-administration in the State. We have to see whether people are prepared to tolerate this state of affairs any longer. Has not their patience been tried for too long a period? Then let us turn towards services. Anybody will bear me out that they are hopelessly honey-combed with corruption. Favouritism and nepotism are the order of the day. However much the Government tries no one is going to believe its claims of making recruitment to services by the criterion of merit. Believe me, Sir, that even the lowest jobs are not under the regime of this Government allowed to be filled on the basis of merit. Even before the vacancies occur the heads of offices receive full lists of persons to be appointed. Sometime back a friend of mine approached me with a request to help him in getting a job for one of his relatives. I told him frankly that it was against my principles to do so. After some time when he met me he told me that he had somehow approached the officer concerned but was informed that bundles of recommendations had already been received from the hon. Ministers and the posts had been earmarked for their men. I will confine myself to this illustration only and will not like to go into other such cases though scores of them are within my knowledge. If any more proof of the corruption prevalent in the services of this State is needed it may be had from the speech of no less a person than the President of the State Congress and the writings of its General Secretary in the editorial columns of "Hind Samachar" and editorials of the paper to which I was going to refer a short while ago but did not as you took objection to it. Lala Bhim Sen Sachar and other hon. Members of this House have already dwelt at length on this theme and so I would not dilate on it beyond saying this that

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from its very inception this Government has been a "Lalashahi" Government ... a government of shopkeepers and traders.

Then, Sir, just see the cleverness of this Government. With a view to pleasing the people, it has distributed these beautifully illustrated pamphlets among them. But who is going to be impressed by them? In my opinion it is sheer wastage of public money. This is just a small instance of its extravagance. Sir, what most of the people say in their drawing rooms I want to say openly on the floor of this House that ever since this Government came into power its one great aim has been to undo the work of Chaudhri Chhotu Ram's party. What a pity that eighty to eighty-five per cent of the population of this State should consist of ruralites and they should be ignored in every scheme of public welfare. Is not the rural population the backbone of the country's economy? Are not these people responsible for filling the Government coffers and defending its integrity in time of danger? All the schemes of welfare that had been introduced for the benefit of these people before the Partition were scrapped with one stroke of pen when this Government came into power and not a trace of them is to be seen to-day. Where is the Peasant, Welfare Fund? And where is the Rural Development Fund which ran into lakhs in the United Punjab? Both these funds are today to be found in the ordinary Budget. The Peasants' Welfare Fund which was started with a view to giving scholarships to the children of peasants for bringing education within their reach stood at Rs. 1,94,948 in 1947-48. In the current year it was brought down to Rs. 16,350. In the Budget for the next year it is conspicuous by its absence. This is the sort of treatment that this Government is meting out to the people who produce food for the whole country and enlist themselves in the army and defend its borders. All this information I am giving to the House from this book compiled by the Government. Gradually this fund out of which the children of peasants used to get scholarships for carrying on their education has been reduced to nothing. Every year we have been looking to this Government at this time of the year to bring forward some proposals to start more primary schools in the rural areas, to make provision for more dispensaries for the people living in the countryside and to construct new roads for their convenience but every year we have been meeting with disappointment. Four long years have gone by and not a single hospital or a school has been opened in the rural area. What to say of any other schemes of rural development, not a single road has been constructed.

Then, Sir, may I know what has become of that Act which was passed some two or three years back to grant jagirs to those persons who had sent two or three sons for military service in the last Great War? The fact of the matter is that this Government has not the least intention of doing anything for the good of the peasants. Perhaps the Act is lying in a waste paper basket, from which it will never emerge. Let our friends who make fiery speech to defend Government policy search their hearts. They will have to admit the truth of what I am saying.

Then, Sir, speeches of all these big men, Dr. Gopi Chand, Giani Kartar Singh and Shri Bhim Sen Sachar which they used to make from Opposition Benches in the United Punjab are on record. Who does not know what they used to say about the starvation of the beneficent departments and the tall claims that they used to make of making large provisions for these when they came into power? Perhaps some of your speeches on the subject may also be there. Sir, just see the irony of fate. Those who used to say that on coming into power they would make every man and woman in the country literate are today providing only 11.77 of the total revenues of the State for education while in the year, 1947-48 the provision for this purpose was 30.27 of the total budget. And this is inspite of the fact that the income of the state has increased to sixteen crores of rupees and is touching the seventeenth crore.

The percentage of expenditure on the Agriculture Department was 4.86 in the past and now it is 3.96 only. The Co-operative Department is another department which is directly connected with the rural areas and on this department the percentage of expenditure in the old days was 1.84 whereas now it is 1.01. And so far as the Irrigation Department is concerned, its condition is far from satisfactory. The unproductive expenditure on this department is mounting every day and the burden of taxes like the "Abiana" is being put on the weak shoulders of the poor zamindar. In the United Punjab one crore and forty lakh acres of land were irrigated and the percentage of the unproductive expenditure was 7.95 but now only thirty lakh acres of land are being irrigated and the expenditure is 4.27 per cent. I ask the House does not this comparison show a very sorry state of affairs? I daresay that the conditions in the past were much better than they are now.

Sir, I have with me copies of the speeches that were delivered in the past by some of my hon. Friends but I shall not read them and

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would make only passing reference to them as you have been good enough to impose restriction on my time with the same liberality as you were good enough to afford me an opportunity of speaking in the House. When our hon. Chief Minister Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava was a leader of the Opposition in the year 1938, he while speaking on the Budget remarked that money should be spent on the people in proportion to what they contribute to the coffers of the Province. He went on to say that it was a pity that those who paid the most got the smallest share in the budget. This was not all. He shed so many crocodile tears for the poor zamindar and urged the Government to reduce the land revenue which was being paid by him. But I am surprised to find that with the change of the times this sympathiser of the zamindars has also changed and he now does not suggest any reduction in the "Abiana" or in the land revenue. These Congress men who ever styled themselves as Congress workers held out so many promises to the people at large when we were ruled by the foreigners. They told the people that if and when the Congress came into power a Ram Raj would be established and every body will have plenty of every thing. In a Congress Session a resolution was passed according to which no body in the Congress Raj was to accept a salary exceeding Rs. 500 per month. But I ask what has happened to all those assurances that these people held out to us? In stead of being relieved of some taxes additional burden of the "Abiana" and the betterment fee is being levied on us and we are being crushed under the new taxation. Some time past my hon. Friends Sardar Partap Singh and Sardar Ajit Singh and my hon. Sister Shrimati Prakash Kaur very eloquently opposed the imposition of the "Abiana" and the hon. Chief Minister was good enough to give us an assurance that as and when some other source of revenue is found out the imposition of the "Abiana" will be discontinued. But nothing has come out of this assurance. All this leads me to think that these leaders of the Congress are not the representatives of the masses of the country. Their masters are not the masses but some other people in whose hands they are playing and this is why they are doing their level best to undo all those policies that were being pursued by the previous Governments.

Sir, I have to voice another grievance. This State is being put under a crushing burden of a loan of 70 crores of rupees and said that rupees three crores are to be charged as interest on this loan every year. I do not agree with the Government when it says that

this loan is to be used entirely for the benefit of our State as I find that a very considerable part of it is to be spent by way of salaries which are not likely to yield anything productive. To me it appears that this money would be spent most unwisely. Before I sit down I may also say a few words about the food policy of this Government. This Government is advertising from the house tops that this State has become surplus in the matter of food. I ask is it true to say that? To my mind it is far from the truth. Here we may also consider our expenditure on grow-more-food campaign. (Voices: The work of our Agriculture Department is very good). I do not deny the fact that in comparison with other States the work of our Agriculture Department is indeed very good. But still I can prove that this State is not surplus in food. If this State is really surplus in food, how is it that the ruralites do not get anything to eat? My hon. Friend Chaudhri Bhuja Ram was absolutely correct when he said that village folk have nothing to eat and are starving. In case the assertion of our Government is true why does not this Government supply them with food grains? Sir, the foreign countries have always treated their peasants in a different manner when they have been faced with food difficulties. There was a time when Germany had to solve her food problem. The German Government gave whatever facility it could to the tillers and encouraged them to produce as much food as they could. This is not what our Government would do. At that time the German Government reduced the cost of agricultural labour and asked the land owners and growers of that country to produce as much as possible. In order to encourage production, the growers were permitted to sell food grains at any price that suited them. Our Government spends millions on importing food grains from foreign countries but it does not provide any relief or subsidy to the land owners of this country. At present, the producer can not meet even his actual expenditure from the price of crops produced by him. Our Government has imposed controls on the price, distribution and movement of food grains. About the system of controls the least said the better. A huge amount is spent on the Civil Supplies Department but favouritism and nepotism are rampant in it. In reply to a question, the hon. Chief Minister told the House, the day before yesterday, that whereas before the partition there were 24,000 Government servants, their number now had risen to 50,000. It has been more than doubled. One comes across different kinds of Inspectors every where. There are food Inspectors, cloth Inspectors and so on. Thousands of persons have been unnecessarily employed.

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In the end, Sir, I wish to quote a few words which are aptly applicable to the members of our Government. When Chamberlain Government was in power in the United Kingdom, Mr. Churchill said these words about it.

Minister for Public Works : The hon. Member appears to be his legal representative here.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I wanted the hon. Minister for Public works to interrupt me so that I could show whether a person whose forefathers have been serving the British Government is his legal representative or not.

Minister for Public Works : My forefathers never served the Government. I alone did so.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : In 1942, when Mahatma Gandhi raised the slogan of 'quit India' and called upon the people not to give any help to the Government in its war effort, my hon. Friend Capt. Ranjit Singh, who is now donning a pointed cap and claims to be a patriot, was engaged in helping the British Government. Is he then Mr. Churchill's successor or I?

Minister for Public Works : The hon. Member got squares of land for war service, I did not get these.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I can quote from the letters which he wrote at that time, for getting land.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, let Hissar bulls fight.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : We will not fight among ourselves. We will fight against Sardar Sahib. As everybody knows, our Government takes several months to decide about any matter. Mr. Churchill said about Chamberlain Government :—

The Government simply can not make up their minds, or they can not get the prime Minister to make up his mind. So they go on in a strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute adamant, for drift solid for fluidity, all powerful to be impotent.

These words give an apt description of our Government too.

I beg to submit, in the end, that in this Budget, not a single penny has been provided for the benefit of poor villagers. With these words I resume my seat (*Cheers*)

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) (*Punjabi*) Sir, in the Budget presented by the hon. Chief Minister, the revenue and expenditure have been made to balance. In my opinion this has been done in accordance with the policy of the Government of India, in order to check inflation to prevent rise in the price of food grains. This is a good policy, but the mere fact that the Budget has been balanced, does not throw any light on the condition of the country and the people. It does not give true picture of the prevailing conditions. We have to see whether the facts revealed by the Government in this Budget, show any improvement of the economic condition or the moral standards of the people. If there is any sign of general improvement in the condition of the public at large, it should be considered a good Budget. To arrive at this judgement let us examine the amount of money to be spent on beneficent departments. According to this Budget, it is proposed to spend Rs. 4,32 lakhs on beneficent activities. The hon. Members will see that this forms about one-fourth of the total expenditure of Rs. 1670 lakhs. It will be found that last year, out of a total revenue of Rs. 1617 lakhs, Rs. 418 lakhs was spent on these departments. Thus works out a slightly higher proportion than the expenditure provided for the next year, though to a very small extent. If the figures are carefully examined, it would be found that the expenditure on beneficent department works out to be Rs. 3/8/- per capita per annum. In other words, only this small amount is going to be spent on departments which have to improve the health of the people and have to remove illiteracy from among the masses. I admit that we have not got sufficient funds at our disposal. If a comparative study of expenditure on various departments is made, it will be noticed that Rs. 435 lakhs are going to be spent on the police and General Administration. On the other hand, beneficent departments are going to get only Rs. 432 lakhs. I agree with the hon. Chief Minister that as ours is a border State, a major portion of its expenditure on Police should be borne by the Central Government.

After all the expenditure of Rs 2,66,000,00 on Police is far in excess of the requirements of a State comprising only 12 districts. We are spending this much not because it is necessary for the maintenance of internal order, but because we guard the border of the country. Border raids are of frequent occurrence these days and but for the vigience of our Police the prestige of the Government of India will be greatly undermined. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government of India should give us Rs. 1 Crore for the maintenance of our

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border Police force. Year before last, the Central Government gave us a subsidy of Rs. 1,75 lakhs and last year we got Rs. 75 lakhs. But to our disappointment, this year the Central Government has refused to give us anything in this regard. I see no reason why the Central Government should not continue to give this subsidy to us every year.

The hon. Chief Minister has devised ways and means to increase the revenues of the State and has, thus, imposed fresh taxes because our revenues were not sufficient to meet the proposed expenditure. I am not against the proposals for fresh taxation on forward contracts and entertainments. But what must be considered is whether the Government effected economy in the department in which it is necessary before making proposals for fresh taxations. There is no denying the fact that ours is a poor State now. This is due to two reasons. The first is the refugee problem and the second is the absence of industries. Why should the people, under these circumstances, be burdened with more taxes? We can bear these extra burdens if they are meant for improving our lot and if all the unnecessary expenditure has been curtailed. I am not sure that all the unnecessary expenditure has been done away with. Only yesterday we had before us the report of the Estimates Committee. This report, I believe, was prepared after thorough consultations with the heads of the various departments and the suggestions for cutting short the Government expenditure were made after full and mature consideration. This unnecessary burden must be taken off from this poor State's back. For the last 25 years, for which I have been a Member of the Council and the Assembly, it has been said that the posts of the Commissioners are redundant. The Estimates Committee also considers these posts as superfluous and yet these posts have been retained. Similarly the number of the posts of Financial Commissioners is even more than in the United Punjab. Previously there might be some justification for them in view of the rehabilitation work. But now there is no justification for having three Financial Commissioners. The Estimates Committee has also made some other proposals which should be considered by the Government and according to them the expenditure should be reduced. If that unnecessary expenditure is not cut down, the Government has no right to impose fresh taxes.

The economic condition of any country cannot be improved without the development of industries. The people of a country which is mostly agricultural are never prosperous and rich. It has also been remarked in the pamphlet of the Government, "The way to prosperity lies in industries and any country that neglects industries continues to be poor." It is an admitted fact that the country that does not promote its industries and business remains poor. Now it has to be seen whether our State has made any progress in industries or not and whether the Government has before it any solid proposals for this propose. I want to say one or two things in this connection. The Partition of the State disturbed its economic structure. The Government has, no doubt, done something to stabilize it. For instance training centres have been opened where about 1,500 refugees are getting training. Similarly about 1,600 persons are getting training and earning livelihood in the work centres. But these steps only touch the fringe of this huge problem. These are no doubt useful for the people, but they cannot take the State forward as a whole. Real progress lies in industries. But how many big industries have been actually established by the Government so far in this State and how many persons have been helped for this purpose? I admit that industrial areas have been demarcated and lands auctioned for the setting up of factories. But how many factories have been actually set up so far? I know that at Panipat 3,200 k. w. of electric energy is available for industrial purposes. But actually only 10 k. w. have been utilized. The root cause of this state of affairs is the lack of capital in our country and the Government, too, has not done anything to make it available to the industrialists. The U.P. Governmet has built a township near Modinagar where it has given Rs. 30 lakhs to the industrialists to meet the entire cost of the factory buildings. This is a great help to the industrialists. This is what the Government of U.P. where there are not large numbers of refugees, has done. What has our Government done? There is yet another instance of such help given by the Government of C.P. to the industrialists. It had a paper factory in which it owned 51 per cent shares, its paid up capital being 50 lakh rupees. It called some industrialists and handed over the factory to them after getting from them only Rs 10 lakhs. The rest of paid up money amounting to Rs. 40 lakhs is to be paid in ten years during which the Government will get $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent interest. Besides this, the Government gave them machinery worth Rs. 90 lakhs on instalment basis. This is how the Governments of other States are helping the industrialists.

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Sir, for the last two years or so our Government has under consideration a scheme to start a cement factory in Punjab. As a matter of fact, even an expert examined the whole scheme. There is enough of raw material for such a factory here. There is demand for cement in our State. We require two lakh tons of cement every year for the construction of Bhakra Dam. We are going to construct a Capital for our State for which we require a large quantity of cement. Then why is it that our Government does not go forward with a scheme for the starting of a cement factory? It has been estimated that if we have a factory of our own to supply cement for Bhakra alone we can save rupees two crores which is the total estimated cost of construction of the factory itself. Why is it that for the last two years our Government has taken no steps in this direction? It may be that there are some vested interests who oppose this scheme. But the Government should take a firm attitude in this regard because the construction of such a factory is very beneficial to the State of Punjab.

Another matter of importance to the State is the construction of a Rosin factory. In United Punjab we had a very good Rosin factory. In 1949 our State Government called tenders for the purpose but the matter is still undecided and the Government appears to be taking no steps in this connection. Sir, my submission is that the Government is neither itself doing anything nor is it helping others to do work in the matter of industrialization of the State. Of course there is Rehabilitation Finance Administration. But what capital can it provide? The Government of Punjab has stated that a sum of Rs. 1,71 Lakhs has been given in the form of small loans to the people. Sir, my submission is that such loans have been eaten up by the persons to whom they have been advanced. As a matter of fact loans of such amounts should be advanced as may help them in setting up industries. The Government should also encourage small scale industries. Experts from countries like Germany and Japan should be invited to train and help people to set up cottage industries. The real difficulty is that no positive help is given by the Government. What can the industrialists do under these conditions? I would like to make a suggestion to the Government and it is, that if the hon. Ministers do not find time for such important matters (being busy in other matters) an industrial advisory board may be set up to tender advice on how best to achieve the industrial progress of the State. I

hope the Government would constitute such a high power board very soon. Such a board should be above political controversies and should be of immense benefit to the State and the country. Of course the hon. Ministers are free to accept or reject its advice. But, I am sure that without such a board we cannot hope for any progress in the sphere of industry. At present the Government of Punjab has no plans for the future. It has no schemes for utilizing the huge amount of electricity which will be made available by the completion of Bhakra and Nangal projects. Has the Government ever thought what it proposes to do with 1,64,000 kilowatts of electricity generated from Nangal project and about 4 lakhs and one and a half lakh kilowatts of electricity from Bhakra Schemes? When we know that at present the total load of electricity in Punjab including that supplied by the various thermal plants is about 66½ thousand k. w. we wonder what our Government will do with about seven lakh kilowatts released by Bhakra and Nangal projects, especially when it seems to be without any well-thought-out plans for the future! Such industrial advisory board as I have suggested can think out schemes for the utilization of this electrical power in the State for the benefit of the people and the country. In this connection I would like to impress upon the hon. Members the importance of the role which electricity plays in the progress of a country. It has been estimated that one unit of electricity is equal to human labour for ten hours. The advanced countries of the world have taken full advantage of the power which electricity releases. Of course, electricity can make such power available to us but for utilizing one lakh k. w. we shall have to make an investment of about rupees fifty crores. Has the Government ever given consideration to this aspect of the problem? It should do so and if it cannot find time to think over such vital problems of industry due to its pre-occupations, then the setting up of the industrial advisory board is quite necessary. The electrical energy which we are going to get from Nangal and Bhakra projects can change the face of our State. At present in India we have 14.4 units per capita production of electricity. This is far short of production in other countries of the world. I give below the figures of some other countries of the world for comparison with ours.

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Country	In k. w. per annum production per Capita
Australia	1,140
Canada	3,444
Norway	3,696
Japan	440
U K.	972
U. S. A.	2,204
Sweden	2,204

So we see that our country lags far behind others in this respect. In Punjab production of electricity per capita is 12.5 and on the completion of all our schemes it will be about 190. The most important problem for us today is to think out schemes of consuming these units and to find capital for investment in such schemes. So I would, once again, stress the need for constituting a board for the purpose of tendering advice to the Government on this important matter.

Another problem on which I should express my views is that of food. It should be admitted that the stout Punjabis have shown their mettle in the matter of growing more food for the country. With their traditional strength and vigour the Punjabees have once again shown what they can do for the rest of India (*Cheers*). Punjabis have proved to be good agriculturists not only in Punjab itself but wherever they have gone. They have cleared the forests and have brought a vast area of land under cultivation in eastern district of U. P. They have not been allowed to go further. But I am sure, that if they are encouraged to settle there they will be able to increase the production of food and other crops. As a matter of fact efforts of Punjab in the matter of increasing the production of foodgrains deserve appreciation.

Connected with the problem of food production, are the problems of storage and procurement. There is need for improvement in the matter of storage bins. But so far as procurement goes I congratulate the Government of Punjab for having the best procurement system in India. Two States have copied us in this matter. In a meeting

at New Delhi which I attended sometime back, I was in a position to confidently assert that our State had the best procurement scheme. We have, in fact, tried to make Punjab a granary for the whole of India. But it is regrettable that the subsidy which we were getting on our exports has been stopped by the Government of India for all practical purposes. Under the new schemes proposed by the Central Government we cannot get any subsidy if we export less than fifty thousand tons. For seventy five thousand tons we can get eight annas per maund and up to one lakh tons Re. 1/- per maund and above nine lakh tons we can get Rs 1.8 per maund. It is strange that, while we are importing wheat from abroad which costs us Rs. 178 per maund here in India the Central Government has to pay a subsidy of thirty crores on it at the rate of Rs. 2-. per maund, they grudge us subsidy at the same rate. In my opinion the Government of our State should press this point home to the Government of India. At present it appears that our case has not been put in a proper way before the Government of India or they do not care to listen to our Ministry.

As I have already stated our State has made remarkable progress in the field of agriculture. I had an opportunity to attend one or two agricultural conferences convened by the Central Government and there the Ministers of other States talked very high of the agricultural efforts of the Punjab, particularly in connection with the Grow More Food campaign. They asked me to arrange for the supply of relevant enactments on compost and control of pests and diseases of crops which the Legislature of this State had passed. As a matter of fact, it is no exaggeration to say that our State has taken a lead over other States in the whole of India in matters of agriculture (*Hear, hear*) I feel that the credit for all this phenomenal progress goes to a great extent to Sardar Lal Singh, our talented Director of Agriculture, through whose unremitting efforts our State has become surplus in foodgrains. I regret that after a short time we will be deprived of his services, as he will be retiring from service. Although he is on the verge of retirement, yet he is more energetic, than many young men, in the discharge of his duties.

Now in the end I would like to point out that there is a great resentment, discontentment and frustration prevailing among the people of our State, because want and hunger stalk the land. The refugees have not so far been completely resettled or rehabilitated.

[Sardar Ujjal Singh]

Besides, the financial stringency and moral degradation have set their foot on our country. The people are so hard pressed because of the prevailing conditions that it can better be imagined than described. The hon. Ministers are also fully aware of the feelings of the people. I may point out that the people feel greatly disillusioned because they think that despite the attainment of Independence for the last three or four years, they have not felt any glow of freedom nor have they seen any glimpse of the fulfilment of those hopes and high sounding promises which were held out to them. Their discontentment is justified because the dawn of Independence has not brought about any material change in their life. Besides, when our hon. Ministers go out on tour to meet the people, the latter do not feel enthused. They, rather subject the former to a carping criticism. They say that the Ministers care more for strengthening their hold on their posts than to do anything substantial for the betterment of the public at large. They make themselves busy in group intrigues rather than attending to the files which lie relegated to a corner for a considerable time. As a result of this the condition of the people of the State has deteriorated. *(As this stage Chaudhri Kartar Singh rose to say something, but was not permitted to have his say).* I assure Chaudhri Sahib that I am not saying anything with the intention of ousting him from his 'gaddi'. I have not the slightest desire for this. But I say from the very core of my heart that I feel pained to hear the words in which the people of the Punjab talk about us. I do not lay blame on any single person for this as all of us are responsible for bringing about this state of affairs. I am of the opinion that so long as we do not work for the good of the people in a missionary spirit and with a sincerity of purpose, we cannot ameliorate their hard lot and cannot win their good-will. It is, therefore, essential that if we have the good of our people uppermost in our hearts, we should serve them honestly.

But the difficulty is that, as the people say, the Ministers are obsessed with the idea of keeping themselves in power somehow or other and the intoxication of power has made them fall from the high pedestal of their duty towards the people. As a matter of fact this is the result of self-interest which has degrading influence upon us. We should endeavour to eschew this degrading influence. I would request that we should imbibe a spirit of selfless service so that we may be able to raise the people of Punjab to a high level of prosperity.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, it is time for taking stock as to whether our Government has been able to have any solution of the various problems that face it internally as well as of those relating to our sister States and the Centre. So far as our relations with the Centre are concerned, if we have a look at them over a period of about two years or so, every one of us will be convinced that there have been a series of abdications in favour of the Centre. On all vital matters whenever our Punjab Government had to take up a decision in which its own rights *vis-a-vis* the Centre were concerned, on all occasions our representatives behaved in such a manner that they allowed the things to slip from their hands with the result that they always lost the point. If losing were a matter only of prestige, I wouldn't have bothered much because I feel that the Punjab Government does not care much for its prestige. *(Ironic Laughter)*. But, unfortunately, we have lost much more than prestige although losing prestige in itself is sufficiently bad. We have vitally lost—lost in money, lost in control over the affairs in spheres more than one. I was really pained to hear the wailings of our Chief Minister when he expressed his helplessness to straighten out the matter in regard to the expenditure on police. I really fail to understand why was he not able to score a point in favour of our State by putting the issue properly and by exercising due influence and due weight? That is obviously a matter where we are incurring expenditure for the security of the border and for maintaining a huge land border. Our case is so strong, it is so just and still we have lost it! Sir, there was a time when immediately after the partition the hon. Prime Minister of India was pleased to state on the floor of the Central Legislature that the entire expenditure for relief as well as rehabilitation would be borne by the Central Government. But what is the position to which we are reduced today? On account of the vacillating, undecisive and weak policy of our State Government that paltry sum of Rs. 1½ crores by which the Centre used to help us in giving out that dole, has been taken away from us. Is that just? Has our Government done the right thing in not having been able to pull weight with the Centre? Unfortunately for us, our Government do not themselves know what they are doing; what their plans are; and what their policies are? They have got no guts, no spine to have their demands acceded to.

It is for this reason that on every front they are losing. This much so far as the financial side is concerned.

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Now, Sir, look at on the inroads on our administrative set-up in a matter which is of such a great importance to us, namely, the construction of Bhakra and Nangal project. Every time that our representatives, for the last two three years or so, have gone to the Centre they have entrusted one thing or the other to the Centre. Originally they agreed to the Control Board and now I can read from the Governor's Address that they are probably going beyond the borders of our country and are importing a foreigner to whom the entire thing is going to be handed over bag and baggage. The question is why is this happening? The answer is quite obvious. They are so constituted that they have alienated themselves from the people, they have chosen to ignore the feelings of our masses, with the result that they have not got the requisite confidence and the requisite backing of the public that gives strength, which is necessary in such cases, with regard to dealings with the Centre. If on petty matters and even for maintaining their position they have to look to people who are at the Centre, they cannot with that courage and force put forward things to them, which are absolutely just and it is for this reason that we are losing on this score.

Now, Sir, coming home is our administrative set-up today sufficiently strong and sufficiently organised to tackle the problems that face us? And what are those problems? The most important problem today is the crying need of our crore and a quarter people who are living in the rural side. Sir, the proverbial has happened in their case. They asked for bread and they have got stone. Why? I will cite one or two illustrations where the unanimous wishes of this august House have been flagrantly flouted by the Government. What are those instances? In one of our sessions we passed a resolution according to which a demand was made on behalf of this House that regard being had to the peculiar conditions prevailing in our State, recruitment to State services should be so arranged and the rules should be so modified that the people who are backward educationally today, people who have not got the educational facilities, those crores of people living in the rural areas, should have adequate representation in State services. Sir, in spite of that resolution, this is the scant regard which has been shown to the resolution, that neither His Excellency the Governor nor the hon. Chief Minister has taken note of it in their speeches. With regard to that most important resolution not even an apology has been considered due

to this honourable House. No explanation has been attempted on behalf of the Government for not implementing the decision of the Legislature. That, Sir, is the regard they show to the hon. Members of this House, what regard they show to the man in the street can well be imagined and gauged from that.

There was another resolution passed by this hon. House and that was that the Government should adopt such a system of distribution that the controlled articles should, as far as possible, be distributed through the cooperative societies. Now what actually happened? I have got an information that the expression "as far as possible" has been interpreted in such a manner in the Secretariat that it has not been found possible even in a single instance to implement the recommendation of the whole House. I may be permitted to refer to one particular case which is in my mind. We have been agitating, Sir, for the last 8 or 9 months asking our local officers to entrust the distribution of controlled articles to a big village with a population of about 4,000. (*Minister for Education*: What is the name of that village?) I do not want to utilize this occasion for ventilating small grievances of a particular village. I may inform the House that in that village a multi-purpose cooperative society has been set up but the phrase "as far as possible" has been made an excuse for making that resolution a complete nullity.

Mr. Speaker: That was a decision of the whole House and if I remember aright this was an amendment proposed by an hon. Member on this side of the House.

Sardar Swaran Singh: We do not know whether that amendment was put forward with a view to nullifying the object of this resolution or whether the Government wanted to take some shelter that in exceptional and hard cases it may not be possible to give that right to the cooperative societies. But, Sir, the spirit of the resolution was quite clear that the cooperative society was going to be a rule and its absence an exception. But what is actually happening? Giving that right to the cooperative societies is an exception and not giving a universal rule. That is how the constitutional pundits on behalf of the Government have chosen to interpret that resolution. I do not want to take the valuable time of the House any more on this point. I have cited only two instances to indicate how scant regard

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and little respect is shown to the decisions of this hon. House by this Government which claims to be a responsible Government and which is supposed to be working for the interests of the people. Sir, the fact is that constituted as they are, they are afraid to take any step which touches even the fringe of the vested interests which are very strong in our State. The lame excuse is put forward that the normal channel of trade cannot be disturbed.

Sir, we are dealing with a situation in this State which is bristling with difficulties on all fronts. It is a border State, we have got our internal problems and underneath the outward appearance of stillness there are very strong under-currents and the whole situation is extremely explosive and dynamitic. To deal with a situation of this nature on the old hackneyed theories of vested interests or non-disturbance of this trade or that trade is mere fiddling with this problem of a gigantic vastness. The result would be that we would be heading towards a chaos and I can say this with all the emphasis at my command.

Recently, Sir, in our neighbouring State their administrative set-up has been found to be insufficiently organized and extremely wanting in dealing with an ordinary thing, namely, municipal elections. This is a fore-warning to the people who are in charge of the administration in our State. Sir, the way in which our Government are dealing with the various problems and the indecisions that they show in their activities is something which has to be stopped and which will have to be checked if this State wants to progress as is the desire of every member of this House. A lot of strength is required, I submit, and that strength will come if the Government as it is constituted today radically changes its approach to the problems that face it. Problems whether they are of financial character, or economic character, whether they are political problems, or whether they relate to the development of our country agriculturally as well as industrially. If they have to run along those old grooves they will not be able to tackle these problems and they will stumble at each step. They have to radically change the outlook and understand the realities as they exist today. The reality is that the people of our State are predominantly rural. If rural interests are flouted then those people who seemingly are accustomed to obey the law will rise in revolution and

this Government will be responsible for that revolution towards which they are heading.

Now, Sir, what is actually happening with regard to the various demands? They asked for bread in the form of distribution of controlled articles through the cooperative societies, then they expressed their desire through their chosen representatives that recruitment to services should be on such basis that the ruralites got a fair representation in them. But they got stones in the sense that whatever little respect and self-respect was left in them is now sought to be snatched away from them. Forces of repression have been let loose on the country-side. When I say so, I am not making a statement which is wide of the mark. I think that on account of the advisers around him and his service chiefs, who cannot look beyond their nose, information has reached His Excellency of which he makes a mention in his Address:

My Government believes that there are still large quantities of illicit arms and ammunition, and also that some of the licensees are not law-abiding and reliable enough to deserve the possession of licensed arms. My Government is taking appropriate steps in this matter.

I have now intimate knowledge of the manner in which these police hounds work in the country-side so far as the recovery of fire-arms is concerned. Places from which they work are nothing else but addas from which people are intimidated and these are sources from which lot of corruption is carried on. The country-side has started feeling that these forces of repression have been piled upon them in order to victimise them and to demoralize them so far as their self-respect is concerned. A ruralite feels that this has been done so that he may not have an occasion to cry and say that his rights are being trampled under foot. Not only that, Sir, but the increase in taxation and particularly the increase in the Abiana which was given out as not to be a permanent feature continues to crush the people in the rural areas.

Last year I remember the hon. the Chief Minister held out a hope that this increase should not be regarded as a permanent feature and other avenues were being explored for curtailing expenditure and for tapping other sources of revenue and then this problem would be revised. Strangely enough, Sir, not a word has been uttered in that direction and on the top of it we actually find that an increase

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has been made in the tariff rates of electricity and that increase means still more taxation, still more burden on the rural side of population because with the expansion of electric system and with the production of more electricity, the only way to consume it will be to have a net-work of lift irrigation. The burden will naturally fall mostly upon those people who are connected with land. Whereas, on the one side promises were made for affording relief to the rural population in the matter of abiana; they are getting this additional burden in the form of increased tariff on electricity.

Then, Sir, there is another matter of vital importance to which I wish to refer and that is a regular war of repression that is being carried on in the greater part of Jullundur division in the name of law and order. The pretext is that a certain amount of tension prevails among certain sections of the community. I do not want to go into the details of that controversy but one thing is clear that to take that as an excuse to cow down the people of the rural side is the last thing to be tolerated. If those who are in charge of administration have got any idea in their heads that they can cow down the people of the country side on that pretext, they are living in fool's paradise and they will soon be disaillusioned. The people of the rural areas may be backward educationally, they may not have financial resources, but self respect in sufficient quantity is still left in them with which they can resist such reproach upon their prestige and on their economic existence. Therefore, Sir, I submit that it is time that the Government changed their policy and looked upon those people with a different angle of vision with a view to securing their cooperation because difficult times are ahead internally as well as externally and the brunt of that will be borne by these very people. We are a border State and the conflict on Kashmir cannot be absolutely ruled out in view of what has been stated by our Prime Minister. It is the Punjab and in particular the greater part of Jullundur division which will bear the brunt of that conflict which might break out any moment. To cow down the country-side by demoralising them and making them economically weak is a very wrong policy and such a step will not redound to the credit of our State Government. They will be answerable not only to the people of the State but the whole of India. The Government should create conditions in which these people should have confidence and trust in the Government so that they may feel that it is their own Government. It is a democratic form of Government and a Constitution has been given to India which

today is the envy of the entire world. If, on paper, it is such a good Constitution but in practice our Government do not trust the people and by one pretext or another are cancelling even the elementary symbols of freedom, namely, the right to possess arms then it is taking away with the other what it has given with one hand. In Japan and Germany which today are occupied countries, travellers say that people there are not permitted to keep pistols of even ordinary .25 bore. This state of affairs exists in countries which are occupied by foreigners but here we have, fortunately for us, our own Government and the ultimate strength of a Government in any major conflict lies in the solidarity and the confidence with which its people can resist any disturbance internal or external. That can be obtained and that can be realized by adopting a more imaginative policy and by issuing licences for fire-arms to as large a number of people as requiresuch fire-arms.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did you do that as Home Minister ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : I did it to such a large extent that now people are terrified when arms are being taken back from the rural side. I had made it a rule that anybody who asked for a licence should be given and later on it could be examined whether that licence should be permitted to continue or not. If I had my way, I would permit people to possess arms by paying a nominal tax as is paid for possessing a radio set. Because my experience of the actual life in villages is that the stories, which are circulated by the administrative officers about the people possessing a large number of unlicensed arms and increase in the crime cases due to the licenced arms in the country-side, are all wrong. Actually no dacoities take place in those villages where there are a few fire-arms. The use of fire-arms is insignificant in the villages and in the crimes that are committed there, swords and other lethal weapons are used more freely than the fire-arms. So the Government should change its policy with regard to the issue of licences for fire-arms in the border districts of this border State of ours.

Now I come to the policy which the Government is adopting with regard to the two major projects on hand in this State. They are the construction of Capital of the State and the Bhakra and Nangal projects. With regard to the project of capital, I have never made a secret of my views that it will take at least five or ten years before our Government, constituted as it is with checks and cross checks, with so many hurdles, will be able to construct buildings in the new capital to be able to move down their offices.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : They have declared that they would be moving down the important offices by the end of 1952.

Sardar Swaran Singh : In spite of that declaration, I can say with an intimate knowledge of the working of the Government, I don't accuse them, but the manner in which the administrative machinery moves in such matters is such that they cannot accomplish the work before the period I have stated. Therefore, it is an imperative necessity that they should not keep us on this height, they should take an imaginative step and move down to the plains. It should not matter even if they have to move into a town, even if they move into hutments and even if they have to share rooms for a period. This decision of theirs to remain perched on the hills and cut off from the people is most ill advised. When during the winter months they go down to contact the masses, people impute motives of all type. I strongly urge the Government that this is a case in which they should straight-away take a bold decision and shift the capital anywhere in the plains. I am not enamoured of any place. It is time that they shifted the capital and along with that they should take the High Court, the continued existence of which on the hills is an anachronism which is disliked greatly, by the entire population of the State. The hon. the Chief Justice has now toured a major part of our State. Wherever he has gone, officials, non-officials, Bar Associations, and the litigant public, all shades of people, have expressed the desirability of shifting the High Court to the plains.

The high sounding schemes about architecture and other things can wait, but people won't wait, the Government can take their time to consider the schemes about building a capital, they can have the best capital if they can afford it. At the present time there is so much inflation, the price of building material is many times greater, the cost of labour has very much increased. I strongly urge that for God's sake do not remain perched up here. By continuing to remain here you are alienating the contact which must continue between the Government and the people, you must readily take a decision and regain the confidence of the public.

So far as the construction of Bhakra and Nangal is concerned, Sir, I have already had an occasion to remark that if the policy of our Government in regard to this matter continues to be docile and they continue to give in, they will not be able to secure the maturing of these plans which are our only ray of hope in our, otherwise, slender

resources on the food front as well as on the finances of our State. I have even been amused to see the helplessness exhibited by our representatives when they say 'What can we do, the Centre is financing and we have to abide by their terms'. I say with all the emphasis at my command that they should cease to think that they are, in any way, subordinate to the Centre. They are not a municipal administration being run under a Government. They are themselves the Government elected by the people and the support of every individual in the Punjab is behind them when they take up cudgels on behalf of their State with the Government of India on any matter connected with the interests of the State. They have no reasons to give in at every step. On account of the partition of the province, our water resources have been left in the West Punjab. It is our right to ask the Government of India for financial help. We should not do so in a spirit of compromise. We should not think that it is a sort of concession or a dole that the Centre is giving us money. It is our right and so long as you regard it as a concession to beggars, you will be treated like beggars. Gird up your loins; feel that it is your right and no amount of high-handedness on the part of the Government of India can resist your will.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to wind up now. I have already given him 35 minutes.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Thank you, Sir, I am going to wind up. I submit, Sir, that with regard to the completion of these projects, it is a great trust which is in the hands of the Government on behalf of the people of the State. We have already taken about four years and promises were held out to the people that they would be seeing something tangible within a period of five years. Time is slipping; time does not take note of the political intrigues or the weaknesses of a Government. You should, therefore, take time by the forelock and assert in such a manner that they do not go on piling debts against our State. Today they tell us at the end of the financial year that we will be incurring a total debt of Rs. 70 crores.

This might easily increase by another 100 crores for completing our Bhakra Scheme, our Nangal Scheme and our rehabilitation plans, for at the end of another 5 years this State is to be mulcted with the debt responsibility to the tune of 150 or 175 crores. No one can look

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with equanimity upon the future of such a State. Therefore, they should strongly make out a case that these are the things in which we are not going to yield and they must secure these things for the State.

I am grateful to you for allowing me this latitude and I wish to say only one thing more. I whole heartedly associate myself with the remarks made by Sardar Ujjal Singh about the services rendered to our State by the retiring Director of Agriculture, Sardar Lal Singh. I only want to add a few words with regard to the services rendered to the State by Sardar Kartar Singh Malhotra who undertook the charge of the finances of this State at a time when everything was in chaos. We had our partition problems and we had other matters to be straightened out with West Punjab and I know with what care, with what industry, with what application of mind he whole-heartedly devoted himself to the straightening out of our problems on the financial side with the Centre as well as with West Punjab. I take this opportunity, now that he is leaving this province, to acknowledge the debt which this State owes to the services rendered by him. (Applause).

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr Deputy Speaker).

Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns-General-Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, there are so many things which have been said about this Budget that it is not possible to do any justice to them within the short time that can be given to us. Therefore, in these circumstances, I shall place my views before the House rather briefly. So far as my opinion about the Budget as a whole is concerned, I feel that the financial condition of our State is not satisfactory. It is on the other hand unsatisfactory. The figures of the Budget as also the different pamphlets which have been published by the Government support my view. In the first place, I wish to say that the debt of our State is piling up every year and by the end of this year we will be under a crushing burden of a debt of seventy crores of rupees. It is certainly not a promising state of affairs. What is more we have been told in the Budget speech that unlike the past we are not to get even a single pie from the Centre by way of a contribution. And then the rate of interest on our loans has also increased. So these things are not very encouraging. I for one would go to the extent of saying that not only

the present budgetary position *i. e.* the budgetary position for 1951-52 but even the budgetary position for 1949-50 and 1950-51 as depicted in the Budget speech is also far from satisfactory. The budgetary position for all these three years shows that neither our income nor our expenditure has gone up. A difference of a few lakhs this way or that way should be immaterial. As has already been pointed out by my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh a surplus or a deficit Budget does not show anything about the financial condition of a State or any efficiency of the administrative set up of a State. I am also at one with some other hon. Members who have tried to show that no substantial amount has been spent on the beneficent departments. Seemingly there may be some increase in the expenditure on these departments but the fact remains that they have not been properly strengthened. It is certainly a wrong thing to curtail expenditure under all circumstances. It is an unwise act and nobody can take any credit for it. Here I may also say that as unnecessary reduction of expenditure is uncalled for so is any increase in the revenues as any undue taxation is sure to inconvenience the citizens of the State. What I mean to drive at is this that it is no great skill to balance the income and the expenditure of any State. Anybody can be in a position to do it. Who cannot ask for further taxation when expenditure has risen. This is exactly what has been happening to our Budgets. It has been said that in 1950-51 the surplus rose from 4 lakhs to 34 lakhs and it was due to the fact that the income was made to go up on certain heads when on certain others *e. g.*, Excise, Transport etc. it went down. Such a surplus cannot be a source of satisfaction for anybody in the State. The people would also not be pleased if false economies are effected by the Government or an attempt is made to balance the Budget by raising funds at any cost. I certainly do not approve of the act of this Government concerning the sale of electricity to Pakistan merely because it brought some money to the coffers of our State. I think it would have been much better if that electricity had been utilized for industrial purposes in our own State even if it were not possible to raise as much money as has been got from Pakistan. As raising of funds at any cost is reprehensible so is effecting savings when savings should not be effected. What is the good of showing savings if we have failed to set up thermal plants at Panipat, Jagadhri or Palwal. Similarly, to show savings by increased taxation is not an index of prosperity. If savings could be effected, as Rs. 24,00,000 had been raised through the Sales

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Tax realized from the poor people, it does not reflect that all is well with the finances of the State.

Sir, the Budget for 1951-52 shows only a deficit of 30 lakhs. But in fact this is not the case. If this Budget is seen from a proper angle it will be found that the actual deficit is in the neighbourhood of three crores of rupees. It has always been the practice to debit interest on loans to the Revenue Account. The amount of loan is not increased by debiting interest on it to the Capital Account. In order to balance the Budget our Government has charged the interest to Capital Account, because otherwise it would have been a deficit Budget. In this manner, the sum of over a crore of rupees had not been charged to the revenues. A saving of Rs. 27 lakhs has been made by effecting cuts in expenditure. The hon. Chief Minister said that our being a border State, we have to spend rupees one crore more on the police. He said that if this additional expenditure had not to be incurred, we could manage our internal affairs satisfactorily by keeping police which would have cost us one crore less. It was complained that the Central Government did not pay this additional expenditure, which was due to the situation of this State.

Then, Sir, the Budget shows that the expenditure on beneficent departments will be increased by Rs. 17 lakhs. A special mention was made of the Agriculture Department. With respect to the Director of Agriculture, who will shortly be going away, I beg to submit that he has done some useful work no doubt, but he is a great propagandist. A reduction of Rs. 13 lakhs has been made in the provision for agriculture. We are repeatedly told that Co-operation is a very useful institution and it results in immense good of the public, but we find that it will be given Rs. 1 lakh less than the last year. There is some increase in the provision for education. I have referred to these figures to show that a careful study of these will reveal that there is nothing to feel happy about it. It is not going to lead to any improvement in the general condition of the public. Now take the case of increase in the taxes. Water rate was increased by fifty per cent last year. At that time we were told by the Government that it would explore some alternate source of revenue and then the increase in water rate would be withdrawn. I do not say that it should not have been increased under any circumstances. Conditions might sometimes make such increase essential for running the administration. I, however, strongly object to the making of false promises, which are

not intended to be fulfilled. As a matter of fact, taxes once imposed are not withdrawn. It is not in keeping with the prestige of a Government to hold out false promises to the public.

Now I wish to say a few words about the Bhakra and Nangal Projects to which a reference was made in the Governor's address also. It has been said that adequate betterment fees would be charged from the land owners receiving benefit from the waters of these projects. In the United Punjab a large number of canals were dug, but we never heard of any betterment fees being charged. In the case of Bhakra and Nangal we are being told that adequate betterment fee would be charged. The word 'adequate' gives vast powers to the Government to determine the amount of this fee. This will mean an additional burden on the masses. Among the new taxes, a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs is expected to be realised from satta transactions. These transactions are a kind of gambling and are of various types. I do not object to the imposition of this tax. I rather wish that the entire earnings of people, through this kind of gambling, should be taken over by the Government. There is not much of forward business in gold or silver done in this State. I, therefore, feel that the Government is not likely to get Rs. 15 lakhs from this source. I fear that Government's estimates in this connection will not prove correct. Another tax amounting to Rs 3 lakhs has been levied on the cinema-goers. In this connection, I beg to submit that it is not only the rich who go to the pictures. Some poor people also go to see pictures. Poor people also need some sort of recreation after hard work. Sometimes I have seen those people sitting in the cinema houses who can neither afford to eat nor dress properly. This is not a tax on luxury. A large number of poor people are also given to this habit. Then, Sir, a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is to be realized by levy of tariff on supply of electricity. As my hon Friend Sardar Swaran Singh pointed out, the Government has adopted the same attitude with regard to it, as it adopted at the time of increasing water rate. This tax will have to be paid by those poor farmers, who will need electricity for watering their fields. It will ultimately fall on the poor consumers. Another sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is proposed to be realised from motor drivers and in the form of fees on permits, registration etc.,. This will also be a tax on the poor. As a matter of fact, the entire amount of new taxes amounting to Rs. 24 lakhs will be recovered from the ordinary poor people. The hon. Chief Minister said that he had just come to know that an additional amount of Rs. 10 lakhs was going to be received

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from excise, on account of high bids for liquor and opium licences. This should not give us any satisfaction. I find that excise is the chief source of revenue of our Government. When presenting this Budget the hon Chief Minister talked about Gandhi ji's ideals. He also discussed prohibition and made a reference to the international politics, democracy and reforms. At the same time he has levied taxes on satta gambling and expects more income from the sale of liquors. These taxes might lead to the decrease in the incidence of these evils but the effect is not likely to be appreciable. If the Government proposes to increase income in this manner, there are many other evils on which taxes can be levied. It is, however, a dangerous practice to levy taxes of this kind, because this will lead to the persistence of these evils. An experiment on prohibition is being made in Rohtak and the Government is incurring loss on that account. I have referred to various figures from the Budget to show that these do not reveal any improvement in the condition of the masses

Now, Sir, I shall make some mention of the real position of the Government and the State as shown by these statements of revenue receipts and expenditure. The purpose of the budget is to enable the Government to have full control on the people and the conditions obtaining in the State. Now what control has our Government got over the conditions obtaining here? The hon. Chief Minister said in his budget speech that we would shortly go to the masses to get their verdict about ourselves. Along with this he has said that the Congress has no hesitation in getting that verdict. But the question is how far are we prepared to get that verdict? My hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal initiated the debate on the budget on behalf of the opposition party in this House. I think this task of criticising the Government might have been better done by the Government Members instead of the Opposition Members. What is the position of the Government and the present set up? It is not what it should be. Our Ministers and the Government have no prestige in the public.

An hon. Member : It has no prestige in your eyes.

Shri Ram Sharma : There is no question of its having any prestige in my eyes. The fact remains that among the people at large, this Ministry has no prestige. I am sorry to admit this fact; but I can not deny it either. There are two ways of running the administration. The first is that of Sikandar type authoritative grandeur of

the Ministers who should keep aloof from the people. The second way is that of dignified simplicity practised by the Ministers in some of the European countries. These Ministers, when they go out by railway train, willingly stand in the queue to purchase their tickets; but when they are in their offices nobody dare disobey their orders. One of my friends who visited England told me that the Secretary of State when he met him out of his office, treated him like a good friend. But he was entirely a different man in his office. I see none of these two things in our Ministers. They possess neither grandeur nor simplicity. They have fallen so low in the public eye that they do not command even as much respect as a Girdawar or a Naib-Tehsildar commands. Governments are run by the maintenance of their prestige. I know Mahatma Gandhi practised utmost simplicity, but his simplicity was tempered with firmness. He took his stand like a rock when he thought fit to do so. Now this quality is foreign to our Ministers. Secondly I feel that our hon. Ministers are weak and ineffective. Neither the people nor the Services are convinced of the firmness of the Government. Then how can it run efficiently the administration of the State which is very much alive? Our hon. Ministers are ineffective in all matters, small as well as big. What can be done by a Patwari cannot be done by the Revenue Minister, himself in spite of his best efforts. The conduct of the Government in many cases has been such that it has affected its prestige. For instance, our Cabinet and the hon. Chief Minister decided that an officer who was junior to five or six men should officiate as Inspector General of Police in a leave vacancy. Some people protested against it. After some time, we saw that the orders of the Chief Minister were set aside by some higher authority. In the first place, the Government should not take any step which might give any chance of complaint to any body. But if at all such a thing is done, the hon. Ministers should stand up to it. They should break and not bend in such a case. If the decisions of the Government are over-ridden, it should offer to resign if need be and let there be Governor's rule in the State. No self-respecting man can put up with such a position. If the Cabinet wants to command respect among the Services, it should, in the first place, avoid a wrong and unjust decision and if it is made, it should take a firm stand on it.

There is one more defect in our administration. It is, that the administrative policy of our Ministry is divided. That is a patent fact and nobody can deny it. The Cabinet which is a divided

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house, cannot function for very long. The Governments cannot be run by hiding such deep differences which are obvious to the people at large. I wonder how can we go to the people to get their verdict under these circumstances. They know that all is no right with us. They can see the rot below the gloss that is at the surface. I do not propose to support or condemn the activities of any one of the Ministers just now. But I must say that the Government whose Ministers cannot tolerate the sight of each other, cannot last for very long. They, no doubt, sit on the same bench near each other and put on friendly appearances, but the fact is that they are at daggers drawn with each other. Whom would the people trust? This is a very serious matter and due attention should be paid to it. Sir, it is a very regrettable matter that our hon. Ministers do not consider it below their dignity to interfere even in small matters like transfers and promotions of Patwaris and constables. When an hon. Minister takes the telephone even for such trifle jobs as these how can he maintain the prestige of his high office and how can the administration run smoothly? As a matter of fact, every body knows that the standard of administration has deteriorated. It is all due to the weakness of the hon. Ministers and the Congress itself has fallen in the estimate of the public. Nothing new has been achieved. On the other hand, the same old rules of the days of Sir Sikander Hyat Khan and of my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal still prevail and govern the activities of the cabinet (a voice-well done, you have killed two birds with one stone), Sir Sikander made such rules that the Ministers had no real powers and in every matter they had to be dependent. It is surprising that in independent Punjab also the same state of affairs continues. I may be excused for saying that now so far as the Government and the Cabinet are concerned the conditions are even worse. It so happens that a Minister would write down a decision in the file but the Under Secretary or the Chief Secretary would keep it for months together without taking any action on the order. There is none to put an end to this. In some cases the order is quite different from the action taken. How can the Government pull on like that for long? Every one knows this State of affairs. Who does not know that one of the hon. Ministers was asked by the Chief Minister to remain at Kalka and to have only one portfolio on political considerations? The reason given by the hon. Chief Minister was that it was being done on grounds of health of the hon. Minister concerned, although

the hon. Minister himself stated that his health was quite all right. At present, the hon. Minister is holding a portfolio where a file comes once in a blue moon. But when any question is asked the hon. Chief Minister takes shelter behind phrases like administrative reasons and 'oath of secrecy' etc., though even a man-in-the-street knows the story behind this affair.

Another thing to note is that although this House is termed as an august House and we are stated to be the representatives of the people of the State of Punjab who are said to be ruling the destiny of millions, yet no regard is paid to the sentiments and feelings of this House on many matters. For instance, a Public Accounts Committee was constituted by this house for the purpose of going into the accounts of the Government and making recommendations with a view to expressing the feeling of the people with regard to the various items of expenditure. I had the misfortune to be a member of this Committee. The Committee deliberated upon various items. One of them was the expenditure by way of the travelling allowances of Ministers and officers. Everybody agreed that the tours should not be made a source of income. Only so much T. A. should be drawn as came to the actual expenses on traveling. The hon. Members know that contrary to this principle for some time past tours have been made a source of income. It is regrettable that the hon. Ministers, T. A's have often exceeded their salaries. Who does not know that while the salary of a Minister is about twelve hundred, his T. A. generally exceeds two thousand rupees ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : In addition to that they get free meals wherever they go (*laughter*).

Shri Ram Sharma : So in view of these facts the committee considered it in the fitness of things to make a recommendation to the effect that T. A. should be reduced. The hon. Chief Minister agreed with us in this matter. So it was recommended that the rates of T. A. of Ministers and officers should be reduced from ten and eight annas to eight and six annas respectively. Here I would like to point out that the question of tours is a vital question. So far as the hon. Ministers are concerned it is a well-recognised principle that their tours should neither be very few and far between nor too many. As a matter of fact too many tours become hysteria itself (*laughter*). If the Ministers undertake too many tours their prestige is bound to come

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low in the eyes of the public. In fact, during the last two or three years the hon. Ministers have been undertaking too many tours. That is why their prestige has fallen. As a matter of fact if an hon. Minister goes too often the officers feel tired and the public does not like to attend the meetings. In view of all this and in order to save the prestige of the Government the public Accounts Committee made unanimous recommendation, which was also signed by its Chairman, the hon. Chief Minister himself, that the rates of T.A. should be reduced.

Shri Virendra : A similar recommendation was also made by the Estimates Committee.

Shri Ram Sharma : Yes, the House has been pressing for it from every quarter but the Government pays no heed to what we say. Here I am reminded of another matter which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members. In the form on which T.A. is drawn there used to be a column in which the purpose of journey was to be stated. Our Government decided to remove this column. Even the Unionist Ministers like Sir Sikander Hyat Khan and Sir Chhotu Ram had to state the purpose of their journeys. But it is strange that our hon. Ministers decided to remove this column from the T.A. bill forms because it was inconvenient to them. They are of the opinion that whenever they go out of the limits of Simla they are on public duty and they need not state the purpose. The Public Accounts Committee was of the view that the purpose should be written. The hon. Chief Minister himself signed the recommendations of the Committee as its Chairman. The recommendations of the Committee were published in the form of a Report. All the members of the Committee signed it willingly because they considered the proposals to be good. There are certain matters upon which we are compelled to affix our signatures on account of party discipline. But in this case all of us signed the report willingly and with high hopes because we believed that the recommendations were in the interests of the State. In this matter we recommended three things to the Government. Firstly, the hon. Ministers should draw T.A. at the rate of annas eight instead of annas ten. Secondly, conveyance allowance should be stopped. Thirdly, the purpose of the journey should be stated. But it appears that nothing is being done by the Government to implement

the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee. Thousands of rupees have been spent on this Committee. One day of this august House has been wasted over discussions on this matter. But the result is that the Government has increased the T. A. of Ministers from annas ten to annas twelve instead of reducing it to annas eight as recommended by the Committee. The hon. Chief Minister has himself admitted it and I think he can't deny it. It is on record.

So what I want to drive at is that it is a matter of regret that the hon. Ministers should flout the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee and fully endorsed by this House. What the hon. Ministers have done is this. They say that if the Public Accounts Committee has asked them to draw 8 annas per mile for their journeys instead of 10 annas, they would respond by charging 12 annas per mile. (*Laughter*). Then they refuse to mention the purpose of their journey in the T. A. bills or forego their conveyance allowance. In this connection I may point out that even dictators like Marshal Tito and Generalissimo Chaing Kai Shek have never dared to go against the verdict of their legislatures which were undoubtedly very docile. They, too, thought it advisable to respect the wishes of the people's representatives if not actively, at least on paper. I submit that if you go through the history of the Parliaments of the World, you will not come across a single instance in which the unanimous verdict of a Parliament, regarding a certain matter, has ever been flouted and treated so lightly by a Government as has been done by our Government. I think this is an intolerable state of affairs and I think no self-respecting hon. Member can brook such an evasion, on the part of the Government, of the wholesome recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee. I would, therefore, counsel the Government to change its wrong policy of flouting public opinion. Then we are told by the Government that they are going to take the verdict of the masses. I say the verdict is already there. This House represents the masses and its unanimous approval of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee should not have been ignored by the Government. I may tell the Government that this continued disregard of the public opinion is bound to act like a boomerang on it. I am of the view that it is a matter of serious consideration for the Government that if the present state of things continued, it may come to an end soon.

Then, Sir, I would like to make a mention of another important matter. You are aware, Sir, that sometime back cases

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regarding steel scandal had been started. The people heaved a sigh of relief in the hope that these cases would result in the mitigation of black-marketing in the State. People had high hopes that this action on the part of the Government would act as a curb on the black-marketers and that Government would set an example of treatment which should be meted out to the unsocial elements in the society. And Government thought well to start certain test cases connected with this steel scandal, with a view to avoid unnecessary expenditure on all the cases and hardship to the people who were suspected to be involved. The intention of the Government was that if the test cases succeeded in the court, it would send challans of the remaining cases also. But what happened? Those cases succeeded. The accused were convicted. But the Government instead of sending the remaining cases to the court, withdrew them. The Government withdrew about 33 cases and if still a few are left they, too, would either be hushed up or at the most some smaller fry would be punished but the big guns would go scot free. Consequently the hopes of the people, who were expecting a change for the better in the State in the situation created by the black-marketers, have been dashed. May I hope that this will serve as a food for thought to the Government?

Then, Sir, in all the speeches which are daily delivered in this House, I find that as a general rule no one excepting the Chief Minister or some other Minister or some one close to them, are the only persons who speak in support of the Government, otherwise there has not been a single Member who spoke in favour of the Government. As a matter of fact the burden of almost all the speeches has been that of wholesale condemnation of the Government. Why go far? The speech made by the Chief Whip and the ex-Chief Parliamentary Secretary has been full of strong and vehement criticism of the Government. It would be no exaggeration if I say that even my hon. Friends like Chaudhri Suraj Mal and Sardar Bachan Singh, with all their rhetoric, cannot surpass him in the condemnation of the Government. (*Laughter*). I admit that there is only one single person, for whom I have the greatest respect and regard, and who is never critical of the Government. But may I ask the hon. Chief Minister that if he shuts his eyes to the severe criticism of his Government, made on the floor of the House, how can he hope to carry on? I think there is hardly a Government which has been condemned with such vehemence and unanimity

as the present Government. It is a strange thing that this Government does not change despite this adverse criticism.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Will the hon. Member elucidate the meaning of the word 'change' when he says that 'this Government does not change'?

Shri Ram Sharma : I do not mean the replacement of Ministry by my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh and others. (*Laughter*). What I want to convey is that Government should change its policy and methods of carrying on the administration. I would warn the Government to take notice of the writing on the wall, which if went unheeded, will bring about its downfall. I would say that the time has come when the Ministry should either mend or end. The hon. Chief Minister has stated that he has no hesitation in going to the masses for verdict. I say that before doing that he shall have to purge his Government of all the evils that have crept in and bring discredit to him, otherwise this Government will not last long and consequently Congress will not be able to face the electorate.

Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal (Ex-Member West Punjab Legislative Assembly representing North West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have carefully listened to the speeches delivered by my hon. Friends on different subjects like the steel scandal position of law and order in the State etc. I entirely agree with the views expressed by them. But I feel constrained to remark that when the Opposition claims a division on a certain motion, my hon. Friends who have condemned the Government in such scathing terms, vote for the Government against their conscience.

Sardar Swaran Singh : But the Opposition itself consists of heterogeneous elements.

Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal : Whatever it is, but it is a patent fact that it does not throw its principles to the winds. I think that my hon. Friends who deprecate the policy of the Government like anything, and yet do not take concerted action to set the Government on the right path, in fact, perpetrate a grave injustice to the electorate.

Sir, I do not want to take much of your time. I have to make a few observations only, with regard to certain important points.

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The first thing about which I would like to make a few submissions is regarding the rehabilitation of our displaced brethren from West Pakistan. It has been said that rural rehabilitation has been completed. In fact, I am also of the opinion that this problem has been tackled to a great extent successfully and satisfactorily. As has already been stated by my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh, some of our zamindar brethren have been given land for their resettlement in the jungles of U. P. and other States. I do not think that there is any dearth of land in our country. If our zamindar brethren were given as much land as they owned in Pakistan, I am sure it would go a long way in rehabilitating them and would also be instrumental in stepping up food production in the interests of the Grow More Food Campaign.

Now I come to the Urban Rehabilitation. I am really constrained to remark that nothing substantial has been done by the Government to rehabilitate the urbanite displaced persons from West Pakistan. Mr. Speaker, if we read the pamphlet on Rehabilitation supplied by the Government, we cannot do without coming to the conclusion that the Government has failed in the matter of the rehabilitation of our urbanite displaced brethren. It is said that townships have been created outside various towns of our State for accommodating our displaced brethren. I will place all the facts before you how our displaced brethren are becoming the targets of the Government's extortionate policy so far as the creation of the townships is concerned. You will be surprised to learn Sir, that Government has made a profit of about Rs. 15,000 out of the sale of these plots and houses to the displaced persons in the townships. Here I would like to read out a few lines from page 17 of the pamphlet already referred to by me. It is laid therein :—

Side by side with the considerations of administrative necessity, the Punjab Government attach very great importance to the construction of the Capital of the State for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons. As an initial measure, a scheme for providing residential accommodation for a population of one and a half lakh persons at the site of the proposed Capital which is to be located near Chandigarh in Ambala District, has been drawn up.

Areas have been earmarked for various trades which will spring up as a result of the migration of the Administrative Capital. The Punjab Government expect practically the entire cost of the scheme to be recovered from the sale of plots.

It is abundantly clear from the above that it is the intention of the Government to construct the Capital of our State for the rehabilitation of our displaced brethren from West Pakistan. It is also clear from the above that Government wants to recover the entire cost of the Capital Scheme from the sale of the plots. The Government has already made a lot of profit by selling houses at the rate of Rs15,000 each, while it purchased the site of land of these very houses at Rs. 5/-per acre. If we exclude the overhead charges which include supervision charges at the rate of 25%, commission of the contractors at the rate of 13% and the share of the officers of the Public Works Department, which is notorious for its corrupt practices, at the rate of 10 to 12 %, we will find that a displaced person has got material in the shape of a house worth Rs. 75/- only for every 125/- rupees which he has to pay to the Government.

Further, the mud huts for which our Government has charged enormous sums from our displaced brethren have collapsed as the material used in their construction was of a very inferior quality. Here I cannot do without saying that our displaced brethren were forced to purchase these houses out of sheer necessity as they were without any shelter. They were in dire need of some shelter for themselves and for their children. Again, they purchased these houses only to provide their children with some shelter against the heat of the scorching sun during the summer and the rigours of cold during the winter. They were forced by circumstances to purchase these houses even at very abnormal rates.

It has been said more often than once by the Government that the Capital of the State would be constructed for rehabilitating the displaced persons from West Pakistan. Recently it was given out in the newspapers that the construction of the Assembly Chamber and the Secretariat buildings would be completed by the end of 1952. Perhaps my hon. Friends are aware of the fact that the Orissa Government built its new capital almost 3 years ago. Instead of acquiring any land for the construction of the capital, large tracts of jungle land were utilized by it for this purpose. This is not all. This Government made a profit of large sums by selling the sites from those areas for which it had not to pay anything. The Orissa Government did well in constructing its new Capital on the main railway line and the Grand Trunk Road which connect Calcutta with Madras. You will be pleased to learn, Sir, that the Orissa Government has spent Rs. 3 crores in all on the construction of its Capital

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Now, Sir, if we compare the site of this capital with that of our capital site at Chandigarh we will find that the latter is not suitably located. Our site of the new Capital is neither near the main railway line nor the Grand Trunk Road. You will be surprised to learn Sir, that the required quantity of water, too, is not available here or near about it. It is said that water can be had in abundance at the new Capital Site. I have come to know from reliable sources that a dam is going to be constructed there. I daresay there exist no facilities whatsoever to justify the construction of the Capital of our State at Chandigarh. It is really a matter of deep regret that Amritsar being a big industrial town has been ignored while selecting the site for the capital. It has been stated that it is not possible to select Amritsar as the capital of our State because it is a border town and that there is every danger of a foreign invasion. If that be so, may I know whether the Government has ever thought to shift the industries of this town which are an asset both to our State and our country, to some other place? What I wish to point out is that our Government has put forth these excuses only to justify its position for its having ignored the town of Amritsar as the Capital of our State. Similarly the town of Jullundur which could also have been selected as the new Capital of our State has been ignored altogether. Again it is said that the existence of diseases and the scarcity of water stood in the way of the Government in selecting Ambala as the Capital of our State. Here again I cannot do without apportioning the blame of making lame excuses for having ignored Ambala as the Capital of our State. So far as the excuse of non-availability of water put forth by the Government is concerned, may I know from the Government if arrangements have not to be made by it for providing adequate water supply to the people living in Ambala?

Further, our Government while selecting Chandigarh as its site for the new Capital has lost sight of the fact that in spite of the availability of cheap labour and the cheap building material it took about 20 years to complete the construction of the New Township of Delhi now known as New Delhi. But the conditions at present are quite different from those which were prevailing then. During those days all the building material and the labour was very cheap and it was not a difficult job to undertake construction works. On the contrary the conditions prevailing at present in our country in general and the State in particular are such that building material is not available in the market and if at all it is available it is sold at very high rates. Labour is very expensive. I am really constrained to remark that our Engineers who are of the opinion that the construc-

tion of the new Assembly Chamber and the Secretariat buildings would be completed by the end of 1952, have forgotten that it took three to four years to complete the construction of the Assembly Chamber at Lahore. While making such statements they should not have lost sight of the fact that the building material and the labour was very cheap at that time.

But the conditions are quite different today and the Government is in fact misleading us to believe that these buildings will be completed by the end of 1952. Our State has best architects and engineers. Our skilled labour is also very efficient as compared with other countries. In these circumstances I fail to understand why our Government felt the necessity of recruiting technicians and experts for Bhakra Project from foreign countries.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Can good contractors be also found in our State ?

Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal : Perhaps my hon. Friend does not know that our contractors have the repute of undertaking most difficult construction work in hand which no other contractors of any other State could dare execute. Our contractors are doing commendable work even in foreign countries like Japan. The House must be aware that our hon. Friend Sardar Rattan Singh has done excellent work as contractor in Burma. I take pride in saying that our contractors and Engineers are of sterling worth and our skilled labour also occupies a favourable position as compared with other countries. But unfortunately our Government has not thought it fit to entrust the work of constructing the Capital to our Engineers and architects.

Sardar Swaran Singh : In fact no Government can compete with our Government.

Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal : Besides this, our hon. Chief Minister has not said a word in his Budget speech about the payment of compensation to displaced persons as suggested by my hon. Friend Shri Ganga Saran in his resolution moved during the last session. This resolution reads as follows :—

This Assembly recommends that the sufferings of the displaced persons from Pakistan having already stretched over 2 1/2 years in an atmosphere of remorseless stalemate and vain attempts to obtain a settle

[Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal]

ment of the evacuee property issue with the Pakistan Government, it is high time that Government took adequate steps to ascertain the losses of such victims and assume responsibility for compensating them with a view to allaying their immediate sufferings and ultimate rehabilitation.

The hon. Chief Minister had given an assurance that he would urge the importance of this matter on the Government of India. I am sorely disappointed that there is no such mention in his Budget speech. I am of the opinion that so long as the Government does not impose 'Azadi Tax' on all India basis, the problem of rehabilitation will not be solved satisfactorily. I would appeal to the Government that it should not keep the displaced persons under any illusion and address the Government of India in this matter of vital importance to them. I may warn the Government that if this problem of rehabilitation remains unsolved it will create frustration and disappointment among the refugees and invite communism in the State. Moreover, I may point out to the Government that there is insistent demand by the Sikh community that their Gurdwaras be made free in Pakistan and their possession be given to them. But I am sorry to say that the Government has not taken up this matter with all seriousness. I may inform the Government that Sikhs will not rest content unless their Gurdwaras are free in Pakistan. We are not so much concerned with the Kashmir problem as we are concerned with the problem of Gurdwaras we have left behind in Pakistan. I would appeal to the Government that keeping in view the popular feelings of the Sikh community it would urge upon the Government of India to have a high level talk with the Pakistan Government for the restoration of all Gurdwaras to Sikhs. We will not feel satisfied unless this problem is solved. There is one thing more to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. There is a general cry among the public that corruption is rampant in every Government Department.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Do the work of a contractor and corruption go together ?

Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal : I would say that Public Works Department has surpassed all the departments in corruption. The officers of the department expect that their palms be greased at the time of payment of contractor's bills. I would submit, Sir, that any person can escape from punishment by giving bribe to a police officer but corruption in the P.W.D. affects the Government exchequer. The contractor does not give bribe to the officers out of his own pocket.

These contractors have to sign the agreement form prescribed for this purpose. This form is in vogue from the old days of British regime. Britishers had reserved all powers of giving contracts to themselves. The disputes between the contractors and the P.W.D. regarding payment of bills are decided by the Superintending Engineer who is the sole arbitrator. I had brought this matter to the notice of my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh who was then Minister for Public Works. He had ordered the Chief Engineer that such matters may not be referred for decision to the Superintending Engineers. It is necessary that the agreement forms may be revised to stop corruption in this department. It is unreasonable that the Superintending Engineer should be the sole authority for deciding the disputes arising out of the payment of bills. I remember that a contractor in Hoshiarpur sometime back held a contract for the supply of ten lakhs of bricks. When he asked for the payment of bill the officers of the P.W.D. demanded Rs. 7,500 as bribe. In this connection I am reminded of a story which may be of some interest to the hon. Members. Once a Jat's wife went to a Bania to dispose of a few seers of wheat. When she had laid before the Bania that quantity of wheat, he cleverly put it on his scale and said that that quantity of wheat was required just to set the balance of his scale in order. So he did not pay a farthing for that quantity of wheat and asked her to bring more for which she would get the price. She returned much disappointed. In the same way corruption in the P.W.D. is on the increase and it mainly affects the Government's exchequer. It is, therefore, necessary that agreement forms be amended.

Now I want to draw the attention of the Government to another important matter. The people in rural areas are without any means of giving education to their children as the schools are few and far between. The result is that boys and girls in villages are often seen idling away their time. With the passing of the order that any children below the age of 12 or 13 cannot be employed by a contractor, they cannot now be put on work even. So now there is neither any arrangement for their education nor have they anything to do. This is indeed a sure way of turning them into loafers. Those who think that it was being cruel to them to employ them in factories forget that very light work which was quite within their capacity was given to under-age workers. So I would urge the Government to open more schools to provide the opportunity of giving education to the children of ruralities.

Rao Mohar Singh : (North-west Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, it is my conviction and also it is an admitted fact that a Government's budget is the true index of its nature and character. To assess a Government's worth one need not move about from place to place in the territory under its jurisdiction. All that one need do is to pore over the pages of its budget and the whole picture will flash across his mind like the reflection in a mirror. If you find a major portion of its revenues allocated to general administration, police, administration and criminal and civil justice etc., take it for granted that the people governed by it will be backward, socially, morally, culturally as well as economically. On the other hand, a country which spends more on beneficent activities will always be found to be prosperous and advanced and progressive. The economic condition of such a country is always good. I have heard the views expressed by Sardar Ujjal Singh that our Government is spending too much on general administration and police and is starving the beneficent departments. I admit that the circumstances through which we are passing in this post-partition era are peculiar and much more has to be spent on the maintenance of law and order than here to fore, yet I would urge the Government to provide more money for beneficent departments in view of their special importance in the present set-up.

Then, Sir, it is clearly laid down in the Constitution of India that all people shall have the equality of opportunity and that nobody shall be discriminated against on any ground whatever. I am afraid our Government is respecting this fundamental principle more in its breach than observance. Not confining myself to generalisation, I would like to illustrate my objection by giving facts and figures from the statistics published by the Publicity Department in the pamphlet entitled Main Centres of Activity of the Punjab Government Departments. This will make clear the difference between the treatment that is being meted out to the people of Jullundur and Ambala Divisions.

	Jullundur Division	Ambala Division
Total No. of Hospitals and Dispensaires	265	201
Do Hospitals for Women	15	11
Do T.B. Clinics and Hospitals	8	2

	Jullundur Division	Ambala Division
Total No. of Leprosy Homes and Clinics	81	60
Do Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	43	21
Do Sub Health Centres	39	18
Do Veterinary Hospitals	386	350
Do Industrial Inst'tues for men	21	13
Do Industrial Institutes for Women	8	5
Do Primary Schools for Boys	1623	1275
Do Primary Schools for Girls	591	399
Do Lower Middle Schools for Boys	357	284
Do Upper Middle Schools for Boys	226	205
Do Upper Middle Schools for Girls	61	24
Do High Schools for Boys	195	97
Do High Schools for Girls	22	12
Do Degree Colleges	23	13
Do Post-graduate Standard Colleges	7	0
Do Professional Institutions	33	23

Now, Sir, I would like to quote the figures relating to the grants received by the schools in Jullundur and Ambala Divisions respectively in 1947—48. This will again corroborate my contention that step-motherly treatment is being meted out to Ambala Division.

Description of Institution	Grants Sanctioned.	
	Jullundur Division	Ambala Division
	Rs.	Rs.
Boys' Schools	1,42,902	68,142
Girls' Schools	20,256	3,144
Privately Managed Unaided Schools for Boys	81,000	11,400
For Girls	10,500	6,500
Maintenance Grants for Local Body Anglo Vernacular Secondary Schools	59,923	9,818
Local Body Un-aided Schools	19,000	11,000

[Rao Mohar Singh]

This is, Sir, the real state of affairs. Can any one now doubt that Ambala Division is being discriminated against? Now it has been decided to open two new degree colleges, one at Muktsar and the other at Tanda Urmar. Both these places are situated in districts which already have degree colleges. Could these not have been opened in districts which do not have a single degree college? Would it not be better if this money were utilized for opening a Girls High School in a district which has at present no such school? The hon. Minister for Education knows that there is at present not a single college in our district. He should have seen that one of the new colleges was opened there. The people of our district have collected and deposited as security thousands of rupees and applied for the sanction of the Government for opening a college at Gurgaon. It remains to be seen whether it will be granted the necessary sanction and affiliation and when.

Sir, in Gurgaon one finds that the school buildings cannot be constructed for want of iron girders. I am sure the Government can help us in this direction and I shall be extremely grateful if the hon. Minister for Education very kindly undertakes to make the necessary arrangements.

Before I sit down I want to say a few words about grow-more food. We all know that with the hard work of our peasants and the keen interest taken by the Agriculture Department of our State with Sardar Lal Singh as its Director, who is retiring and to whom we are so deeply grateful, we have been able to convert this deficit State into a surplus State so far as food is concerned.

But I wish to make a suggestion in this connection and it is this that no useful purpose is being served by the appointment of additional Naib Tehsildars for purposes of grow-more food. It would be much better if they are replaced by Agricultural Assistants as the latter would be in a better position to serve the rural areas by their expert advice in addition to the work that is at present being done by the Naib Tehsildars.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Jyalpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I congratulate the hon. Chief Minister on the presentation of this Budget and for having made an effort to balance it despite the fact that the usual subsidy of a crore or two of rupees has not been received from the Centre this year. I also very much appreciate the noble sentiment expressed by him that the industrious and the hard working Punjabis should not depend on outside help and should try to manage their

affairs by themselves. But in spite of these feelings on my part I am inclined to think that it will be wrong to call it the Budget of a modern state. The Finance Secretary has admitted that this Budget is not as it should be. He says that "A great amount of work has still to be done if our State is to render services which are expected of a modern welfare State." This admission clearly indicates that this Budget is only an administrative or a Police Budget as about a crore of rupees are to be spent on the pay of border Police and Central C. I. D. Here I can't help saying that we are not being properly treated by the Centre and perhaps it is due to our own drawbacks. It is really a pity that the Centre does not think fit to re-impurse us the amount which we have to spend for the maintenance of police on the border. We have to spend about one crore of rupees on the border police which as a matter of fact is the concern of Centre. It is for the Centre to protect the border and if we are called upon to perform this function of the Centre, there is no reason why the Centre should not pay the expenses. This border is not only the border of our State, it is the border of the whole of India and the Centre should in no case shirk the responsibility of protecting it. It will be recalled that during the British regime a Committee which included eminent men like Sir Shadi Lal, Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, as members was set up to recommend the adjustment of expenditure on the North West Frontier. This Committee held that the North West Frontier was not a border only of India but that of the whole of the Commonwealth and that the expenditure therefore should be paid by the whole of the Commonwealth. England agreed to this recommendation. In such circumstances, I wonder how the Centre can have the courage to disown the responsibility of the border. But, somehow, I feel that the whole fault does not lie with the Centre. We are suffering for our own shortcomings. It is disunity in our own ranks which is bringing this treatment from the Centre. We quarrel among ourselves and the group which comes into power makes every effort to vilify the other groups before the Centre. This is something most reprehensible and by such things we degrade ourselves in the eyes of the Centre. Things were quite different during the Unionist regime when the Zamindar Government was in power. In those days if the Centre desired the Punjab to do some work for them the

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

Governor General used to request the Governor of the Province to persuade the ministry to accept the proposal from the Centre. That was a time when the Ministry enjoyed some prestige.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : They were self-respecting men.

S rdar Dalip Singh : But unfortunately what do we find now? Our State enjoys absolutely no respect in the eyes of the Centre. The reason is that our leaders go to seek advice from the Centre even in small matters like the appointment of the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries. We believe the general opinion about the Punjabis that they are independent persons. It is time that we realize our drawbacks and put a united demand before the Centre which concerns the general welfare of our State. I am sure that we Punjabis are not a weak folk and nobody should entertain any misunderstandings about us. We were the people who had to face a blood bath and we are the people who have transformed the food deficit of this State into a surplus. If the Centre is under a misunderstanding that we are likely to take every thing lying down we should remove such a feeling from their minds. We should plainly tell them in a united way that it is not possible for us to set up a welfare state in this province if we are called upon to spend crores of rupees on Central purposes. We should make every effort to recover this one crore of rupees which we have to spend on the border Police and utilize it for our beneficent departments. If we don't make substantial provisions for the beneficent departments in this last Budget of this House, I don't think that we will be in a position to convince the public that we have been able to do anything for them in the Congress Raj. We will not be able to tell them that we have shown better results than the previous Governments, for example the Unionist Government. In 1937, when the Unionist Government was in power, we all said that the Unionist Government did nothing for the good of the people and levelled a scathing criticism against its policies. But I now feel that if the agrarian reforms of present Congress Government are compared with the Unionist Government, the odds are in favour of the Unionist Government.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a. m. on Friday 16th March, 1951.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

16th MARCH 1951

Vol. III—No. 11.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 16th March, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 10 a. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

Mr. Speaker : Some hon. Members have approached me with the request that the question hour be dispensed with to-day so that the House may have more time for the General Discussion of the Budget. Is it the pleasure of the House that the question hour be dispensed with ?

Hon. Members : Yes.

The question hour was dispensed with accordingly.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

POSTING OF PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT BHUCHO MANDI, DISTRICT FERROZEPORE.

695. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) whether punitive police has been posted at Bhucho Mandi, illaqa thana Nathana, in view of the fact that

[Sardar Tara Singh]

139 cases of crimes of various types were registered at Police Station, Nathana, during the last three years, comprising of eight cases of murder, four of robbery, twenty-one of burglary, eighteen of injuries, thirty-three under the Excise Act and eighteen under the Arms Act ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that crimes are committed in a far greater number in illaqa Police Station, Bagha-purana Naunihalsinghwala, but no punitive police has been posted to that area ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that punitive police is posted in villages where large number of cases of dacoity, burglary and cattle lifting are committed; or where persons committing such crimes reside in large numbers; inspite of the fact that no such element exists in Bhucho Mandi, powers under Excise Act and Arms Act have been resorted to in cases of simple belabouring and punitive police posted there unnecessarily ;
- (d) whether he will lay on the Table a statement regarding the number of crimes committed in the villages referred to in parts (a) and (b) above in the year 1950 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes, there were other factors as well which necessitated the location of the Post
- (b) Yes; but the crime committed in 1949 in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Baghapurana and Nihalsinghwala was reduced by 262 and 187 cases respectively in 1950.
- (c) No; the punitive police is located in the area which is found in a disturbed state because of the misconduct of the inhabitants of that area. It is a fact that such element did exist in the area of additional police post Bhucho Mandi and this necessitated the location of the punitive police.

(d)	Name of village, etc,	Crime committed during 1950.
	Lehrabegha ..	3
	Chakbakhtu ..	5
	Tugwali ..	7
	Bhucho Kalan ..	2
	Chak Kahansinghwalā ..	2
	Chak Ramsinghwalā ..	3
	Chak Fatehsinghwalā ..	5
	P. S. Baghapurana ..	122
	P. S Nihalsinghwalā ..	101

**FOODGRAINS OF SUB-TEHSIL NATHANA,
DISTRICT FEROZEPURE.**

696. **Sardar Tara Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he is aware that the prices of commodities, food-grain and cotton, etc., prevailing in Bhucho Mandi (Nathana Sub-Tehsil) are much lower than the prices prevailing in the adjoining Mandis ;
- (b) the reasons for this state of affairs and the action Government proposes to take in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) No. Statutory prices of foodgrains and cotton fixed for Bhucho Mandi are in parity with the adjoining mandis, situated in Pepsu territory.
- (b) Does not arise.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now resume general discussion of the Budget.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, yesterday I was laying stress on the need for pressing the Central Government to meet the cost of the border police on which we have to spend Rs. one crore every year. When the Pakistan Government, inspite of its limited finances, as compared with the Government of India, has agreed to meet 40 per cent of the cost of border police that the West Punjab is maintaining, there is no reason why the Government of India should refuse to bear this expenditure especially when our budgetary position has no comparison with that of the West Punjab whose budget has always been showing a huge surplus. I understand that our Government is already negotiating with the Central Government on this issue and, therefore, I want to urge that our Government should take a firm stand on this matter and make it clear that it is not in a position to spend anything on policing the border and that the centre should take over this responsibility. In case the Central Government does not agree, we should dissolve the border police.

Sir, three and a half years have elapsed since the Congress came into power but it is a matter for regret that so far nothing has been done to fulfil the promises that were held out to the people before the advent of independence. We used to criticise the Unionist Government for not doing enough for the amelioration of the lot of the poor and backward people but what have we done for their uplift? The Congress Assembly Party represents a conglomeration of divergent aim and diverse interests and when there is no singleness of purpose how can it act upon the Congress programme of rural uplift? The Government still continues to be dominated by capitalist and urban interests and the interests of the rural population are, therefore, being neglected. As Chaudhri Suraj Mal was complaining yesterday, the Peasants' Welfare Fund has been abolished and now it is proposed to abolish the distinction between martial and non-martial classes in order to shut the doors of military service on the ruralites. Last but not least, efforts are being made to have the Punjab Alienation of Land Act repealed.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Don't set up defence in advance.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Sir, my submission is that if the Agrarian Committee of the Congress gives a verdict that this Act has not been able fully to safeguard the interests of the peasant, let it be repealed otherwise not. I know a section of this House wants to crush the agriculturists — the real producers of this State. These very people used to oppose the programme of agrarian reforms launched by the Unionists though I admit that it used to be supported by hon. Dr. Gopi Chand. This section has not as yet given up its opposition to the peasants. It is under their pressure that proposals are under way to repeal the Punjab Alienation of Land Act. When they cannot get a thing done through this Government, they carry their complaints to the Congress High Command and the Central Government. The result is that the position of this State becomes analogous to an estate placed under a Court of Wards. It is our mutual rivalries and suspicion of one another that have weakened this Government. When our party is weak and loosely-knit how can the Government be strong?

Sir, the two important sections of our people are producers and traders or the middlemen. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru our Prime Minister had addressed two appeals, one to the producers and the other to the businessmen. While the former have heartily responded to his appeal for increasing the production of food the latter have proved themselves to be black-sheep by not coming forward and declaring their profits on which they did not pay the income tax due to the Government. While this is the regard that the urban people have shown towards the hon. Prime Minister's appeal, the rural people have proved their loyalty to the country. They are also fighting on the Kashmir front. If our Government will go on pampering the people who are not prepared to pay the taxes due to them and ignore those who are ready to make any sacrifice for the sake of the country, it will lead the nation to ruination. So I would urge the Government not to say good-bye to the Congress programme of rural uplift and devote itself sincerely to the advancement of the interests of the producers in the rural areas. So far the Congress principles have been misinterpreted and more honoured in their breach than observance.

Sir, it is regrettable indeed that instead of working for the uplift of Harijans some Congressmen are doing their utmost to set them at loggerheads with the Jats. They forget that the condition of Harijans in villages is much better than their confreres in towns. While the former help the Zamindars in agricultural work, the latter are made to clean

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

the latrines. Has anybody accepted the appeal of Shri Jagjiwan Ram not to take this dirty work from the Harijans ?

Then, Sir, Harijans are being instigated to claim a share in the ownership of land. They are being misguided to press their claim on land. Will it do the Harijans any good? If anybody stands to gain from the strained and embittered relations of the Zamindars and the Harijans, it is the 'baniya' Community. I warn my Harijan brethren not to fall in their trap or they will meet the same fate which befell the jackals who went to filch edibles from the village at the instance of one of their leaders who after having found a printed sheet befooled them into believing that it was an order from the ruler of the land permitting the jackals to go to the village and eat anything they liked.

An hon Member : From which newspaper was this leaf taken ?

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : From the 'Pratap'. So the jackals followed their ring leader but on reaching the village outskirts were attacked by the village dogs. Then they asked their leader to bring out the order and show it to the dogs. The leader is said to have replied that all those dogs were illiterate. (*Laughter*) Sir, what I mean to say is that the 'Partapwalas' have set the Harijans at loggerheads with the Jats by giving them a 'parcha' the like of which had fallen in the hands of the ring leader of the jackals.

Sir, the conduct of some Congress leaders who claim to be the exponents of non-violence has been very reprehensible during the census operations. These people have been telling the Harijans that if they profess Hindi to be their mother tongue for purposes of census they would be given lands and would be granted proprietary rights. Only day before yesterday I came across two very old men of about 70 or 75 years in the Sadar Police Station Ambala who had been complained against by the Harijans at the instance of a Pandit that these old men had forced them to say that Punjabi was their mother tongue. This Pandit had told the Harijans that he would release them from the debt which they owed to the Jats if they were to accuse these old men of this offence. This is how communalism is being allowed to run riot in a most virulent form. What is more, this fire of virulent communalism is being fanned by journals like the "Pratap" and no action is taken against them. I am somehow

led to think that there is some deep conspiracy lurking behind the Hindi-Punjabi controversy and it is for this reason that effort is being made to bring about a conflict between the Jats and the Harijans. But I may tell the people concerned that if the Jats retaliate the Lalas will not be able to withstand their onslaughts. It is a well-known Punjabi saying that one blow of a black-smith is equal to a hundred blows of a gold-smith.

इह लुहार दी ते सौ सुनियार दी

ਇਕ ਲੁਹਾਰ ਦੀ ਤੇ ਸੌ ਸੁਨਿਆਰ ਦੀ।

The Jats full well know their opponents. What will happen if they resort to slogans uttered in the U.P. by the peasants.

बाहमणु बनया, लाला ।

इन्हें दा कम है काला

इन्हें नूँ दे दियो देस निकाला ॥

बाहमणु, बनया, लाला ।

ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਹੈ ਕਾਲਾ ।

ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੇ ਦਿਓ ਦੇਸ ਨਿਕਾਲਾ ।

Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. Is it proper for the hon. Member to use such language for other communities? He should be asked to withdraw his words.

Mr. Speaker : I wish that the hon. Member would avoid all these things. The reference to Lalas and other things should be avoided.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, he should withdraw these words.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should withdraw these words.

Sardar Partap Singh : May I request you Sir, that though these words are offensive they need not be withdrawn. People outside will then know what kind of mentality prevails in this House. They will know the true facts of the case.

Mr. Speaker : I ask the hon. Member to withdraw those words.

Shri Ram Sharma : (With thumping of table). Withdraw, withdraw.

Mr. Speaker : Order, Order.

Shri Ram Sharma : He is not obeying your ruling, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Thumping of table will not make him withdraw the words. May I ask the hon. Member to withdraw those words ?

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : I withdraw. But let me explain.

Mr. Speaker : No explanation. Please proceed. But now that the hon. Member Sardar Dalip Singh Kang has withdrawn the words, will the hon. Member Shri Ram Sharma admit that his action in thumping the table was not proper ?

Shri Ram Sharma : How can I withdraw that, Sir ?

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, you can gauge the hon. Member's feelings by his action. Sir, if you were in his place you would have realised the feelings of Members as a result of the words used by the hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker : That is another question. If everybody is to decide according to his own feelings then you will find in a few minutes what will be the result. I am only concerned with keeping order irrespective of the feelings of each individual Member.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : These are not individual feelings.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : He is not discussing the Budget. He is discussing Harijans.

Mr. Speaker : Order, Order.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Members are speaking so loudly that their voice affects the heart of an hon. Minister who is not keeping fit.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Sir, I did not intend to give offence to any community. I know that there are good men and bad men

in every community and I have genuine respect for all the hon. Members of this August House. But as I am being misunderstood I will not go any more into the Hindi-Punjabi controversy and would only suggest that those who actually speak Punjabi should be allowed to claim that language as their mother tongue. I shall certainly have no grouse against those who speak Hindi and claim it as their mother tongue. But it is criminal for a person to claim Hindi as his mother tongue if he gave out Punjabi as his language in the 1931 census. Such persons should be punished under the Census Act and I am afraid that if inquiries are made even some hon. Members of this House may be discovered to be culprits in this respect

Then Sir, this Government has not taken any steps to implement the resolution which was passed by this Assembly regarding due representation of the ruralites in the services and the result is that for want of rural representatives in the services the controlled commodities cannot reach the rural areas.

Mr. Speaker : This point has already been discussed.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Very well Sir, I shall leave it. I come to the financial schemes of the Rehabilitation Department. I wonder that some of those urban friends who never owned any newspaper in the West Punjab have been given loans to start papers to the tune of fifty thousand rupees but the land-holders have not been given loans exceeding rupees two thousand. I request the hon. Chief Minister that he may kindly take steps to do away with this distinction between the urbanites and the agriculturists and make arrangements to give sufficient advances to the agriculturists from the Finance Corporation. Besides this, the attention of the Government may also be drawn to the efforts which are being made by the zamindars in connection with the grow-more-food campaign. The peasants of this State have changed our food deficit into a surplus but unfortunately these people are not given any subsidy or grant for their requirements. They are invariably given loans for setting up percolation wells, manure etc. This appears to be very improper. When these people help the State by growing more food they certainly deserve grants from the State.

In the end, Sir, I wish to refer to those two eminent officers whose services we will lose in the beginning of the next financial year.

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

One of them is Sardar Kartar Singh Malhotra, our able Finance Secretary, who handled the finances of this State at a very difficult stage with great efficiency.

The other officer, who will shortly go away is Sardar Bahadur Lal Singh, our Director of Agriculture. After the partition, the Lyallpur Agricultural College and model farms were left in the West Punjab and the Agriculture Department had to start from a scratch. Sardar Lal Singh put himself whole-heartedly in to his work and reestablished the Agriculture Department in such a manner that as a result of its activities our Budget has been changed from deficit into surplus.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) :
Mr. Speaker, I have been noticing since yesterday that instead of discussing the Budget, some hon. Members have been giving expression to their feelings about extraneous matters. In my opinion we are meeting the fate of a house which got burnt by the flame of its own candle. I was pained to hear the General Secretary of the Congress Assembly Party bring in communal matters. Instead of fanning the fire of language controversy raging in the State, we should strengthen the hands of the hon. Chief Minister in setting matters right. We should not blame one party or another for the prevailing controversy but should give maximum help to the Government in restoring normal conditions.

Then, Sir, there are two or three other things to which I wish to refer in the hope that the hon. Chief Minister will give some assurance with respect to these. The people of this State depend mainly on agriculture, cattle-breeding and service in the army. These are the three chief means of livelihood for the bulk of the people. When we go to the villages, people enquire from us as to what we have done for their betterment. In this connection, I wish to refer to the 'grow more food campaign' in the State. In these days of high prices of foodgrains, every land-owner wishes to produce maximum food. He is, however, faced with one serious difficulty. The holdings of most of the land-owners of this State are scattered at different places. One small piece of land is situated at one place and the other tract is far away from it. Majority of the land-owners of this State have petty holdings. The Government

should immediately undertake the task of consolidation of holdings, so that the land-owners might produce more food. The Government realised the urgency of this problem and passed an Act for the consolidation of holdings in 1948. The people felt happy on the passing of that measure and hoped that just as the Government had tackled the difficult task of rehabilitation with success, it would solve the problem of consolidation of holdings also. Letters of congratulation started coming in from different quarters but we find that though the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 have passed, nothing has been done in this direction so far. When the hon. Minister for Revenue made a demand for Rs. 14 lakhs for engaging staff for this work, we told him that he could spend as much as was necessary for this important work. We said that we were prepared to sanction even one crore or more for the consolidation of holdings, because on this depended the production of food. He promised to do this work without delay but in the Budget under discussion, he has given certain reasons for not having undertaken this work. He says that the progress has been very slow and there has not been appreciable success in this work. On reading the reasons advanced by him, one laughs and at the same time feels sorry. I wished that leaving other work to the Heads of Departments and Secretaries, the hon. Ministers had devoted all their attention to this work so that this Government could serve as a model to other States. Posterity would then be in a position to say that the Congress Government did commendable work for keeping the zamindars alive. If the Government could employ very able officers on the task of rehabilitation, why can't they do the consolidation of holdings. The Government can make use of the services of men like Sardar Tarlok Singh, who evolved dozens of theories and formulae for the allotment of evacuee lands. Practical men like Shri Randhawa are there. Mr. Thapar has set a glorious example by preparing records and manuals about lands when there was nothing to guide him in this matter. Why does not the Government avail the services of these able officers, who earned great reputation for their ability by successfully tackling the problem of rural rehabilitation. I feel surprised when the hon. Minister for Revenue says that suitable staff for consolidation work was not available. It is not fair to postpone this work by giving lame excuses. His four or five sentences giving reasons for its postponement are worth going through. These things lead me to believe that this work is not going to be done even in the next financial year. It is idas that the Deputy Commissioners would be entrusted with this work. These officers

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are already responsible for attending to 'grow more food campaign', Soldiers Boards, appeals from the orders of Magistrates and have also to attend to the tour programmes of hon. Ministers, Financial Commissioners, Commissioners and other such officers. What can the Deputy Commissioners who are already overworked do? In some cases they have to attend to revenue work also. Similarly a Revenue Assistant is an overworked officer. He has to attend to all the revenue work in the district and also to supervise the work of Tehsildars and other revenue officials. Consolidation of holdings is not a small work. Those officers who are already overworked cannot be expected to attend to it. The Government perhaps thinks that there will be no more complaint about its indifference in this matter, because election towards will be held in the end of this year. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to page 43 of the Explanatory Memorandum where it is stated—

The work being of a very technical nature could not be entrusted to raw hands. Adequate number of revenue trained personnel could not, however, be made available by the Revenue Department under the apprehension that the work of the Revenue Department might be hampered if such a large number of trained men were spared for consolidation work. Another difficulty was that the articles of survey equipment, forms, Acts and Rules, etc., required by the consolidation staff could not be made available for various technical reasons. The result was that the progress of work of the department remained very slow during the current year. In spite of all these difficulties consolidation operations were started in 318 villages with an area of 229,384 acres plus 29 garden colonies comprising 20,826 acres, though the work could not be completed in any of the villages.

I admit that the Revenue Assistants and Patwaris, who have a lot of other work to do, cannot be expected to attend to consolidation work. Rehabilitation work is almost over. There is no use of putting Mr. Thapar in-charge of Capital Project. That work can be done by other officers. The Capital Sub-Committee is also there to look to it. An able officer like Mr. Thapar can be entrusted with consolidation work. Retired Revenue Officers and Patwaris can be recruited for this work. Instead of asking for Rs. 10 lakhs, the Government can spend Rs. 50 lakhs or 60 lakhs on this important work, which should no more be delayed.

Then there will be the question of the availability of funds for this purpose. I may point out that the funds are made available by

• the zamindars themselves. Even last year, the Government set apart a sum of Rs. 14 lakhs for the consolidation of land holdings while the zamindars themselves contributed Rs. 9 lakhs in the shape of fees. The people of the villages in which holdings will be consolidated are prepared to give the fees even in advance. They are very much anxious to get it done at once. The hon. Members are being approached by the people. As a matter of fact, every village wants that its holdings should be consolidated, no matter what is the cost. I, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister to post Mr. Thapar and Mr. Randhawa, after giving them necessary staff, on this important work of consolidation of land holdings, in order that it should be accomplished in the shortest possible time. If this is done before the coming elections, we will be able to tell the people that something at any rate has been done by our Government. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal is laughing. I would like to point out that no doubt the Unionist Party betrayed the country and the coming generations by co-operating with the British Government, but it rendered yeoman's service by passing certain Bills. I was, today, surprised to listen to the speech of the General Secretary of the Congress Assembly Party. I wonder why he continues to be in the Party in spite of the views that he holds. Chaudhri Suraj Mal and Sardar Bachan Singh, when they found that they did not agree with the policy of the Congress Party, left it and formed the Opposition Party. The hon. Member who does not agree with the policy of the Chief Minister and the Congress Party would be well-advised to leave the party and to sit on Opposition Benches. At present, the guardian himself is engaged in the plunder of the house which he should guard. It is regrettable that the hon. Member should have expressed such views against the party of which he is a member.

Secondly, I want to submit that the Bhakra and Nangal Projects are long-range projects. They will materialise after a long time and after huge sums have been spent on them. For them, funds and technical efforts are required. The Grow More Food Campaign of the Government cannot succeed by appointing officers and big staff. It can succeed by the efforts of the zamindar himself. He is more shrewd and wiser than the hon. Members. He knows he cannot live without cultivating his fields. But the difficulty is that he cannot cultivate his fields without water. Water is not available to him. He gets it either from the irrigation canals or from the percolation wells. If canal water is not available he sinks wells and gets water from them for his crops. In Sonapat tehsil of Rohtak district and in the districts

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of Karnal, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur and Amritsar, irrigation is done by the water from wells. It is due to these wells that the Government has been earning bonus from the Government of India for procurement of more food grains. Even next year the Government of India will give us Rs. one crore and forty lakhs. But our Government proposes to give only loans and no grants out of this fund. If this money might not be sufficient for the Grow More Food purposes, the Central Government has agreed that the extra expenditure should be borne equally by it and the State Government.

Chief Minister : On a point of information, Sir.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir, I don't give way.

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member does not want to get useful information and proceed on a wrong assumption, I cannot help him.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I thank you, Sir. The House will be enlightened at the end by the hon. Member's learned sermon for one hour. The Government, Sir, could get 50 per cent expenses of the Persian wheel from the Central Government and the rest should have been imburshed by it. It is stated in the Annual Report of Grow More Food Campaign :—

Sinking of Surface Percolation Wells :—Well sinking is the most satisfactory method of increasing the irrigated area as an alternative to canal irrigation. The advantages of a surface well are that it can be constructed from resources available within the country and that it suits the economy of the small farm

Prior to October, 1949, the cultivator could earn subsidy on the atccavi loan of Rs. 875 per well advanced to him on fulfilment of the conditions prescribed for this purpose. The amount of subsidy earned depended upon the Land Revenue paid by the zamindar and the period taken by him to complete the well.....

Now the Government says that it cannot give subsidies, but it can give loans. I would submit that if the Government wants to increase the food production, half the expenses of the wells should be borne by it and the other half by the Central Government. This money must be found somehow or other in order to make the Grow More Food Campaign a success. It would have been better if the hon. Minister concerned had been in his seat to listen to this suggestion.

Minister for Education : I am in my seat.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I did not know that the portfolio of agriculture is with the hon. Minister, because sometimes he holds portfolio of Education, sometimes of Land Revenue and sometimes of Agriculture. Had he been a permanent Minister, I would have known as to what portfolio he holds. Now, Sir, I would point out wherefrom the money for this purpose can be found. The Government has set apart a sum of Rs. 2,34,530 for the staff employed for the sinking of percolation wells. What is the necessity of spending this sum on this staff which is not required. The zamindars can get bricks; they can get loans and other things without the help of this staff. There are the Grow More Food Committees and the staff of the Deputy Commissioners to help the zamindars in getting the loans. Out of this sum, a large part will be spent on the salaries of the officers. As a matter of fact, this sum is meant only to provide for the officers. The Government spends huge sums simply to provide for I. C. S. officers. That is why Commissioners are appointed. That is why there are three Financial Commissioners. Why does not the Government give these surplus officers to the Central Government to be utilized elsewhere. I am reminded of the story of a Sardar told by my friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal. The servant of the Sardar ate all the cream and put a little of milk on the mouth of the Sardar to show that he had taken milk. Similarly this sum will go only to provide for the big officers. People can get loans without the help of this staff. In the United Punjab they could get such loans with the help of even lambardars.

Sir, my submission is that the Government has provided a sum of Rs. 20,330 for the Land Reforms Committee. As a matter of fact, the term of the present Government is going to expire after about six months when new elections are proposed to be held. This Government has failed to do anything substantial for the peasants. It could not satisfy the tenants. In fact, a committee cannot do anything good to the people by itself, except that it will hold some meetings and some of the hon. Members and certain P. C. S. men will draw T. A.'s etc. This is not the way to solve the problems of the agriculturists. What will the Committee do? We are going to have this session perhaps as the last session of this Assembly. The recommendations of the Committee might remain unimplemented. The hope of the people in the State lies in the elections. They hope that some young Socialists

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and active and sincere Congressmen will be returned to serve them and to look after the interests of the poor. In my opinion, the expenditure of Rs. 20,330 on the Land Reforms Committee is quite unnecessary.

Another expenditure which appears to be wasteful is on the continuance of additional staff in districts and Financial Commissioner's office required in connection with Grow More Food work amounting to Rs. 4,49,450. It has been stated that because the Central Government is providing us with funds for Grow More Food campaign we should spend them in whatever way we like in connection with Grow More Food campaign. My submission is, the amounts should be spent in a manner so that the poor people may derive maximum advantage out of them. Spending four and a half lakhs on staff only is not a desirable step on the part of our Government. Instead of spending such a huge amount on the salaries and allowances of the Tehsildars and assistants in the various districts of the State, if the amount is given to the people for the construction of percolation wells the poor people will bless and admire the hon. Chief Minister and Grow More Food efforts will also receive a stimulus. But I am sorry to note that the Government is guided in such matters by the advice of those officers who have no soft corner for the poor. They go on increasing the staff without any consideration being paid to the results obtained. As a matter of fact, such officers have nothing but their own interests before them. They are interested in making T. A's only. One officer went to Rohtak in order to see wells in village Bhore. It is strange that he should go to Rohtak for the purpose of seeing wells only. Sir, my submission is that nothing useful is done by the additional staff employed for the purpose of Grow More Food Campaign and the sooner this staff is discharged the better for the State of the Punjab. Here I would like to point out that the question of the purchase of jeeps in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign has been under heavy fire in the last session. In this matter, I doubt that our Government is trying to favour some agency.

Mr. Speaker : No reflection, please.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir, It is not a reflection. It is a fact (*Laughter*). I am simply saying that our Government is wasting money on jeeps etc. When the Commissioners ask for cars other officers like Deputy Commissioners also put forward their demand. When jeeps

are given to Deputy Commissioners for Grow More Food Campaign the subordinate officers also desire to have this facility for themselves. Thus this cycle goes on and the Government goes on spending public money on items which are not of any use to the poor people and to the State as a whole. Another example of such wasteful expenditure is provided by the new suggestion of some officers of the Department of Publicity to have some pamphlets published and distributed among the hon. Members, as referred to by the hon. Chief Minister on page 7 of his Budget speech. The paper used in these pamphlets is so costly and the printing so fine that not even the Central Government can think of indulging in such luxuries at a time when every penny of the national exchequer should be saved. When a Government does not think of making savings in such minor matters how can we expect from it any wise and economical expenditure on major matters? In fact, our Government is incapable of controlling its own officers whose demands go on increasing every day. When the jeeps were given to the Deputy Commissioners, the Excise Department also wanted to have jeeps. The Government is unable to check such demands and so the expenditure goes on increasing. This is not the way to run administration. Wasteful expenditure should be cut down if anything useful is to be done. The amounts spent on publicity etc., can be utilised in a better way. This our Government is not doing. It is spending on such matters as publicity of Grow More Food Campaign, for which a sum of rupees eight thousand is provided in addition to the usual expenditure on the Publicity Department itself. How long can this drama go on? The ordinary man in the street is quite fed up with it. The farmer is growing impatient. His needs are not met by the Government. Nothing is being done to make agriculture a lucrative profession. Of course, some useful work has been done by the committees appointed for the purpose of giving manure to the farmers. I appreciate the work done in this connection. But the unnecessary expenditures that I have mentioned above should be stopped as soon as possible in order to provide money for more useful work. This business of spending eight thousand rupees on pamphlets etc. should be put on end to immediately.

Mr. Speaker : Please wind up.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir, I have still to put some more points for the consideration of this House; so I may kindly be given at least ten minutes more. It has been stated that a sum of rupees seventy-five thousand is required for the destruction of jackals etc. The hon.

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Ministers have been told that in order to save the crops the jackals are being killed. For the information of the hon. Members I would like to say that the skin of a jackal is a very useful thing. If by spending rupees fifty thousand on killing jackals during the last year the Government has not been able to get any such skins for the State, it can only mean that no jackals have been killed at all. In view of this the sum of Rs. 75,000 will go to the officers in the form of T.As. etc. In my opinion if this amount is given for the purpose of sinking percolation wells etc. it can be more useful to the people. But our Government is run by those who have not seen even jackals (*Laughter*). They have made a provision of Rs. 75,000 for destruction of jackals. In fact this amount will go in the pockets of the officers in the form of T.A. etc. The hon. Members know the attitude of the hon. Ministers towards the recommendations of the Estimates Committee in the matter of T.A. Sir, we appreciate your attitude towards the wishes of the Estimates Committee in the matter of reducing T.A. You have, as a matter of fact, fully realised the responsibility of the high office which you occupy. The attitude of the hon. Ministers is a striking contrast to yours. Whenever the Estimates Committee asked the hon. Ministers to reduce their T.A., they showed red hot eyes to the Committee. Some of the hon. Members might say that when I was a Minister I also used to draw the same T.A. I would reply that there was no Estimates Committee then. Now that there is an Estimates Committee and it wants that T.A. should be reduced, the hon. Ministers should come forward and reduce their T.A. In fact the T.A. which they draw is excessive and moreover they get free board and lodging on tours

Now, Sir, I would like to relate an interesting story which aptly applies to our Ministers. A jackal used to steal away 'Shira' of a zamindar. He being tired of his surreptitious visits, caught hold of him and put a bell in his neck. Thenceforward the jackal could not deceive the zamindar, because the bell always forewarned the latter of former's arrival. Now my submission is that the Ministers, cars which go about with special number plates are looked upon with disfavour by the people. If the cars had borne ordinary number plates, then the hon. Ministers could have easily moved about unnoticed. Now the people, seeing the cars with Congress flag fluttering and bearing special number plate like 2, 3, 4 etc, at once recognize the hon. Ministers and feel very unhappy if the latter bypass them without enquiring about their

difficulties. My submission is that why do the hon. Ministers unnecessarily subject themselves to disrepute by fixing such number plates on their cars just like the proverbial jackal in whose neck a bell was hung. (*Laughter*) (An hon. Member : But the car bearing No. 4 belongs to the hon. Speaker) I am sorry, Sir, I withdraw that part of my observation. (*Renewed laughter*). I think they would be well advised to have ordinary number plates fixed on their cars so that they could dodge the people without any difficulty.

Then, Sir, a great hardship is being inflicted upon the rural people. It is the imposition of punitive tax on them by the Government for the stationing of punitive police in the villages. Now, a punitive police is quartered at those places which are declared as disturbed areas and this is done by Government without consulting the representatives of the people. It may be mentioned that the British rulers were very careful in taking such steps as they would avoid unnecessary agitation. But our national Government does not pay any heed to the difficulty that is being experienced by the villagers on account of the punitive police. I would not object if the punitive police is stationed in those villages which are guilty of disturbing the peace, but why should other villages, which are situated at a fairly long distance from the disturbed ones and from which there is not the slightest danger of the disturbance of law and order, should be involved, penalised and subjected to the punitive tax. I am constrained to remark that all the representations for the removal of punitive police, made by the inhabitants of such villages, have fallen flat on the Government. I submit that when the rural people are already being crushed under the weight of innumerable taxes, they should not be burdened with another tax like the punitive tax. This would prove another straw on the camel's back. I would, therefore, advise the Government that if it ever feels the necessity of stationing punitive police at a village, it should do so after taking the public into confidence. I particularly draw the attention of the Government to withdraw punitive police in a village in the Rohtak district. I think since our Government is unable to meet the expenditure on Police and since it does not get any subsidy from the Centre as well, it has decided to levy the punitive tax on the villages with a view to finding employment for the police and also obtain the necessary funds required for the maintenance of the police.

There is an other difficulty with which the rural people are faced at present. Since wheat is scarce now-a-days, the atta supplied by the

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Civil Supplies Department is almost unfit for human consumption. If wheat were supplied to them, the dirt which is ordinarily mixed with it, would be visible and the public would not permit this admixture being ground with the food-grains. I think it would be advisable for the Government to issue pure atta of Jawar to the public rather than supply harmful stuff to them. As a matter of fact, when I was shown a specimen of this bad atta by the people, I told them that my seeing it would not serve any useful purpose. It would, however, be shown to the Chief Minister or the hon. Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department at the time of his visit. I am not alone in criticising the bad quality of atta. This matter has appeared in the press as well. So if I voice the grievances of the people in this regard, it should not be misconstrued as a mere desultry criticism of the Government. I would request the hon. Minister in charge to visit the rural areas and see things for himself about this matter and set things right to satisfy the public.

Now I would like to make a few observations about the Magistracy in our State. Since I belong to the legal profession, I frequently come in contact with the magistrates I find that they are dominated by M. L. A.s and Congressmen. One of the magistrates told me that they were very much afraid of them because a little refusal to accept their recommendation would bring trouble or some enquiry under one pretext or the other. He said that but for this the magistrates would have made cent per cent convictions. In this connection, I may also mention that when the hon. Chief Justice visited Rohtak, he enquired the causes for the increase in the number of cases in the Sessions Court. I told him that this was so because the Magistracy was not safe from the outside influence. The magistrates were afraid lest some trouble should befall them if they incurred the displeasure of M.L.A.s and other influential Congressmen. As a matter of fact, the life of the magistrates has been made so hard and difficult by these 'biggies' that they say that they would never allow their sons to accept employment under the Congress regime. I would, therefore, request that if the Government wants to strengthen the administration, it should hold out an assurance to the magistrates that they need have no fear of anybody till they discharged their duties conscientiously.

Now I would like to make a mention of the Multi-purpose Society.

Mr. Speaker : Better avoid reference to that.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : As you please, Sir. But I submit that I have no intention to make any personal attacks or indulge in insinuations against anybody.

In the end, I must pay high tribute to the Director of Agriculture, Sardar Lal Singh, for rendering meritorious service to this State. He has, through his unremitting efforts, raised the name of the Punjab in the field of Agriculture. I feel that he deserves the thanks of the whole House in this respect.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana. Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, if you peruse this Budget carefully you will find that this is a royal Budget presented by a Finance Minister of a bankrupt State. I, therefore, feel that I begin my speech by quoting an excerpt from the speech of the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, in 1939, when he was the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly of the United Punjab. He says:-

.. When I see the Budget, there is at the back of my mind the appalling condition of the Punjabi millions. The duty of the Government is to serve the people. The same is the claim of our Government. Now, I have to see what service this Budget proposes for the people of the province. How can the condition of the people be bettered? How should we marshal out expenditure and revenues? The hon. Minister who has just sat down remarked: 'Some times you clamour for a reduction in abiana, another moment you ask for a substantial relief in land revenue yet you say spend more on education. If we do that how will we find enough money to spend on the progressive schemes of education?'

We have to see whether the Government which is responsible for the amelioration of the condition of the people has or has not been able to improve our lot. We have also to gauge the solicitude and efforts of the Government in this direction by an examination of the provision in the Budget, for which purpose it is necessary to take into account both income and expenditure. The hon. Minister for Education complained that one hon. Member asked him to spend more money on education while another wanted to reduce the income of the Government by demanding a radical reduction in land revenue. I fail to understand what is intended by advancing such an argument. Does he mean to say that since money has to be spent on education the Government must enhance the land revenue? If that is so, I for one cannot endorse such a policy. The sound principle is that the burden of taxation should not be inordinate and that you should spend a larger portion of your income on those from whom it is derived....

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Further, he has in the same speech pointed out regarding the exact position in the matter of education in the United Punjab:-

Now I come to expenditure. The hon. Minister for Education waxed very eloquent in praise of his department. May I tell you that in 1938-39 our expenditure on Indian Education amounted to 14 per cent of the total expenditure and in 1939-40 it is 13 per cent. Now if we compare these figures with the United Provinces we find that there this expenditure amounts to 16 per cent of the total expenditure

These few lines which I have quoted above are from the speech of the then Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly of the United Punjab, who is now holding the position of the Leader of the House and also the Chief Minister of the post-partitioned province and now the State of Punjab. On page 14 of his Budget Speech he says:-

.. On the one hand I cannot see where further cuts in expenditure can be applied, and on the other, I apprehend that the taxation capacity of the people of the Punjab has already been strained to the utmost limits. Our urban population are quite unable to face further taxation owing to the strain over a long period of high prices. In regard to rural areas, the position in this State is complicated by the fact that substantial numbers have only recently been settled on land and far from being able to contribute to State resources, must necessarily continue to depend on loans to establish themselves with the wherewithal of agriculture and shelter....

Further on he says:-

We propose, however, to raise an additional three lakhs of rupees, by enhancing the Entertainment Tax from annas three in the rupee to annas four, and an additional Rs. 3 lakhs from an increase in Tariffs for supply of energy from Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme to general and bulk supply consumers in the Punjab....

Now, Mr. Speaker, you can very well imagine, what the position of our State is from the point of view of revenue and expenditure. Here I cannot do without quoting a few lines from the Memorandum to the Budget, prepared by our Finance Secretary. He says:-

3. In a way the most important Section in these accounts is the Revenue Account, viz., Revenue Receipts and Revenue Expenditure. As hon. Members are aware, we inherited on partition about 45 per cent of the population but only about 32 per cent of the Revenue of undivided Punjab (and 36 per cent of the area). The pre-partition Punjab Budget of 1947-48, if allocated on this basis, would give our share of Revenue Receipts at Rs. 7,99 lakhs and of Revenue expenditure of Rs. 10,68 lakhs showing a deficit of Rs. 2,69 lakhs.....

Further, the finance Secretary has in his Memorandum to the Budget given in detail the fresh sources of revenue which have been tapped since partition. These taxes are:-

Entertainment Tax. Receipts from Tobacco Duties. Receipts under the Punjab Motor Spi its Taxation and Sales Receipts under the Urban Immovable Property. Receipts under the Punjab General Sales Tax Act 1941. Water - rates. Stamp Duties (Excluding Revenue Stamps). Registration fees. Excise Duties.

It is clear from this that our Government has levied as many as 20 fresh taxes since the partition, and that the imposition of these taxes one after the other has over-burdened the tax-payers. It is also clear from paragraph 4 of the Finance Secretary's Memorandum that the total amount realized by the Government since partition is round about rupees 4 crores. At this stage I have no intention to enter into the details regarding the huge amounts realized by it by indirect taxation from the district boards and the municipalities in the shape of house tax, choola tax, punitive police tax etc etc., But I am constrained to remark that the imposition of fresh direct taxes as proposed by the Government would be instrumental in over-burdening the people. As a matter of fact, I do not find any justification for the Government to levy any fresh taxes on them as is being proposed by the Government. If we study both the direct and the indirect taxes levied by the Government in the State, we will find that a huge sum of no less than Rs. 17 crores has been realized so far from the people. Whenever we compare these taxes with the other States, we are told that the conditions created by the partition were such that they could not do without tapping the fresh sources of revenue, with a view to meeting necessary expenditure. I think my hon. Friends will agree with me when I say that there is hardly any State in our country where huge sums are ruthlessly spent on the General Administration in general and the Police in particular as in our State. I have to say with deep regret that hard-earned money of the State is being wasted on the police of our State.

I have the Memorandum to the Budget (1949-50) with me and I have studied all the relevant figures. It is clear from these figures that the U.P. Government had out of its Revenue Receipts amounting to Rs. 55 crores and 88 lakhs earmarked a sum of Rs. 6 crores and 90 lakhs for education and Rs. 2 crores and 16 lakhs on medical. This is not all. You will be pleased to learn,

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Sir, that this Government has spent as much as Rs. 4 crores on agriculture. On perusing the budgetary figures regarding agriculture of our State we find that a meagre amount has been ear-marked for it. It is really a pity that in comparison to the U.P. Government which has already spent Rs. 4 crores on agriculture in the year 1949-50 our Government has made a provision of Rs. 65 lakhs on the agriculture of our State. On the one hand, we do not hesitate to realize the fact that our State is a source of inspiration to other States of our country in the matter of agriculture and on the other hand our Government is not fighting shy of setting apart a paltry sum of Rs. 65 lakhs for it. It is manifestly clear from this that instead of making adequate sums available to those departments which are assets to the Government, our Government is out to provide huge sums for less important, rather insignificant departments. The fact of the matter is that the hard-earned money of the State is lavishly spent on departments which are absolutely unnecessary. I will deal with this point at length at a later stage as to how money is spent on less important departments lavishly.

I have with me the budgetary figures of the Bombay State. If we compare these figures with those of our State we will find that we stand no where. Sir, in Bombay Government was spending rupees 250 lakhs on General Administration and rupees 944 lakhs on Education whereas in Punjab the Government was spending 165 lakhs on General Administration and 193 lakhs on Education. It only shows that the financial position of our Government is going from bad to worse.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I draw your attention to the empty Treasury Benches. It is scandalous that there should be no Minister to listen to the criticism of the Budget.

Chief Minister : Sir, I am sorry I had to go out for a short while. The hon. Member is quoting figures and I had gone out to send for certain papers.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, now the question is how we can improve the financial position of the State. We find that our population is quite unable to bear the burden of taxation especially when it has been reduced to penury. Before the partition i. e. in the

year 1946, the people of West Punjab were financially well off than those of East Punjab. At that time no one was a displaced person. But after the partition the people are financially worse off than before and are quite unable to bear further taxation. We know that gram crop was totally destroyed last year and then heavy floods caused havoc in the countryside and damaged crops in Jullundur division. Then recently we were faced with the calamity of locusts which has done incalculable harm to our crops. Our industry also suffered a set-back in the year 1947 when large number of buildings collapsed on account of heavy rains. Under these circumstances, can the Government ever think that people can bear the additional burden of taxes to meet the increasing expenditure of the Government? Refugees are in miserable plight and are actually depending upon loans from the Government to rehabilitate themselves. They cannot contribute a penny to the Government's exchequer. If we study the figures of expenditure on various departments we will find that the expenditure on General Administration, Administration of Justice, Police and Jails and Convict Settlements, according to the figures given by the Finance Secretary is 31.29. The expenditure on Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary, Cooperative Department and Industry is 26.33. The hon. Chief Minister, who in the united Punjab was never weary of proclaiming that Punjabi millions were living in 'appalling conditions', is today imposing fresh taxes on people who have been reduced to abject straits after the partition. If we compare our present position with the West Punjab we would find that in the West Punjab area of about 140 lakhs acres of land was irrigated by canal water. But today our State can hardly stand on its own feet and the Government has imposed fresh taxes upon the people. The public outside has been led to believe that our hon. Chief Minister has reluctantly decided to levy fresh taxes. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the leading article of the 'Tribune' in its issue of 15th March 1951. It says that—

The Punjab Government has unfortunately always tried to follow the path of least resistance and to burden with taxes those sections of the community which, it is hoped, would submit to the burden without much protest.

It is strange that these Congress leaders, who displayed great solicitude for the welfare of the poor, are today putting oppressive burden of taxes upon them. By taking such a step the hollow glitter of these

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people has been sufficiently evidenced. They have almost doubled the burden of taxation within the course of three years. The people would have cheerfully contributed to the revenues of the State if the present Government had followed the golden principles of a progressive Government. But today Government is not tapping the real sources of revenue because of its incompetency. The Government has a soft corner for the vested interests.

The most glaring feature of the present Government is its ever-growing expenditure. It is working on the lines of old bureaucracy. A progressive Government has an ideal of service before it and has always an essential well-being of the people at heart. But our Government is always thinking of extorting money from the poor people.

Besides this, a mention has been made of setting up a cement factory. I think if such a factory had been set up in connection with the Bhakra and Capital projects it would not have been an unprofitable proposition for the Government. If the Government had embarked upon schemes of public service, considerable revenue would have accrued to the Government. The Government had invested 22 lakhs of rupees on the Ambala Road-ways and its revenue was 44 lakhs of rupees.

Our Government is after is the expansion of the staff. Increase the number of Chief Engineers and give each of them a salary of rupees three thousand per mensem. Add to the number of the Financial Commissioners and pay them Rs 3,000 per mensem each. This is the policy of this benign Government. It reminds me of the Punjabi saying :

ਸਾਂ ਰ ਕੇ ਪਸੇ ਪੈਂ ਨੂੰ ਤੇ ਸੁੰਡਾ ਹੀਰੇ ਲੁਟਾਵੇ

ਮਾਂ ਰੋਵੇ ਪੈਸੇ ਪੈਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਤੇ ਮੁੰਡਾ ਹੀਰੇ ਲੁਟਾਵੇ ।

On the one hand, the economic condition of the people is deteriorating from day to day. They are finding it increasingly difficult to make both ends meet and many are forced to commit suicide under the stress of utter penury. On the other hand, we find this Government increasing its expenditure on establishment from day to day and meeting it by augmenting the burden of taxes on the people. And to

add insult to injury this Government takes pride in the fact that strength of the staff in its various departments has been more than doubled. We would have no regret if all this increase in expenditure had been made with a view to undertaking productive schemes aimed at the prosperity of the State. We would not mind enhancement in taxation if this were within the capacity of the man in the street. But when already there is a falling off in the standard of living of the common man how can we look with equanimity at the ever-increasing expenditure of this Government which wants to have right royal airs. Only if the hon. Chief Minister were to read his own speeches which he used to deliver as the leader of the Opposition in the United Punjab Assembly he would recollect that once he was also of this view that to spend more than 20 per cent of the total budgetary amount on general administration, police, administration of justice and jails and convict settlements is to play a fraud on the poor taxpayer. Sir, I protest against the allocation of so much money for these purposes.

Then, Sir, I feel that our Government is itself responsible for fostering criminality and lawlessness in this State. Circumstances obtaining here are such that people, finding it impossible to earn an honest living are forced to take to crimes. Unemployment is on the increase and the Government is doing nothing to tackle this problem. I have received letters from the hosiery manufacturers of Ludhiana and the utensil manufacturers of Jagadhri that the industries they are engaged in are going to dogs and the Government is not prepared to save them from ruination. Along with the increasing unemployment is the mounting communal tension and the embitterment of the relations of the various communities inhabiting this State. This is the direct outcome of the weak-kneed policy of this Government. That the Prime Minister of India should have deemed it necessary to deplore the recent happenings in the Punjab is a matter of shame for the whole of the Punjab

There should be so much unemployment in the State and this Government should justify the supply of nine thousand kilowatts of electric energy to West Punjab on the ground that if this were not done the department would run into deficit is an argument which cannot convince any sensible person. This energy could very well have been utilised for industrialisation of this State. Industrialisation would have provided work to our idle people, increased the output of production and thus raised the standard of living of the people.

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The betterment of their economic condition would increase their purchasing power and all this would lead to an appreciable increase in the revenues of the State. But instead of having the courage and imagination of embarking on productive schemes of abiding interest to the State our Government is content with the paltry profit that it is making out of the supply of electric energy to West Punjab. Obviously it wants to escape the botheration which would be caused to it if it were called upon to devise schemes to utilise this electric energy.

From the quotation that I gave at the very outset from Dr. Gopi Chand's speech delivered in 1939 in the Assembly of the United Punjab it must have become clear to you, Sir, what tall claims were then made by the leaders of the party, which is in power today, about the expenditure that they would allocate for the beneficent departments on coming into office.

बहुत शोर सुंते थे पहलू में दिल का ।

जो चीरा तो इक कतरा य खून निकला ॥

ਬਹੁਤ ਸ਼ੋਰ ਸੁਣਤੇ ਥੇ ਪਹਿਲੂ ਮੇਂ ਦਿਲ ਕਾ

ਜੋ ਚੀਰਾ ਤੋ ਇਕ ਕਤਰਾਏ ਖੂਨ ਨਿਕਲਾ ।

Then, Sir, according to Dr. Gopi Chand's speech that I have quoted, in 1938-39, 14 per cent of the total budgetary amount was earmarked for education and in 1939-40, 13 per cent was allocated to it. But where do we stand now so far as budget allocation for education is concerned? Under the rule of this benign Congress Government the expenditure allocated to education stands at 11.77 per cent and if it continues to diminish at this rate in ten years' period it will come down to 1.77 of the total budget and ultimately disappear altogether. (*Laughter*) Keeping these facts in view, the hollowness of the professions of this Government to work for the welfare of the people stands revealed.

Only last year Dr. Gopi Chand had stated in a didactic tone that it was no use starting any more schools and colleges on the basis of the present system of education and thus add to the number of the

educated unemployed. He had claimed the superiority of the basic system of education over the present system. But how much money has been earmarked for starting institutions on the system of basic education—a system whose excellence was being paraded in such glowing terms only last year? And has any money been provided for opening primary schools in rural areas for the benefit of the children of the poor? This is how the expenditure on education is proposed to be allocated.

Provision has been made for the grant of Rs. 75,000 to the Punjab University. Funds have been provided for opening two Degree Colleges, one at Tarda-Urmar and the other at Muktsar and for taking over by Government of the Basic Primary School at Oel and the one at Karnal. Provision has also been made for continuance for (i) Adult (Social) Education Scheme (ii) temporary posts of Lecturers for Govt. Arts Colleges (iii) Government High School, Dalhousie (iv) Basic Government Primary Schools started at Gandhi Vanita Ashram, Jullundur (v) staff required for Government Girls Schools in the Punjab, and so on.

Sir, on going through the Budget memorandum, I find that in many cases the total amount of special pay and other allowances drawn by certain officials exceeds even their basic pay. Besides the special pay, they are in receipt of dearness allowance, conveyance allowance, temporary allowance, local allowance, travelling allowance and God knows what other allowances. Like the things coming out of a juggler's bag there appears to be no limit to these allowances. And then if we start counting the categories of inspectors, I think most of us will go crazy before completing the whole list. When we were students, we used to hear of only one category of inspectors i.e., the school inspectors. But now there are to be found numerous tribes of inspectors. These allowances appear to be coming out incessantly as if from a juggler's bag.

Sir, the work of this Government is so much inferior to the work of the much maligned Unionist Government that it bears no comparison to it. During the Unionist regime the percentage of expenditure on irrigation was 7.95 for one crore and 40 lakh acres of land whereas the percentage of expenditure is 4.27 on 30 lakh acres only.

Mr. Speaker : This point has already been discussed.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I wish to discuss it from another point of view. I wish to point out that this Government is a top heavy Government and is in the bad habit of wasting money on unimportant things. The fact of its being top heavy has been brought to its notice a number of times but it has always turned a deaf ear. It continues to levy more and more taxes in the form of "Abiana" etc to retain its top heavy character. I again request that it is not a thing of which any Government may be proud and it should consider over it a little more seriously.

I have to say a few words about the Zaildari system and the reorganization of Police as these matters are directly concerned with the country-side. I fail to understand as to why is the system of Zaildari, which was once given up, being again revived. This shows that this Government is capable of moving into the old grooves and cannot find its way independently. It has not been able to create any other agency which could replace the Zaildars. When it can't arrange such petty things how can we expect it to launch big schemes like the re-organization of Police etc. which actually call for a good deal of administrative acumen. There is an urgent necessity of re-organizing the Police but I am afraid this Government does not appear to have the capacity and the capability of doing this work. The Police of this Government only knows how to be away from the scene of occurrence of an offence of a dacoity or a murder and to be present at the spot after the occurrence to harass some innocent people. When I hear the misdeeds of this Police I am reminded of the incidents of the Jallianwalla Bagh where people were made to crawl on their bellies. It is this Police which is capable of creating evidence even against a father for having misbehaved with his daughter. One shudders to think of what this Police is doing. We should in no case give such a long rope to these people. I agree that we should do everything to maintain the prestige of this Department but it does not mean that the people of this Department may be allowed to take any liberty with the people that they like. In connection with the reorganization of this Department, I may offer a suggestion and it is this. The system of Chowkidara in the villages is as useless as the system of Zaildari and should be abolished at once. I am of the opinion that it would be much better if the amount which is raised from the villages for chowkidari is spent on establishing police posts in the villages. I believe the police posts will prove much more useful than the Chowkidara system. This is my idea and I think that the

Government will agree with me. Sir, we should always be thinking, as to how our Police can be made to render more useful service. In this respect we should take a lesson from the Bihar Government. It is learnt that in Patna the Government has established Control Rooms which are connected by telephone with the various mohallas and the streets of the cities. If and when police assistance is required by anybody in a mohalla he is in a position to contact himself with the Control Room on the telephone. But unfortunately nothing of this kind exists in this border province and no such protection is afforded here by the Government to its citizens. If, on the other hand, requests are made for checking crime in the State the answer is that the crime will automatically subside when the displaced people, who resort to them at times, have been resettled. Such answers do not satisfy anybody. And then the other measures which are being adopted by this Government in this behalf, for example, building extensive jails at Ferozepore or Amritsar, are not likely to check crime. I would ask the protagonists of this Government to read the relevant literature of countries like Germany, England, France or America if they have any desire to know how crime is to be checked in the country. They would then know that crime cannot be checked by building more jails but by imparting more education to the people. The existence of more jails in the country shows the backwardness of the country which nobody can be proud of. We should make every attempt to bid good-bye to this backwardness by educating our citizens. I dare say that if I had anything to do with the Budget I would have found more money for the beneficent departments as it is the beneficent departments only which can bring about peace and prosperity in our State. I would know how to spend about 50 per cent on these departments and would not allot more than 20 per cent for general administration and the Police. I am sure that at any rate 6 or 7 per cent out of the 31 per cent of expenditure on the Police can easily be utilised for beneficent purposes.

Sir, I honestly feel that if this Government were to act upon the useful advice of our Director of Agriculture, whom I see sitting at this time in the Official Gallery and who will no longer be with us as he is going to retire from service—we all wish him long life for the service of the nation—this State would have become very prosperous. We would have immensely improved our food situation and would have been in a position to set up sugar mills, textile mills and other industrial concerns. But, unfortunately, the so-called disciples of Mahatma Gandhi have not tried to do anything constructive. They have been wasting

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money on unnecessary things. If they were only to follow the teachings of their master and set up universities under the trees and the open fields, we would have become a different people by now. But nothing of this kind has happened and everybody is dissatisfied with the present state of affairs. Not to talk of persons like me, as after all I belong to the opposition, even the members of the Congress Assembly Party and the parliamentary secretaries of this Government have been forced to say that the work of this Government does not compare favourably with the work of the Unionist Government. Nothing worse could have happened to this Government.

One thing which is clear from the Budget is this, that the Government thinks that there is no scope for further taxation. Perhaps it does not think it opportune to levy more taxes. If that is the case, the question naturally arises whether the Government is not going to bring about any improvement in the condition of the people. Are no steps going to be taken to improve the health of the people or to remove illiteracy from among them? A few days back, I had an opportunity of reading a pamphlet issued by Mr. Datta, who is now our Director of Health Services. In that pamphlet, he has boldly revealed that the medical relief, which is claimed to be given to the people is nothing but a farce. He has stressed the need of medical relief and has sharply criticised the ineffective steps taken by the Government. If our Government does not propose to spend more money on agriculture, education or medical relief, what is it there for? Does it think that it need not do anything? How is it proposed to bring about a welfare State? What has been done for those poor people on whom these taxes have been imposed? What kind of medical relief has been provided for the poor masses? Has any effort been made to improve the general condition of the people and to raise their standard of living? A great injustice is being done to the people by going on increasing the amount of loans. I want the Government to explain how these loans will be repaid.

Then, Sir, we have been told that when Bhakra and Nangal Project are completed, betterment fees would be levied. Did not the Government supply electricity to a large number of towns, where great industrial development has taken place and the land which used to be sold at one rupee per sq. yard is being sold at the rate of ten, twenty or even thirty rupees per sq. yard? We have never heard of any betterment fees having been charged for providing various facilities to towns. Why should the rural people be burdened with

betterment fees? Is this being done because the representatives of these people betray their constituents and make no protest in this House? The town people are very intelligent and they know how to fight for their rights. As the representatives of rural people are quiet, betterment fees will be charged from the poor villagers. The Government goes on obtaining unproductive loans but the poor farmers are being given no facility. Does our Government claim to be progressive? I wish to tell them that only that Government can call itself progressive, which nationalizes industry, advances agriculture and gives maximum facilities to the people with the least burden of taxation. I feel that ours is a Government of the capitalists. It does not wish to touch the illegal gains of these capitalists.

Sardar Ajit Singh : This is the poor Government of Dr. Gopi Chand.

Sardar Bachan Singh : My hon. Friend says that it is a Government of the poor. In my opinion, it is a representative of the capitalists. It can get tube wells bored at Jagadhri for the benefit of a sugar mill situated there, but it cannot afford to provide that facility to poor zamindars. It can do many things for big people and black-marketers, but it can not help the tillers of soil. In this respect, great credit goes to late Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan and Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. When they found that the condition of villagers was becoming worse, they decided to make a scape goat of money lenders. They decided to put an end to the profession of money-lending, because they were proving a parasite for the poor villagers. I am glad that money lending had been ended. That evil no longer exists but now there has arisen another evil. Money has concentrated in the hands of a few capitalists. The Unionist Government could sacrifice thousands of small capitalists for the sake of poor peasantry, but our Government does not wish to touch a small number of big capitalists. We are told not to speak about the Unionist Government because the country was under the yoke of foreign rule at that time. I wish to say in this connection that freedom has no significance if the people are starving. The late President Roosevelt of America advocated four freedoms. He said that there should be freedom from want, freedom from disease, freedom from fear and freedom from ignorance. Unless our freedom is based on these foundations, this is no freedom at all. If the people do not get sufficient food to eat, the political freedom has no significance. Our Government

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today is increasing taxes on the poor, it goes on paying high salaries to its big officers, but does not provide hospitals and roads for the masses. All those things which our hon. Chief Minister used to demand in 1938, when he was the Leader of Opposition, are being ignored. This will lead to unrest in the State. I do not wish this unrest to spread and, therefore, I shall request the Government to take those steps which might lead to improvement in the general condition of the public.

In the end, Sir, I wish to remind the House that in 1949, the then Minister for Home and Revenue constituted a Land Reforms Committee. A great deal of expenditure was incurred on this committee in order that its recommendations might be acted upon by the Government. A part of expenditure of this Committee has been debited in the Budget for the next year also. For poor peasants, our Government has no funds, but I wish to know if the Land Reforms Committee has done any useful work except that there might have been an increase in the number of files. Huge sums of money have been spent on this Committee without any relief having been given to poor peasants.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : What benefit does the hon. Member expect from this Committee?

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am glad that my hon. Friend Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann has invited me to give my suggestions. I want only this much that our Government should fulfil its promises held out to the people in the past. As was said by the Governor in his Address, the Government has under consideration proposals for the liquidation of occupancy tenancies in the State. If that is done, thousands of poor people along with me will congratulate the Government.

Sardar Ajit Singh : This will be done.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I want that this problem should be seriously tackled. It has been said that it would be done. But I would have been glad if the hon. Chief Minister had declared that it would be done during the current session even if it had to be extended for ten days. The assertion of the hon. Member who has no voice in the Government, gives no assurance to me. If the hon. Chief Minister really wants to improve the lot of the people, he will have to give up old ways and to make new innovations. If he agrees to do that, he shall get our cooperation. He should see as to

who are the officers whose salaries can be reduced. But here is the case of the saying that the witness appears to be more active than the complainant. The Government issued a press communique sometime back that there were only 200 big officers getting more than Rs. 700 per mensem and if their salaries are reduced and the salaries of the low paid staff are raised to Rs. 100 per mensem, there would be a loss of Rs. 125 lakhs to the Government. But how was it presumed that the application of the cut should begin from Rs. 700 only. The dissatisfaction prevailing in the Services can be ended only if the salaries are revised on the whole. The dissatisfaction prevailing among the peasants can also be ended. But for this the Government shall have to change the methods and approach practised by it for the last three years. The Government has been so far increasing the burden of taxes on the poor people and giving more advantages to the rich. If it wants to end dissatisfaction among the people, it shall have to reduce the burden of taxes and to increase the services. It shall also have to spend more on the beneficent departments and less on police. It shall have to decrease the salaries of the big officers and to increase those of the subordinate officials. It shall have to sacrifice the few who are growing fat at the cost of others, in order to give more benefits to a larger number of people. If that is done, we shall be glad. In the end, I would like to say that the hon. Chief Minister should keep before him the verdict of the masses, which he intends to take in the coming elections. I would invite his attention to the last line of the editorial of the Tribune of yesterday. While writing on the budget, the Tribune says, "It has to be admitted that there is nothing very striking in the Budget. With a little more firmness in dealing with demands for increased expenditure, Dr. Gopi Chand would at least have avoided imposing any new tax burden." This and the comments of other newspapers along with the comments of the hon. Members of this House clearly shows that there is nothing very striking in the Budget. With the advent of independence, people have not felt any warmth and glow. This warmth cannot be kindled with the imposition of more taxes. For this purpose, the taxes shall have to be reduced, medical aid extended to the poor and the grievances of the peasantry removed. But we cannot make proposals for radical changes by sitting here. For this purpose, a committee shall have to be formed. Expenditure can be reduced and revenues increased. Poor can also be benefited only if the Government is serious to do that. But for this purpose, it shall have to change its methods.

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It shall have to stop the terror of the police and the big officers and the exploitation of the poor by the capitalists. This can be done in one way, i. e., by fulfilling the pledges of the Congress to the people. These pledges aimed at improving the hard lot of the peasants and the labourers. If these pledges are fulfilled the Government will be entitled to get our congratulations. But at present the people of the State are not happy over this Budget. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Badlu Ram : (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, through you I went to make a few suggestions to the Government. I find that the hon. Members have been only talking about the poor man without giving any constructive suggestion to the Government. I want to tell the Government that the way in which land holdings are sought to be consolidated, will give rise to more corruption among the officials. The Government has decided to entrust this work to the Deputy Commissioners of the districts. In this way, it will be done through the village Patwari who charges two rupees for making an entry in the revenue records. If this big task which concerns the lives of generations is entrusted to the patwaris, they will certainly extort huge sums of money from the zamindars. In fact, the Government should have appointed a committee to advise it in this matter. I would request the hon. Chief Minister that he should entrust this work to me in my district and should get it done through Government machinery in other districts. He would see that the work done in my district will be better than that done in other districts. I shall do it honorarily. But the difficulty is that the Government does not take anybody into its confidence. It consults nobody. If the officers have to consolidate the holdings by sitting at Rohtak, they cannot do it. The manner in which this matter is hanging fire is affecting the Grow More Food Campaign. I don't think this Government will actually consolidate the land holdings. This might be done by some other Government after the next elections. This is a Government of the urbanites and not of the rural people. It is not a Government of the ruralities. I am myself a member of the Congress but I am sorry to say that it has failed to satisfy the villagers. At present the Congress has in its fold traders, agriculturists and Harijans. How can such a party satisfy all the interests? I think it cannot go on like that for long. The Unionist party was

in this respect a party which met the needs of the agriculturists to some extent although I disagreed with that party on many important issues. My submission to the present Congress Government is that it should look to the needs of the villagers and try to take steps with a view to meet them. At present the policy of the Government is very weak. Instead of working for the betterment of the villages it is wasting its energies on such minor matters as fixing metal plates for controlling traffic on the Mall in Simla. Here we have no tongas or motors going about on the Mall. What, then, is the use of such unnecessary plates? People walking on the road are not going to clash against each other. So what is the use of spending thousands of rupees on such useless and luxurious things? Instead of spending here on such things the Government should spend in the villages on matters which may be of use to the poor people. If they do so, the common man will praise the Government and will consider it as his own Government. But as a matter of fact what we find is that instead of spending in the right direction the present Government is wasting public finances on unimportant matters. In this connection, I would like to point out that under present set up the Divisional Staff is serving no useful purpose. It is sitting like a white elephant without any work to do. So in my opinion the posts of Commissioners should be abolished. As Shri Ram Sharma pointed out in his speech one of the hon. Ministers was asked to remain in Kalka. My suggestion is that other hon. Ministers may also be posted at other places like Jullundur and Ambala so that the Commissioners may be relieved of their duties and the burden of Divisional Staff may be removed from the exchequer. For the last four years no useful work is being done by the Divisional Staff. Like the bullocks of a Baniya who has no fields to be ploughed, some of the officers are drawing salaries without any work to be done. I would strongly urge upon the Government to do away with such sinecure posts so as to save the finances of the State. I have seen in my district that most of the officers of the Panchyat Department are always busy in doing the work for the party and no useful work for the people is being done by them. As regards magistrates, I know of a case where one magistrate who had to go to Gurgaon as a witness in a case reached Hissar instead of Gurgaon. The magistrates in our district are of this type. As a matter of fact our district is considered as a training ground for unfit persons by our Government. Whenever any magistrate is found useless in other districts he is sent to Rohtak. About our Deputy Commissioner the less said the better. He is

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unable to control the subordinate staff. The A. D. M. and other officers do not obey his orders.

Another matter that I wish to refer to is that of Grow More Food. My submission is that from the time our State Government and the Government of India launched a campaign in press and from platform the food situation in the country has been going from bad to worse. The more efforts do we make in this direction, the more natural calamities like locusts, floods and drought do we experience. What is the reason for this? Why is nature hard on us? In my opinion the intentions of our Government are not pious. If the intentions were good how can God be severe to us? He never keeps anybody's labour provided it is undergone with pious intentions. So, I think, our Government is not working with pious intentions. The tehsildars appointed for Grow More Food Campaign are not interested in working for the good of the nation as a whole. They are in fact interested in their salaries and T. A.'s etc. Why doesn't the Government provide the M. L. A.'s with jeeps and ask them to work in the villages?

Minister for Labour : Why doesn't the Member go about in a cart?

Chaudhri Badlu Ram : On our part we are quite willing to go about in carts but does it lie in the mouth of an hon. Minister who moves about in a car to ask us to work on carts? As a matter of fact the Grow More Food Campaign can be better done and without any cost whatsoever if jeeps are provided and M.L.As. are asked to do the work. In my opinion the Zamindar M.L.As. can achieve better results than the B.As. and M.As. who are at present working in the villages. Such educated persons are not conversant with the conditions prevailing in the rural areas and they are unable to face the difficulties in the villages. I once saw a Tehsildar near a village working at his jeep which had gone out of order. He was there for many hours. I went to the village and brought some people who pushed his jeep and carried it to the road, and he took it away in no time then. My point is that if the co-operation of the people is sought they are too willing to give it. Our Panchayats can run efficiently if our officers and the Government are sincere in running them according to the wishes of the people. But our Government does not like to do

good and useful things for the public. If we consider the working of a democracy we can easily come to the conclusion that the Ministers should, in fact, be guided by the advice of the legislators and the wishes of the people. But the persons who are at the helm of affairs in our State are not good enough to realize this. They are busy in fixing plates on the Mall and drawing fat salaries. I wonder how long will such persons be able to run the administration. They are not capable of running it successfully. In fact, it is we, who have to run the Government for the good of the people at large. The educated persons from whose necks neck-ties are hanging like snakes are not those persons who can realize the difficulties of the poor. I am sure that the day is not far off when a really representative Government of the poor will rule us in a more efficient manner. When such a Government comes to power there will be no Divisional staff. Administration of affairs at the top will then be honest. If the administration at the top is good whole of the system becomes honest. If at my house the management is good how can my son become dishonest when he goes out to the fields? Why is there so much corruption in the State at present? In my opinion the management at the top is not good. If the hon. Chief Minister desires to remove corruption he should call the hon. Members and have a heart to heart talk with them about the affairs in their respective districts and be guided by their advice. The hon. Ministers should always work in consultation with hon. Members. But what I find is that they are not doing so. They have no contact with the masses through the M. L. A's or direct. The hon. Minister from Haryana seldom goes to the people in his illaqa to explain to them the matters in connection with the Bhakra Project and the electricity that is going to be produced. He is incharge of electricity and as such he should go to the ignorant people and educate them on electricity and explain the uses to which it can be put. A publicity of this type will stand the people in good stead and what is more, the hon. Ministers can come into a closer contact with the rural people. But unfortunately our hon. Ministers are incapable of doing such things. They have no qualities of character which can endear them to the poor people. They are hankering after offices and positions at whatever cost. They have no love for those whom they claim to represent. They sit here at Simla and enjoy. As a matter of fact only such persons should be made Ministers who have a spirit of sacrifice and service. Only true followers of Mahatma Gandhi, the man with the loin cloth, should be

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raised to such high positions so that, with the power that they may have, they may do good to the poor. How can Simla-Walas think in terms of the suffering millions? It is only by coming into closer touch with the farmers that the administration can run smoothly in our State.

My submission is that we are the staunch followers of that great Sage, Mahatma Gandhi, whose portrait now adorns this Chamber. He is in fact the maker of free India. Our country owes its freedom to that Saint who wore only the loin cloth, because he completely indentified himself with the poor. I am of the opinion that these gentlemen sitting at the heights of Simla and going about in costly cars and staying in well-furnished Rest Houses instead of lodging with the poor kisans during the tours, can never think of the hardships of the poor people. In this connection I may point out that when I used to deliver lectures, as an humble soldier of the Congress for pleading its cause, I would condemn the six annas Chaukidara tax, imposed on the villages and urged upon the Government to abolish it. But now the same Chaukidara tax, instead of having been reduced or revoked, has been enhanced to 18 annas by our own Congress Government. Since I am a true Congressman, I feel that it is the bounden duty of the Government, which is functioning under the direction of the great Congress Organisation, to put a stop to the evils of corruption and maladministration. I may make it clear that I am not criticising the Congress Government because, as alleged by Sardar Bachan Singh, I am opposed to it. I rather tender my advice to it to mend its ways. I may tell the hon. Ministers that by living cosily at the Simla heights, they cannot run the administration efficiently. I feel that that unhappy situation regarding the language controversy would not have arisen and the estrangement between the relations of different communities would not have occurred, if the hon. Ministers belonging to the Jullundur and Ambala Divisions respectively had decided to remain at Jullundur and Ambala and work for bringing about amicable settlement among the hostile parties.

Then I submit that after the attainment of Independence, the time has now come when we should bend our energies to raise the down-trodden people. Besides, I have to voice the grievances of the people of my ilaqa regarding the unsatisfactory and faulty supply of rationed articles by the Civil Supplies Department, which is not discharging its duty honestly. Since I spend 24 days out of a month in the villages, I get ample opportunities to see things in their true

perspective. I was shown a specimen of 'chon' which contained fifty per cent sand mixed in it. Now, as you are aware, Sir, a heavy worker like the peasant cannot work properly in the fields if he has to consume 'chon' containing admixture of sand in it. I would request the Government to adopt effective measures to stop this state of affairs and arrange for the efficient and pure supply of the rationed articles like atta.

Then, Sir, I strongly object to the holding of Assembly sessions during the months of March and October. It is in the month of March that harvesting of crops is to be accomplished by the Zamindars and October is sowing season for gram and barley crops. I may point out that the presence of a zamindar is needed more at home during these months than at the Assembly session. I fail to understand under what rule do the hon. Ministers hold sessions of the Legislature during such precious months and thus hamper harvesting and sowing operations.

I may mention here that there is a place in our district where the wells go dry during Summer. I request the Government to make arrangements for sinking of tube wells so that the difficulties of the people regarding water may be obviated. A few days ago my hon. Friend Bhagat Buja Ram made a request for the sinking of percolation or tube wells in the Loharu, Dujana and Pataudi States. But the hon. Chief Minister replied that he could not do anything as he was unable to follow the speech of Bhagat ji. It is not a matter of surprise for me if the hon. Chief Minister could not understand the language of my hon. Friend who simply spoke in his mother tongue. In this connection I may point out that I take strong objection to the Governments' continuing the old practice of printing the budgetary proposals and memorandum and other documents in the English language. It may be mentioned that even though people quarrelled among themselves over the language question during the Census operations in the Punjab, not even a single person in the whole of the State entered English as his mother tongue in the language column. I, therefore, fail to understand why the Government still persists in following the Britisher in his footsteps in printing the voluminous budgets, etc., in English despite the fact that the Britisher quitted India long ago. I would request the Government to arrange for the printing of all the documents in *Hindi* and *Punjabi*.

Then, Sir, I would ask the Government to bring about concord and amity among the Sikhs, Jats and Harijans. So far as my efforts are concerned, I may submit that in my district the relations of Jats

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and Harijans got strained some how. I persuaded both the parties to compose their differences and succeeded in bringing about amicable settlement between the Jats and Harijans. Now both the communities are living in peace. But some days ago the Jats and the Brahmins of Rohtak fell out and no less than six murders took place but it is a pity that Government has not moved to bring about peace among them. I may point out that the relations between the Harijans and Jats are cordial but the high caste classes like Jats and Brahmins are at loggerheads. I would ask the Government to lose no time in settling their differences, because this continued estrangement of relations between the Jats and Brahmins has an adverse effect on the production of food grains.

Then I would like to draw your attention to the tension between the Zamindars and the occupancy tenants. I think Government is responsible for all this trouble because it propagated the idea that the occupancy tenants would become masters of the lands they till. So the Harijans and other classes of occupancy tenants like the 'Lohars' etc. carried away the idea that they had become the de-facto owners of the lands leased out to them by the zamindars and they changed their attitude towards the latter. This was the cause of the zamindar-tenant trouble. I hope Government will make every effort to solve this tangle satisfactorily. With these words I close my remarks.

Cháudhri Sundar Singh (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural (Reserved Seat) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to make a few observations with regard to the Budget which has been presented by the hon. Chief Minister who is also holding the portfolio of finance.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this stage I have no intention to enter into any details so far as the budgetary figures are concerned. I shall only deal with some of the salient features which have been referred to by the hon. Chief Minister in the course of his Budget Speech. On perusing the Budget Speech when I first came across the name of the Father of the Nation, I thought to myself that there was no reason why it should not give us hopes and promises of a happy and a prosperous State. But as I went on turning the pages of this speech I was disappointed to find that there was nothing in it to justify the use of

the fair name of the Father of our Nation. As a matter of fact I am of the opinion that his name should not have been used at all. The reasons for this are not far to seek.

It is really a matter of deep regret that we do not find any mention in the Budget Speech about improving the hardlot of the Harijans for whom our beloved Leader Mahatma Gandhi did not hesitate to beg with a bowl in his hand. It were the wishes of the Harijans which were always with him that he succeeded in liberating the country from the foreign yoke. Let me make this point clear for the information of the hon. Members that he won the battle of our freedom only for the sake of the Harijans. It goes without saying that almost all great men and leaders of high repute produced by our country had developed in them a great spiritual power. They controlled masses. Through their missionary spirit and zeal they brought about a revolution in the masses. This they did not by resorting to any force or violence but simply by moral and spiritual forces. They acted upon the set principles of humanity, justice and fairplay. Our beloved leader Mahatma Gandhi did the same thing. He went still further and attained the heights of spirituality. He preached what he himself believed and followed. By acting upon set principles he led the people to the goal of Independence. It was through him that we attained freedom of our country, otherwise it was impossible to achieve it. The reasons for this are not wanting. India was full of innumerable religions, poverty and Communalism. There were many obstacles in the way of the attainment of freedom. For instance, due to the existence of innumerable religions, people had grown communal-minded to such an extent that it was impossible to bring them to the right path. On the one hand some people were living in plenty and on the other majority of them had no food to eat, no clothes to wear and no place to live in. Untouchability was in vogue to such an extent that a person belonging to the Scheduled Castes could not move out freely. It was our beloved leader, Mahatma Gandhi who acted upon the set principles and strived for the amelioration of the Scheduled Castes and thus led the people of this country to the goal of Independence. He thus succeeded in achieving what it was considered to be impossible to achieve. The Father of the Nation acted upon the set principles laid down by our Gurus like Guru Nanak, Guru Ravi Das and other saints and sages.
(Interruptions)

I was submitting, Sir, that the fair name of our beloved leader should not have been brought in the Budget speech as we do not find any reference in it about the amelioration of the lot of the Harijans of our State for whom he ceaselessly toiled all through his life.

[Chaudhri Sundar Singh]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this stage I have no mind to enter into any politics whatsoever. Since I claim to be a staunch follower of the Father of the Nation, I will express my innermost feelings with regard to the conditions under which Harijans are living at present in our State. Before I do so, I would like to quote a few lines from the sayings of the Father of the Nation. He has said :—

I am not a statesman in the garb of a saint That since truth is the highest wisdom, my acts, sometimes appear to be consistent with highest statesmanship. I hope I have no policy in me save the policy of truth, of Ahimsa, I will not sacrifice it even at the deliverance of my country and religion as much as to say neither can be so delivered
M. K. Gandhi.

Sir, I feel in the heart of my hearts that the hon. Chief Minister should not have brought in the name of the Father of the Nation, in his Budget speech. The conditions under which our Harijan brethren are living at present in our State are very much discouraging. In this connection I would like to point out that the hon. Chief Minister has, while replying to a question, pointed out that the number of abducted Harijan women and girls was 132. If our beloved leader Mahatma Gandhi was alive today he would not have hesitated to fast unto death on hearing about the abduction of Harijan women and girls. It was he who toiled all through his life for the amelioration of the condition of the Harijans. As a matter of fact he had a soft corner for one and all specially those who were down-trodden. He believed in improving the lot of those who were reduced to poverty and misery for no fault of their.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Please speak on the Budget.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Sir, what I wish to point out is that the hon. Chief Minister should not have referred to Bapu's name in the course of his Budget speech.

The Government sanctioned 78 lakhs of rupees to be given to Harijans in the form of taccavi loans. But may I ask the Government that out of this sum how much amount was actually distributed amongst the Harijans? Similary lakhs of rupees were spent to repair the damaged evacuee houses in the rural areas but very few houses were allotted to Harijans. The policy pursued by the Government in regard to the allotment of houses was not in the interest of Harijans. According to that policy it was difficult for the Harijans

to get any house allotted in their favour. The scheme provided that the Harijans who were owners of houses in the West Punjab were entitled to get houses of evacuee owners and the non-proprietors were entitled to get non-proprietors' evacuee houses. Similarly, Harijans who were shop-keepers in the West Punjab were entitled to get shopkeeper evacuees' houses and Harijans who were kamins were entitled to get kamin evacuees' houses. In the West Punjab there was a class of people who worked for zamindars such as barbers, washermen and *Telis*. Such people, who had occupied the evacuee houses, were forcibly ejected from these houses by the Government on the ground that they were not entitled to occupy those houses as they did not belong to kamins. The Harijans had to face great trouble and hardship and were compelled to offer satyagraha against such a policy of the Government. Afterwards the Government revised its policy and declared that landless tenants are entitled to get landless evacuees' houses. But Government order is honoured more in its breach than in its observance, no houses were allotted to the Harijans on the score of this order. I think that Harijans had to undergo this trouble as there was no Harijan officer in any district who could render assistance to these people. Every officer tried his utmost to help the people of his own community in the matter of allotment of houses, the poor Harijans had to go from door to door but nobody cared to help them. The officers of the Government are to be blamed for this and also the Government for pursuing a wrong policy in the matter of allotment of houses to Harijans. These people had to undergo great hardships in the districts of Jullundur Division where they were forcibly ejected from the evacuee houses. Last year when most of the evacuee houses in the rural areas collapsed on account of heavy floods we, as a matter of fact, heaved a sigh of relief as the problem of allotment of houses over which there was a cry of defeat and despair among the Harijans would not continue to bother our heads.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker removed the Chair)

So far as the reservation of 15% posts for Harijans in Government services is concerned, I am sorry to say that the Government has failed to implement its decision. There are only three Harijans among Gazetted officers. This attitude of the Government gives no hope or comfort to the Harijans that their lot will ever be ameliorated by this Government. It is high time that the Government realized its responsibility towards the Harijans and gave 15% share of services when highly qualified Harijans are to be found in the State. I feel that so long as there are no Harijan officers

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in the State there is little scope for this community to make any progress.

The House is aware that the social boycott, intimidation and coercion of Harijans in the villages has led to the creation of deplorable situation in the State. This bitterness has been caused by communal controversy over the question of language during the census enumerations. I would not like to say who is at fault because I know how much sympathy a Lala or a zamindar has got for us. Frankly speaking, I should say that I am a strict follower of Hindu religion. Swami Vivekanand had once remarked that—

There is no religion on the earth which teaches dignity of humanity in such a lofty strain as Hinduism, but there is no religion on earth which trands on the neck of poor and low in such a fashion as Hinduism.

I know that in the United Punjab the Sikh leaders used to cajole us that we should not align ourselves with the Muslim League and now they tell us to go to West Punjab. I may inform my hon. Friends that Harijans will never leave India. Mahatma Gandhi had once said that he could not live without Harijans and by saying so he had won the hearts of Harijans. He also said that he would like to see a Harijan as the President of India. Dr. Ambedkar had once remarked that—

If I was not born as a Hindu it was n t my fault, I will not die as a Hindu.

Such people who say that we should go to Pakistan, as a matter of fact, betray their own weaknesses. I would refuse to listen to such an advice coming from a person who did not hesitate to carry on negotiations with the Muslim League. Now these people do not even allow us to come near them. For my part, I should say that we consider ourselves very close to Sikhs, and we are better Hindus and better Sikhs than they may consider themselves to be.

So far as I think no one can claim to be a more staunch congressite than a Harijan. 'Harijan' means a poor man — one who follows the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

Sir, only the other day Shri Jagjiwan Ram, a devoted follower of Mahatma ji, had appealed to the people not to get their latrines cleaned by the Harijans if they were sincerely anxious to raise their

social status and dignity. But I regret to say that this appeal has fallen on deaf ears. So far as I am concerned, I have been cleaning my latrine myself for the last six years due to my keenness to follow the principles taught by Mahatma ji. As taught by the Father, I believe in the noble maxim, 'First mend thy self'.

Then, Sir, I want to sound a note of warning that those who think that by show of violence and threats they will be able to compel the Harijans to renounce their principles will never succeed in their nefarious designs. Harijans are made of sterner stuff; they are not going to be cowed down by communalists. Why should we blame the Government if the administration is weak? The cause of the evils we are suffering from lies in us. We are dishonest; you, I, and every one of us. We say one thing and do exactly the opposite. We are neither with the Government without any mental reservations nor are prepared to oppose it with all our strength. Some of us act against the principles of the Congress and yet remain members of the Congress party. Is this honest dealing? Those who criticise the Government in such a trenchant and scathing manner vote with it when a division is claimed. Is it honesty? So neither do we support it wholeheartedly nor throw it out. Why then blame the Chief Minister. If we desire a thing sincerely how can the Chief Minister stand in the way. Why make him a scapegoat for our own weaknesses. If he is successful in keeping the majority of the members with him it all goes to his credit. As for me, I confess I cannot keep a single member with me. If we indulge in unsparing criticism of the Government and yet support it we are downright dishonest people. If I act in such a manner, I will also be a dishonest man.

Now, Sir, without dilating on the treatment that is meted out to the Harijans by other sections of people, I would urge the Government to take effective steps to safeguard their life, property and honour at all costs. For this purpose it is imperative that the Harijans should have their due share of posts in the police service. So long as they do not get proper share in this vital service, protection of law will continue to be denied to them, and they will remain at the mercy of the rich. For the present it is very necessary to appoint thirty to forty Harijans as Sub-Inspectors of Police in the various districts of the State. Harijans can afford to wait for some time to have their due share in other services but as regards police they want their share here and now as without it they cannot have any sense of security in rural areas.

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In order to restore confidence and sense of security among the Harijans living in villages, it is also very urgent that arms licences should be granted to them freely so that they might be in a position to try to defend their life and honour in time of danger. If our Government can be so kind to the opulent zamindars in the matter of grant of licences for keeping fire arms, why should it grudge this small concession to the people whose life and honour are constantly exposed to danger? My hon Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has also pleaded for granting arms licences freely to the people who are living in constant danger to their lives.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Sir, I suggest that the whole of the remaining time should not be given to the hon. Chief Minister for making a reply as some hon. Members have still to make very useful contributions to the discussion on the Budget.

Mr. Speaker : The Lady Member should know that other hon. Members have made so much criticism that much more time is required for a reply than what remains.

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for giving me sufficient time to enable me to reply to all the objections that have been raised in regard to the Budget. To begin with I also wish to place before this House a quotation from the "Tribune" as has been done by many of the hon. Members. It is true that my hon. Friends have been able to support their points of view by making references to the "Tribune" and I also admit that we should not resort to taxation so far as we can help but when funds are wanted by the State, taxes have to be imposed as there is no other way out. This is what the "Tribune" says about the imposition of our taxes.

We have not been opposed in the past to new taxation. We consider the Sales-Tax a perfectly legitimate imposition, though we consider its rates unduly high and would have been happy if they had been reduced by 50 per cent. The enhancement of water rates is fully justifiable in view of the rise in cost of service. But we have maintained at the same time that the Government should fully explore

all avenues of augmenting the revenues of the State before deciding upon additional taxation and that the tax system of the State should be equitably devised.

Further this paper suggests that the Government should have done two things, namely,

- (i) that it should have imposed Agricultural Income-Tax as recommended by the Government of India, and
- (ii) that it should have embarked upon the Transport Nationalization Scheme.

Sir, first of all I wish to place before this House the position in regard to the imposition of Agricultural Income-Tax. This Agricultural Income-Tax has been levied in three or four States on the basis on which Income-Tax is imposed. The West Bengal is raising Rs. 40,00,000; Bihar, Rs. 30,00,00 ; Orisa Rs. 8,00,00 by way of Agricultural Income-Tax. In the Punjab according to our present set up the number of zamindars on whom this tax can be levied is so small that it is not possible for us to raise any considerable amount. Our estimate is that if we impose this tax in our State we cannot realize more than Rs. 5,00,000. This is not all. The realization of this small amount involves a great inconvenience to the zamindars who will have to keep regular accounts. The suggestion of imposing any surcharge on the land revenue has also not found favour with us. What we have done is only this that we have raised the rates of the abiana. The other States have had recourse to all the three things, namely, they have imposed Agricultural Income-Tax, they have imposed a surcharge on the land revenue and they have raised the rates of abiana, but we have done only one thing and it is this that we have raised the rates of abiana, this rise in abiana affects only a very small number of zamindars. Here I may also deal with the question of increasing the land revenue. Firstly I may say that it was not possible for us to increase the land revenue as such a step cannot be taken by the State unless and until a new settlement is made. Hon. Members are perhaps aware that so far we have been able to carry out settlement only in one or two districts and we will have to wait for a pretty long time before settlement is complete in other districts of the State. This is

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one reason why we cannot increase the land revenue at present. Another reason is that when we did not like the idea of imposing a surcharge on the land revenue; the idea of effecting an increase in the land revenue was much less acceptable. Imposition of the surcharge would have affected a few zamindars but any increase in the land revenue would have affected every zamindar as every zamindar pays land revenue. We thought that effecting any increase in the land revenue would cause hardship to the small owners and, therefore, we refrained from taking such a step. The only alternative left for us was that we should increase the "Abiana" by 50 per cent. I think that this increase in the "Abiana" is not unreasonable as our neighbour State of Uttar Pradesh, whose Abiana rates were already higher than ours, has doubled this tax.

Now I come to the nationalization of Transport. It will be recalled that this Government had prepared a scheme for nationalization of Transport but it had to be postponed for three years as a resolution was passed by this House to this effect. Besides this, there was an additional reason that we could not undertake the scheme until we had paid compensation for the buses and the spare parts which were to be acquired. We felt that the scheme may not be profitable if we were to undertake it after paying the price of buses etc. which had risen so high. So due to these reasons we did not undertake the whole scheme and adopted only a few routes in accordance with the wishes of this hon. House. And this was of course done by way of an experiment in connection with this scheme. As for the companies which were using these adopted routes, they were given other routes.

Sir, the "Tribune" has suggested that the rate of the Sales Tax should be reduced. I am to submit that the rate of this tax is not lower than Rs. 3 and 2 As. per hundred rupees in any State which has imposed this tax. In Bengal the rate is Rs 4 and 11 As. per hundred rupees. The rate in the U. P. is a little less on some articles and is a little more on other articles. But even in U. P., where the rate is less on some articles, the tax is imposed not only at one stage but on all stages. As regards the difficulties experienced by the traders in regard to the manner of realization of this tax, the Government agreed to

remove these, as far as possible, after discussion with their representatives. The Government feels that the burden of a tax is always felt by the people who have to pay it and they should be given all possible facilities. As regards those traders, who evade payment of the tax, the Government contemplated taking certain steps, but the traders wanted us to postpone that action. Now, however, I am glad to say that all these questions have been settled and the Government is going to implement those decisions shortly.

If we take the figures of normal revenues and expenditure of this State after partition, it would be noticed that these resulted in an annual deficit of about Rs. 175 lakhs. On the basis of this deficit, the Government of India gave subsidy to this State for the first three years. Last year also we got a subsidy of Rs. 75 lakhs, but now they have decided to discontinue giving us this form of help. It is partly due to the financial limitations of the Government of India and partly on account of their desire to make all the States self-sufficient. In spite of the loss of this substantial amount, we have tried to balance our Budget. It is easy to say that we have increased taxes but how can a Government run its administration, if it does not possess sufficient funds to meet the expenditure of its various departments. A Budget cannot be balanced by making some paper entries only. The expenditure has to be actually incurred and unless there are sufficient revenues to meet it, we cannot have a balanced Budget. It was said that we spent less on beneficent departments. I do not possess the latest figures, but if a comparative study is made of the figures for the last two years, it would be noticed that we have been spending more than several other States. The following amounts were spent by various States on Education during the year 1948-49 :—

Madras	..	Rs. 1/11	per head.
Bombay	...	Rs. 3/10	„ „
Uttar Pradesh	..	Rs. -/14/-	„ „
Bihar.	..	Re. /5/-	„ „
C. P. & Berar.	..	Rs. 1/5/-	„ „
Assam	..	Rs. /12/-	„ „
Orissa	..	Rs. 1/1/-	„ „
East Punjab.	..	Rs. 1/7/-	„ „

[Chief Minister]

It is true that our expenditure per capita was less than that of Madras and Bombay, but it was much more than the other States.

Sardar Bachan Singh : What are the figures of actual expenditure?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member can find these out from the Budget, which must be available in the Library. Now let us examine the figures for Medical Relief and Public Health for the year '948-49. These are as under :—

Madras	..	Re. -/11/	per head.
Bombay	..	Rs 1/5/-	„ „
Orissa	..	Re. -/12/-	„ „

In the case of other States it was six or seven annas per capita. In the case of East Punjab, the expenditure per capita was Re. -/10/-

Total Expenditure on all beneficent departments for the various States during the same year was as follows :—

Madras	...	Rs. 3/3/-	per capita.
C.P. & Berar.		Rs. 2/10/-	„ „
Bombay	...	Rs. 6/15/-	„ „
Assam	...	Rs 1/5/-	„ „
Utta: Pradesh		Rs. 2/8/-	„ „
Orissa	...	Rs. 1/14/-	„ „
Bihar	...	Rs. 1/4/-	„ „
East Punjab		Rs. 3/14/-	„ „

For the year 1949-50, the figures for total expenditure on all the beneficent departments are as given below :—

Madras	...	Rs. 3/5/-	per capita.
C. P. & Berar		Rs. 3/-/-	„ „
Bombay	...	Rs. 7/12/-	„ „
Assam	...	Rs. 2/9-	„ „

Uttar Pradesh		Rs. 2/15/-	per capita.
Orissa	...	Rs. 2/7/-	„ „
Bihar	...	Rs. 1/4/-	„ „
East Punjab		Rs. 3/5/-	„ „

Following are the figures of total expenditure on beneficent departments for the year 1950-51 :—

Madras	...	Rs. 3/11/-	per capita.
Assam	...	Rs. 2/12/-	„ „
Bombay	...	Rs. 10/12/-	„ „
Uttar Pradesh		Rs. 2/12/-	„ „
Bihar	...	Rs. 2/2/-	„ „
Orissa	...	Rs. 2/1/-	„ „
C. P. & Berar		Rs. 2/15/-	„ „
Punjab	...	Rs. 3/-/-	„ „

I have placed these figures before the House in order that it might form a correct opinion about what we have done in connection with departments connected with the welfare of the people.

Then, Sir, it was said that we did not spend sufficient money on this department or that. One of my Friends said that if he was entrusted with the entire task of administration, he would work honorarily and manage the affairs satisfactorily. I could not understand how this was possible because there are a large number of departments and I feel that one person cannot manage the affairs of even one district satisfactorily. Some of my hon. Friends rightly complimented our Director of Agriculture on his meritorious work. He was responsible for bringing about a great deal of progress in agriculture in this State. Though a great deal of criticism has been made regarding working of the 'grow more food scheme', I make bold to say that in this respect our State has always occupied the foremost position. Those in-charge of this work feel that the money advanced in the form of loans or subsidy grants for this scheme, was most usefully spent in this State. For the same reason, when the Government of India ceased giving aid for this purpose to other States, we

[Chief Minister]

were told that we could get as much money as we needed. In the Budget of the Government of India relating to the period up to June, we have been given Rs. 40 lakhs for the purchase of tractors.

The fact that our brethren produced more foodgrains through their efforts and we were able to help other parts of the country, shows that the Punjab has done commendable work in the Grow More Food Campaign.

Then, Sir, it has been said that we have abolished the Peasants Welfare Fund which was maintained in the united Punjab and the interests of the zamindars have thus been affected. This Fund was utilized in giving scholarships to the boys of agriculturists. For the information of the House, I intend to give some figures. At the time of partition, the number of scholarships for boys out of the Fund was 128, out of which 54 went to the agriculturists. For the remaining 74 all students were eligible. At present, after the abolition of this Fund, we give 248 scholarships out of our revenues, while previously the number was only 128. Out of these 248 scholarships 174 are reserved for the agriculturists. Previously, only 22 scholarships used to be given to agriculturist girls out of a total of 38 scholarships. But now, instead of 38, we give 98 scholarships out of which 76 are meant for agriculturist girls. Now the hon. Members can themselves see whether the abolition of this Fund has led to the advantage or disadvantage of agriculturists. Sir, I shall try to reply to all the criticism in the order in which I have made notes. So far as the question of the recovery of abducted women is concerned, this work is being done under the Government of India. So far i. e., from the 6th December, 1947 to 31st January, 1951, we have got back from Pakistan 7175 recovered women and children. During this period, Punjab (I) recovered 14072 women and children. Only recently, we had here a good-will mission from West Pakistan to have talks with us about expediting the work of recovery of abducted women. This mission went back after having talks with us and the Government of India. Similarly, the Government of India sent a good-will mission to Pakistan in June, 1950, which comprised the following members :—

1. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.
2. Mian Abul Ghani.

3. Sardar Bachan Singh.
4. Mehta Ranbir Singh.
5. Lala Kedar Nath Saigal.
6. Mohammad Ahmed Sahib, Member Parliament.
7. Maulana Habib-ul Rehman.
8. Sardar Mohan Singh Sahni.
9. Chaudhri Yasin Khan, Meo leader of Gurgaon.
10. Sardar Kulbir Singh, brother of the late Sardar Bhagat Singh.
11. Hafiz Mushtaq Ali.

This good-will mission consisted of eleven men. We have received intimation from the Government of India that it has decided to send another good-will mission to Pakistan under the leadership of Shri Bim Sen Sachar.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I have not yet accepted that invitation.

Chief Minister : That is a different matter. Then, Sir, it was said that by withdrawing 31 iron and steel scandal cases, the Government wanted to hush up the black-market cases. I would explain why these cases are withdrawn. Under the Iron and Steel Control Order, the Government of India could delegate their powers. They delegated their powers to the Steel Controller, Calcutta. But the Steel Controller further delegated his powers to an Officer in this State. This was against the rules. In November, the Government of India realized that they should have delegated powers to the State Government. Consequently, they issued a new order in November regarding the delegation of powers. Hence no cases could be instituted against the permits issued before November, because they were illegal. It was due to this fact that the 31 cases which related to the permits obtained before November, were withdrawn.

Then, Sir, it has been said that the posts of the Commissioners should be abolished. Similarly, the number of the posts of the Financial Commissioners and the Chief Engineers is considered too much. This criticism implies that we spend more than what is necessary. Sir, under the rules, appeals lie to the Commissioners

[Chief Minister]

in a number of matters. In the matter of land revenue and transport, appeals lie also to the Financial Commissioners. In other States, for instance Madras, where the posts of Commissioners have been abolished, a Board of Revenue consisting of three members, each of the rank of a Financial Commissioner, has been set up. So long as the House does not amend the existing law on the subject, provision has got to be made to execute it. In U. P., the Government reduced the number of Commissioners; but after some experience, they again had to increase their number. It has been complained that we have three Financial Commissioners. I may inform the House that one Financial Commissioner was necessary to cope with the Revenue work. The second has been entrusted with the work of Grow-More-Food Campaign. Ever since the beginning of this campaign, the work had not been actively carried on. Similarly, there was the need of a Financial Commissioner to cope with the growing work of development schemes. It was felt that there should be an officer higher in status than the Deputy Commissioner to get work from him, in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign. Consequently, one Financial Commissioner was put in charge of food. He was also entrusted with the work of Industries Department. The other Financial Commissioner deals with Rehabilitation and now he has also been appointed Administrator, Capital Project. The universal practice is that for a certain amount of work, a minimum set of officers is necessary.

If there is some increase in the amount of work, it can be distributed among the existing officers but if the amount of work increases out of all proportion and the existing set of officers are unable to cope with it, it becomes essential to increase the strength of the staff. It was on account of this increase that there was a need for three Chief Engineers in the Irrigation Department. At first there were two posts of Chief Engineers. One of them was incharge of Establishment and Running Canals. The other performed functions in connection with Bhakra and Nangal projects. He was also incharge of Irrigation Research Institute. The third was needed because it was not possible for one Chief Engineer to cope with the work in connection with new canals and supervision of Bhakra and Nangal projects and the existing canals. Moreover, after partition the work increased because of the canal dispute between Pakistan and India. The dispute is still

unsettled and the work that has increased requires the attention of a Chief Engineer. There are certain new projects in hand, for example, the Harike project which is a scheme of about eighteen crores. This project is also with the Chief Engineer of Bhakra. So on account of such increase in Irrigation work it was essential that another Chief Engineer should be appointed.

My hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has raised an objection that the distribution of controlled articles has not been carried out with the help of co operative societies. In this connection, I wish to inform the House that we have tried our best to open such societies wherever possible and to carry out the distribution through them. For instance, sugar is distributed at 258 places through co-operative societies. Foodgrains are distributed through such societies at 156 places and seeds at 61 places. There is no control on kerosene oil now but when there was control it was distributed through such societies at 105 places. So it is quite clear that so far as we can we have been doing such work with the help of co-operative societies.

Sir, it has been stated that we won't be able to build our capital before some years. In this connection, the example of Orissa has been cited. I can, for the present, say this much only that I know that a contract for Orissa capital is with one of the non. Members. But I cannot say why there is any delay in the building of the capital of Orissa. As far as our capital is concerned, I can assure that early steps are being taken for its successful completion.

Another matter which has been raised is regarding the construction of resin and cement factories in the Punjab. So far as cement factory is concerned, it costs, if I am not making a mistake, a sum of rupees eighty lakhs. We can take the money out of Bhakra Fund, as has been suggested, only with the advice of the Central Government because it is the Central Government which is providing us money for the purpose. We had discussions with the Central Government on this matter and many aspects of the problem were considered. For running a factory the Government has either to keep its own manager or it has to appoint some managing agency and the factory should belong to the Government itself. Another alternative is that the Government may have controlling shares in it or it may have only token shares. In any case, so far as cement factory is concerned, it has to be run by the Government and as the hon. Members know, at present we are not in a position to do.

[Chief Minister]

so on account of having very few trained officers for the purpose. If we resort to the second alternative i.e. we appoint managing agents, then the purpose for which the hon. Members desire to have such a factory started is not going to be served. In India, the Associated Cement Company manages the cement factories. The Government of India asked us to have discussions with other factories for this purpose and to get their advice. So the hon. Members can see that it is not the fault of the Punjab Government.

As regards rosin factory, of course, tenders were called by the Government; but later on it came to the knowledge of the Government of Punjab that there was not enough rosin in our State for such a big factory. In Hoshiarpur there is production of rosin on a small scale but it is utilized locally. In Himachal Pradesh, there is a small factory of rosin. But for a big factory Punjab alone cannot spend. In Joint Advisory Council of the Punjab, Pepsu and Himachal Pradesh, the matter came under consideration and it was felt that a joint effort should be made for starting such a factory and that the State of Jammu and Kashmir may also be invited to join. If such joint efforts are made, it is possible to start such a large factory, otherwise Punjab alone cannot do so.

It has been stated by some of the hon. Members that the Government does not provide any encouragement to the woody and metal industries. For the information of the hon. Members I would like to state that there is control on cotton yarn. As regards silk and wool yarn, it is mostly imported. Whenever the persons concerned expressed a desire, the Government approached the Central Government and procured licence for import for them. As regards metals, the hon. Members are aware that there is control on most of them.

It has been said that I used to make speeches criticizing the policy of the then Government of the Punjab with regard to Education in 1938-39 and that now I am speaking against College and High School Education wherever I go. In this connection, I beg to submit that my views are that basic education is more important under the present conditions. In my opinion, and I think I am right in holding this opinion, basic education is the need of the hour and schemes of basic education should find priority. Education should be given through agriculture. For all schemes of education to be successful, the

fundamental need is that of trained teachers. So we have already started two schools for the training of teachers in basic education in the State. We are going to start another school shortly and it is our desire that there should be one such school for every district. This is for new teachers. For old teachers, we are making arrangements for having refresher courses. The importance which I place on basic education does not mean that I am against higher and university education.

Then, Sir, special pay given to certain officers has come in for severe criticism. I may point out that if I place all the details regarding this matter before the House, then I may not be able to touch other points which call for a reply. I, therefore, pass on to other objections that have been raised by my hon. Friends. One of the objections is with regard to the grant of dearness allowance to the officers. I fail to understand why my hon. Friends have taken exception to this. On the one hand they plead for the enhancement of grades of pay to the Government servants and on the other they object to the dearness allowance being paid to them. I may point out that the dearness allowance is increased in a certain proportion to the rise in the cost of living. If the prices come down, it is also reduced in the same proportion. But if instead of making an enhancement in the dearness allowance, the scales of salaries are revised and the salaries are increased, then with the reduction in the cost of living, it will not be possible for the Government to reduce the salaries. I, therefore, feel that the Government has discharged its duty honestly by granting dearness allowance to the government servants.

Then, Sir, much credit has been given by my hon. Friends to the Unionist Government for putting an end to the Sahukara system. I was also a member of the Assembly at that time when legislative measures restricting the activities of the money-lenders were passed by that Government. Now my speeches are quoted in that connection. But I would refer them to my speeches which I delivered in connection with the Agrarian Bills. They should also take into consideration the amendments put forward by the Congress Party to those Bills. Although at that time the same were rejected by the Unionist Government, yet later on experience showed to the Unionist Government that our amendments were most reasonable and it had to bring in amending Bills to the parent Acts for purposes of incorporating the spirit of our amendments. But as you are aware, Sir, as a

[Chief Minister]

result of this legislation another class 'sahukars' came into existence. They were agriculturist money-lenders and these privileged capitalists exploited the peasants like anything. It is no exaggeration to say that these agriculturist 'sahukars' have proved worse Shylocks to the poor peasants. They have surpassed even these money-lenders who were obliterated by agrarian legislation. In 1939, a third amendment of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act was put forward with this express provision that no landlord could take possession of the land of the debtor till a period of three years had elapsed. We had brought this fact to the notice of the Government at that time that if this provision was adopted, then a creditor sahuakar would purchase land from another sahuakar and then get it exchanged with another creditor sahuakar but no heed has been paid by my hon. Friends to what we said at that time. Then due to the out break of hostilities, the indebtedness of our province was reduced to a considerable extent. Now that money-lender is no more it is our fervent desire that the agriculturist money-lender should also go as he has proved a worse substitute for the non-agriculturist sahuakar. I hope land reforms of far-reaching nature would be introduced for the amelioration of the hard lot of the poor peasant and the same will have full support of the House.

Then, Sir, objection has been taken to the demand for money for meeting the expenditure incurred in connection with the Land Reforms Committee. It has been said as to why a provision should be made for this Committee when it has not accomplished any task worth the name. I may tell the detractors of the Land Reforms Committee that this Committee is scrutinising and tackling the problem of the occupancy tenants. I may say for their information that it has submitted its report and on its basis a Bill has been prepared, which is to be considered by the Cabinet. If the House so desires, this legislative measure will be brought forward for its consideration during this very session.

Then, Sir, Government has been blamed for not abolishing Zamindari in this State. I want to enquire one thing from my hon. Friends who have vehemently criticised the Government on this account. They recommend that the maximum pay of a salaried person should be fixed at Rs. 1000/- per mensem, but may I ask whether they

know of any zamindar in any village who gets an income of Rs. 12000/- per annum from his land. Should we not permit a zamindar to retain such land as would give him an income of Rs. 1000 per mensem? Will my hon. Friends tell the number of such zamindars who possess so much land as to get an income of Rs. 12 thousand a year? I may tell them that in this State there is very little difference between a zamindar-aland-owner and a peasant. As a matter of fact the literal meaning of the word 'zamindar' is the owner of land. But the instances which my hon. Friends quote with regard to the abolition of Zamindari are from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madras etc. In those States, we find Taluqdars possessing huge areas of land. But can anybody say that Taluqdars exist in the Punjab State? Punjab is not rich in this commodity. Can anybody tell the number of such capitalists? If not, then how can this Government develop the mentality of capitalists? So far as I am concerned, I am one of the few hon. Members who have neither land in a village nor any property in a town. I, therefore, think that it is not fair on the part of my hon. Friends to dub me as a capitalist or a sympathiser of the capitalists. My friend over there has pointed towards my ring, I may tell him that I do not deny its possession. But this is not land existing either in a village or a town nor does it indicate any share of a Joint Stock Company. This is my personal property. I am a labourer and by dint of labour and industry I earn my living. Providence in Its infinite kindness placed my parents in such a position that they enabled me to earn my living by honest labour. I think I have not the least connection with capitalists either in action or thought. When this is so, how can I run the administration of the Government on capitalist lines. I am of the opinion that it is the bounden duty of every government to work for the good of the poor and make solid efforts to improve the hard lot of every man in the State to such an extent that he is able to earn a living wage.

Then, Sir, I feel much pained to find that my hon. Friends try to bring in the name of the Father of the Nation in every little matter. It has been stated by an hon. Member that there have been 132 cases of abductions of Harijan girls and he further on remarked that if the Father of the Nation had been alive, what would he have thought of this. My hon. Friend, when making a mention of this matter, was in possession of full facts about it and he should have thought ten times

[Chief Minister]

before bringing in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. He knew what the percentage of abducted Harijan girls was; so he should have been chary of making reference to that great Sage. I am not putting up any defence against his statement. I rather want that up women should be accorded the greatest respect by men. I wish that women should develop in themselves such moral power that if ever a man casts a malignant or an evil eye on a woman, he should meet retribution there and then. I may tell the House that law and order cannot set things right in this matter. What is needed is the building of character of men so that they may eschew the idea of abducting innocent girls. This is possible only if the public cooperates with the Government by putting moral pressure on such perverted persons who commit abductions. But then to decry the Budget simply because Government has not provided money for the stoppage of abductions of women does not find favour with me. This argument does not appeal to me.

Further, a mention has been made of the share of Harijans in the services. It has also been stated by the same hon. Member that 15% posts in the services fixed for the Harijans are not filled from amongst them. I would like to make it clear for the information of my hon. Friend that Government has already fixed 15% share for the Scheduled Castes in the services. As a matter of fact it has already been decided that in future 15% vacancies in the services should be filled from amongst the people belonging to Scheduled castes, provided persons with the requisite qualifications are available from amongst them. It has also been stated by my hon. Friend that highly-educated people are found amongst them. I admit, Sir, that there are graduates and law-graduates, as referred to by my hon. Friend in the course of his speech, amongst them. But it does not mean that they should be appointed on such posts where they will prove misfits. For instance, if an engineer's post is to be filled and a Harijan who is a mere graduate applies for this post, then would it be advisable to appoint him? I do not think my hon. Friend would like that. However, I may assure my hon. Friends that the share of our Harijan brethren in services would be secured to them.

Further, I have to say with deep regret that the conflicts are widening in the rural areas of our State and if these are not put an end to, I am afraid these conflicts resulting in quarrels may take a

very serious turn. The same type of conflicts had also arisen in 1947, after the Partition, but we were able to control the situation after some time. Now it has been found that these conflicts have again arisen in some districts. I am of the opinion that so far as the bitterness that has been created in the rural areas is concerned, it is not the time to find out as to who is responsible for its creation, but the crying need of the hour is to put an end to such unfortunate happenings as these are detrimental to the interests of both the people and the State. In the absence of any amicable relations between the Zamindars and the Harijans who are being boycotted in the rural areas these days, the former would be put to a lot of inconvenience at the time of harvesting. If in a village zamindars go on making their progress towards prosperity while the condition of the poor people living there remains un-changed, then it cannot be said that that village has made any progress. If there is a store of wheat in a village and the poor people living in it are on the verge of starvation and are not provided with any food simply because they belong to a particular section of population, then it must be said that we have failed to follow the traditions of civilization. After all what use is that store of wheat in a house if the next door neighbour has to starve? Similarly, if our Harijan brethren who, prior to these conflicts, were working with their zamindar brethren, refuse to do their work, then I must say that they are not fulfilling their duties, and their refusal to do their duty is again detrimental to the interests of our country and the State. I am not oblivious of the fact, Sir, that the responsibility of setting these matters right also rests with the Government. As a matter of fact, it is one of the functions of the Government to put an end to lawlessness in every corner of the State. If this work is to be done by the Government alone then it will have to resort to force and also make arrests. But I think that the conflicts that have arisen in the rural areas can best be stopped by amicable settlement than through the interference of the Government. As a matter of fact, it is the intention of the Government to use force only at very few places where its use is absolutely necessary, otherwise we wish that these disputes should be amicably settled by mutual understanding. If there are harmonious relations between the different classes of people such communal happenings do not occur. However, I would like to assure my hon. Friends that the Government will take necessary measure to ease communal tension wherever it exists. Through, you, Sir, I would like to appeal to the hon. Members of this House and also

[Chief Minister]

the people of our State outside that they should lose no time in moving from village to village to bring about an atmosphere of good-will and understanding in the rural areas. This and this alone is the crying need of the hour. I would also like to impress upon my hon. Friends that the best method of dealing with such a situation and ending the unhappy state of affairs is by common and united effort and that none of us here should hesitate to do all that we can to maintain harmonious relations in the rural areas even though we may have to beg for these. (*Cheers*).

There is yet another important matter towards which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House, and that is regarding the services. My hon. Friends must have read in the Tribune what our Prime Minister has said, while paying a tribute to the services, in the Parliament yesterday. He has observed that after the attainment of the Independence the services rendered us a valuable help in running the day-to-day administration of the Government. I would like to submit, Sir, that hon. Members are quite-justified in advancing criticisms against the Government with a view to pointing out its failings in matters relating to its day-to-day administration. What I wish to point out is that so long as the criticism is healthy it is all right. But it is really a matter of deep regret that some of my hon. Friends have in the course of their speeches made undue criticism of the officials of our Government and have gone even to the extent of mentioning their names on the floor of this House. As a matter of fact, it has been a convention that an officer who is not present to defend himself on the floor of this House should not be attacked and subjected to scathing criticism. It does not behove my hon. Friends to take undue advantage of their position and thus make personal attacks on the officers who are not in a position to defend themselves on the floor of this House. I am sorry that in spite of my oft-repeated appeals, my hon. Friends have not desisted from such unhealthy and uncalled-for criticisms on the floor of this House as are detrimental to the interests of the administration of our State. Such scathing criticisms have very bad repercussions on the efficient and honest work of the officers. I may, however, bring this point home to my hon. Friends that the honest officers, who while discharging their duties do not hesitate to do what they think just and reasonable, get discouraged when they find themselves subjected to scathing criticism and particularly when

they find their names being mentioned on the floor of this House. These officers, who, while discharging their duties would not mind even displeasing anybody in the interests of the administration, whosoever he be, would naturally feel that their honesty and hardwork has not stood them in good stead as they would not like that their names should have been mentioned and that they should have been subjected to vehement criticism on the floor of this House for no fault of theirs. On the other hand, if these officers resort to favouritism and keep all those people in good humour who criticise them from time to time then they would not be performing their duties in the true sense of the word and in that case the responsibility for creating such a state of affairs would naturally fall on us all. Under the circumstances we should create an atmosphere which would be instrumental in making these officers realize that while discharging their duties they should do what they think just and reasonable even at the cost of displeasing others. It really ill-behoves some of my hon. Friends to mention the names of officials and advance unnecessary and uncalled for criticism against them when they cannot defend themselves on the floor of the House and when they are already discharging their duties honestly and efficiently and who while carrying out the instructions of the Government do not mind putting themselves to inconveniences.

I take this opportunity of requesting my hon. Friends not to resort to such practices in future as these are detrimental to the interests of both the people and the Government. I have no hesitation in admitting the fact, and as I have already made it clear in unequivocal terms both inside and outside this House, that there are some black sheep in our services. These black sheep not only bring disrepute to the services they belong to but are a standing disgrace to the fair name of the Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : How many of these black sheep are there in the services ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member can himself judge that. But I am not going to accept the position that 90 per cent officers in the services are corrupt, (Cheers). If there had been so much corruption in the services, as has been maintained by one of my hon. Friends, then I am sure, our State would have been ruined. However, I would like to make it clear, and I say it with all the emphasis at my command, that the number of the efficient and honest Government servants of our State is far far greater than those of any other State in the whole of our country.

[Chief Minister]

Further, under the provisions of the New Constitution, our powers have been curtailed. Moreover, I did not want to centralize all the power in my hands. If I had exercised all the powers then I do not think any hon. Member would have dared to take recourse to any unnecessary and uncalled for criticism on the floor of this House.

Then, Sir, a high official has been subjected to a scathing criticism on the floor of this House because he decided to transfer a Naib Tehsildar. Do my hon. Friends want that no transfer of any Naib Tehsildar be brought about when it is necessary in the best interests of the Administration? How can the officer in question be blamed for transferring a Naib Tehsildar when this work forms part of his normal duties? Should we condemn him for making transfers simply because this subject falls within the purview of his normal duties? I would, however, refrain from repeating the language which has been used against him.

Then again, it has been said that action should not have been taken against two officers who, it is alleged, were not responsible for helping another officer against whom enquiry was being conducted by the Government. If my hon. Friend who has made this allegation wants to convince himself he should see me and I will show him the records of these two officers against whom action has been taken by the Government.

Sir, if we do not take strong action against such persons who make undue interference in the work of the administration, then the work cannot run smoothly. At the same time, we feel that we have sometime to shield the Government servants from public accusations. But the Government has never hesitated to deal firmly with corrupt Government servants by inflicting punishment upon them. If we show leniency to the wrong-doer on account of his family connection then I think we will not be able to improve the standard of administration. I have been closely associated with the work of administration even during the pre-partitioned days. At that time when we were dividing the assets of the Government the officers helped us a great deal in collecting the necessary information. Now after the partition every man has begun to feel that the Punjab has been able to stand on its own feet in a short space of time. Two or three days

back Commerce and Industries Minister of the Government of India Mr. Harekrishna Mehtab, while addressing the meeting of the Punjab Chambers of Commerce, congratulated the Punjabis by saying that they had shown exemplary spirit of initiative and enterprise in managing to stand on their own legs once again. The Prime Minister of India was also highly impressed with our task of rebuilding the life of our State. The hon. Members must be knowing as to who are responsible for bringing about such a substantial progress in our State. When country has put a heavy burden of responsibilities on our shoulders we can only discharge these in the best possible manner if whole-hearted co-operation of services is forthcoming. I will, therefore, be failing in my duty if I were not to express my thanks to the services for their help and co-operation to the people and Government and for their satisfactory discharge of duties towards our citizens. The officers have worked in close co-operation with the Government and have always shown steadfast devotion to their duty in carrying out the policies laid down by the Government. I feel that but for their co-operation and help it would have been difficult to carry on the work efficiently. I am of the opinion that no Government can function efficiently if there is non-co-operation by the services or by people and in such a case the Government has to experience some kind of difficulty at every step. In the present state of affairs I hope our constituents whom we represent in this House will also feel grateful to our services for their co-operation in the task of carrying on the administration of the State.

Frankly speaking, I should say that it is my earnest wish that our party should be returned in majority in the coming general elections. But at the same time I must say that the elections should be fought in such a way that there is the least objection or complaint about any influence or pressure having been exercised by any officers on our behalf. This underhand methods of enlisting support of officers must be avoided. We had already a bitter experience of taking recourse to such methods. In the year 1946 the Unionist Party mainly depended on the sphere of influence of Government officers. The result of this was that Muslims developed a communal outlook which eventually led to the partition of the Punjab. If we ask our officers to become communal minded then we will be encouraging separatism and disruption which step will be fraught with dangerous consequences for the State. Under the Government Servants Conduct Rules, no Government servant can associate himself with any political party whether it

[Chief Minister]

may be Congress or Akali Party. I must, therefore, make it clear that if any Government officers are found to be acting with a communal bias or showing undue favour to anybody on communal grounds they will not be spared. They must do their duty equally to everybody without any communal or political considerations. I do not like that Government servants should dabble in politics. They are, however, free to hold their own views but cannot take part in political activities. If any Government officer takes part in political activities he will be guilty of dereliction of duty. I am a humble soldier of the Congress and this organisation has entrusted to me the duty of serving the people of the State. I am, therefore, here as a servant of the people. I will have every consideration for such officers who discharge their duties honestly. But, at the same time, I would like to sound a note of warning that any black sheep among the Government servants, wherever and whenever found, will not be spared.

From whatever has been said here it appears that there is no law and order in the State but fortunately the position is just the reverse of what has been said. I admit that the conditions are not such as I would wish but Rome was not built in a day. If we continue to work with the same zeal there is no reason that our efforts may not be crowned with success. To me personally the failure may be immaterial but my successor will realise that the lines on which we have worked are such that will surely take forward our country to progress and prosperity. With these words, Sir, I thank you and the House.

The House then adjourned till 2 p. m on Monday 19th March, 1951.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates. ✓

19th March, 1951.

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OFFICIAL REPORT.



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, the 19th March, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 2 p. m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CENSUS OPERATIONS IN THE STATE.

*3017. **Shrimati Sita Devi**: Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of places (district-wise) where untoward incidents happened during the current Census Operations in the State ;
- (b) whether the culprits have been brought to book at Jagadhri, where a murder took place during the current Census ;
- (c) whether any cases of the high-handedness of certain persons in forcing the rural people to show a particular language as theirs in the language column of the Census Register have come to his notice ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) Jagadhri and Ludhiana :
- (b) the matter is sub-judice :
- (c) some allegations of this kind have been made in Jullundur district. An enquiry into them is being held.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What action has been taken by the Government in connection with the inquiry ?

Minister : Different action has been taken at different times and at different places.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What action has been taken by the Government in connection with the murder which was committed in village Ludhar, District Jullundur ?

Mr. Speaker : That matter might be sub-judice.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What was the number of such cases ?

Minister : The hon. Member should give notice for knowing the number of cases.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What action did the Government take when some houses in a village in District Jullundur were set on fire and some Harijans were kidnapped ?

Minister : Action was taken according to law of the land.

Shrimati Sita Devi : This is what I want to know. I ask what action has been taken under the law of the land ?

Minister . It is not possible to give the details of action taken without notice.

Shrimati Sita Devi : But is the hon. Minister aware of these incidents ?

Minister : I am not aware of the details at present.

Shri Ram Sharma : It has been said that no incidents took place anywhere except at Jagadhri and Ludhiana. I ask were not such incidents likely to happen at Rohtak if Section 144 was not promulgated by the Deputy Commissioner ?

Minister : Thanks for the information.

Shri Ram Sharma : Did the Government get some information that such incidents were likely to happen at places other than the two districts above mentioned ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member will get his answer in a subsequent question.

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PUNJAB CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

*3013. **Shrimati Sita Devi**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a resolution passed at the Conference of the Punjab Civil Service (Executive) Employees on 21-1-1951 at Jullundur wherein they had placed their grievances in respect of the injustice done to them in ignoring and superseding their rights;
- (b) whether the Government intend to redress their grievances; if so, how?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.

Shri Ram Sharma: Was a conference of the P. C. S. officers held at all, and if one was held, did they pass any resolution with a view to place their grievances before the Government?

Chief Minister: The attention of the Government has not been drawn to any resolution that may have been passed.

Shri Ram Sharma: Is not the Government aware that these officers passed a resolution for the sole purpose of placing their grievances before the Government? Did not the Government find these things in the papers?

Chief Minister: At any rate, the attention of the Government has not been drawn to any such resolution.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Did not these officers represent to the hon. Chief Minister that their rights were being trampled over?

Chief Minister: No such representation has ever been placed before me. Well, I can say that I participated in their dinner and also replied to the address that they presented to me.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Did not that address contain any grievances in addition to the praises of the hon. Chief Minister?

Chief Minister: The situation in regard to their complaints and grievances was explained to them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What was their complaint? Did they not complain that most senior officers among them were being superseded by the favourites of the hon. Ministers?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No reflections please.

Shri Ram Sharma : Did they not complain that an officer of the Provincial Civil Service (Judiciary) had been unduly put over their head in the Civil Supplies Department?

Mr. Speaker : Next question.

MOBILE DISPENSARIES IN THE STATE.

*3022. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether any mobile dispensaries were started for the treatment of patients in the rural areas in the State; if so, the number of such dispensaries;
- (b) the number of patients treated in those dispensaries so far;
- (c) the annual expenses incurred on them;
- (d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether the Government contemplate starting mobile dispensaries in the rural areas in the near future?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) No.
- (b) & (c) Does not arise.
- (d) No.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Is there any such scheme under the consideration of the Government?

Chief Minister : None so far.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : Does the Government intend considering any such scheme?

Chief Minister : This is a request for action.

INCOME FROM SALES TAX IN THE STATE.

*3023. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the income from sales tax has increased ten times in the State during the year 1950-51 ;
- (b) the number of prosecutions made under the Sales Tax Act in the State together with the number of convictions in which fine was imposed separately ;
- (c) whether Government is aware that a large number of people still evade this tax ; if so, what measures the State Government propose to adopt to check this evil ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) No.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) *First part.* Yes.
Second part. Measures to stop the evasion of sales tax are under the consideration of Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : But how much has the income gone up owing to Sales Tax ?

Chief Minister : I would refer the hon. Member to the Budget.

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CASES SENT TO THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE.

*3025. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of cases in the State so far sent to the Anti-Corruption Committee for investigation ;
- (b) the number of cases out of these referred to in part (a) above sent to the courts for trial along with the names of persons involved together with the number of convictions and acquittals separately ;
- (c) the number of those cases which were enquired into but which due to want of sufficient evidence were dropped ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a), (b) and (c)

The Anti-Corruption Committee does not itself undertake the investigation of any cases, but causes them to be investigated either by the Special Inquiry Agency or by district or departmental authorities concerned. If information is required in respect of cases entrusted to the Special Inquiry Agency or the authorities concerned, I would be glad to supply it.

CRIMES COMMITTED IN BASTI SHEIKH, JULLUNDUR.

***3041. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of crimes committed in Basti Sheikh within the jurisdiction of Police post No. 5, Jullundur during the years 1949 & 1950 separately ;
- (b) the reasons for the increase in crime ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 1949 ... 11.
1950 ... 20.

- (b) The excess of 9 cases in 1950 is partly accounted for by 4 cases under section 61 of the Punjab Excise Act, I of 1914, 1 under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act and 1 under the Prevention of Corruption Act indicating increased police activity against illicit distillers, black marketers and the corrupt people.

MEETINGS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

***2959. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :--

- (a) the number of the meetings of the Labour Advisory Board held during the year 1950 together with the principal decisions arrived at ;
- (b) the decisions referred to above so far implemented ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

A statement containing the necessary information is placed on the table¹.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Has the Expert Committee referred to under item 6 of the statement been constituted ?

Minister : The Government had a mind to appoint such a Committee but its appointment has been considered unnecessary for the present as minimum wages have been fixed for certain classes of labour. However, if the fixation of minimum wages does not solve the problem of the textile workers, the matter will be put up in the next meeting of the Advisory Board.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it not a fact that the question of standardization of wages for the textile workers has nothing to do with the minimum wages which have been fixed ?

Minister : Certainly, the minimum wages have nothing to do directly with the question of standardization of wages for the textile workers but it will be admitted that wages of one class of workers do affect the wages of other classes of workers.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : In view of the fact that the largest number of labour disputes occur in the case of textile labour, does the Government not think it advisable to constitute an Expert Committee to study this question ?

Minister : As the conditions have changed with the fixation of minimum wages, the Government did not consider it necessary to set up the Expert Committee. If, however, it is considered essential to constitute this Committee, the Government will have no objection in doing so.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Has the fixation of wages in the case of other industries in any way brought about improvement in the condition of textile labour ?

Minister : Yes, the fixation of wages in the case of other industries is sure to have some effect on the textile industry labour also. If, however, the Government of the Board considers it necessary to set up the Expert Committee, it will gladly do so.

¹ kept in the Library.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Will this matter be placed before the Board ?

Minister : When a meeting of the Board is held, all such matters come before it.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is the scheme of fixation of minimum wages likely to have some effect on the wages of Government servants belonging to the subordinate cadre ?

Minister : I can say nothing about this matter at this stage.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : The hon. Minister has stated that the Government is going to give effect to Industrial Housing Scheme. May I know if some expert department or engineers have been consulted with respect to it, so as to avoid those defects which were said to exist in the case of other houses constructed by the Government ?

Minister : Our Housing Scheme has been framed in the light of such schemes already in force in some other parts of the country. In addition to that we have consulted our engineers, and no defects are likely to exist in the construction of these houses.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : With regard to retrenchment, the hon. Minister has stated that a questionnaire was circulated sometime ago. May I know as to when it was done ?

Minister : My hon. Friend is himself a member of that Committee. If he and other members of the Committee have sent their replies to that questionnaire, the matter will be placed before the Board at its next meeting.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : When was this questionnaire sent to the Regional Board and by which date were they asked to send their replies ?

Minister : The questionnaire was sent but I do not remember the exact date when this was done.

Shri Ram Sharma : For which sections of labour the Government has fixed the minimum wages and for which sections this has not been done ?

Minister : As I have already submitted in part VI of the statement, the Government has fixed minimum wages in respect of

labour engaged in (1) oil mills (2) tea plantations (3) Transport and (4) road building. A minimum wages committee has been appointed also for employment in agriculture.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: The hon. Minister has stated that the matter has been sent to the Board of Economic Enquiry. When was it sent to the Board and at what stage is it now?

Minister: I am sorry that I do not remember the exact date when it was sent to the Board. I can, however, assure the hon. Member that the Government is taking necessary steps in this direction.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Has the Government taken any practical steps so far to provide relief to the labour or it has merely sent some schemes to the Government of India and has others under consideration?

Minister: My hon. Friend is a member of the Board to which all schemes for the betterment of labour are sent. I wish to inform the House that the Punjab is the first State in India where minimum wages for labour have been fixed.

OPENING OF WELFARE CENTRES IN THE STATE.

*2960. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar:** Will the hon. Minister for labour be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that during the last Budget session of the Assembly a promise was made on behalf of the Government that at least half-a-dozen Welfare Centres will be opened during the year;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Government has abandoned that scheme; if so, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad:

- (a) The recommendation was made by the Tripartite Labour Advisory Board and the Administrative Department prepared a scheme keeping the recommendations of the Board in view.
- (b) Due to financial stringency the scheme could not be carried out.

Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Minister has stated that the Government could not enforce this scheme on account of financial difficulties. Could no part of it be given effect to ?

Minister : On the receipt of recommendation of the Labour Advisory Board for the opening of Welfare Centres, the Government divided the problem into two parts. The Government had to enforce one part of it at its own expense and according to the second part the mill-owners had to be asked to open such centres. When this scheme was prepared, the Budget Estimates had already been finalised and the Government did not possess the necessary funds. It was, therefore, decided to give effect to that part of the scheme which the Government had to give effect to during the next year. The mill-owners have been asked to open such centres. The Government has put into effect the Housing Scheme as already stated by me.

Shri Ram Sharma : Have the millowners started Welfare Centres at the request of the Government ?

Minister : Yes, most of the factory owners are giving full co-operation to the Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : If there was no provision in the Budget for the opening of these Centres, could not a Supplementary Demand be made for the same amount ?

Minister : The Government did not possess the necessary funds to give effect to this scheme through its Labour Department. It was, therefore, given up this year but I can assure the House that we will be able to enforce it next year.

Shri Ram Sharma : What were those expenses which the Government could not afford to incur this year but it would be able to provide next year ?

Minister : I do not remember the exact amount.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Is it not a fact that while presenting the Budget, the hon. Minister-in-charge of Finance gave an assurance that Welfare Centres would be opened ? Why has no provision been made in the Budget for the next year also ?

Minister : I am not in a position to say anything.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyaanankar : Was such assurance not given by the Government last year ?

Minister : I don't remember.

FORMATION OF COMMITTEES OF THE EMPLOYERS AND
EMPLOYEES UNDER MINIMUM WAGES ACT IN THE STATE.

*2497. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state:—

- (a) the object and method of forming committees of the representatives of the employers and employees ;
- (b) whether the formation of such a committee under the Minimum Wages Act has been recommended for the Rohtak District ;
- (c) whether Government has received any representation in this connection from the President City Committee, Rohtak; if so, its nature and the action taken thereon ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) The object of the appointment of Minimum Wages Committee is to hold enquiries and advise Government in fixing the rates of minimum wages. The method for constituting these committees is contained under Section 5 (1) (a) read with Section 9 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- (b) The committee is appointed in respect of each scheduled employment for the entire areas in the Punjab and not separately for any district ;
- (c) The President, City Congress Committee, Rohtak recommended two persons to be nominated as representatives of employees on the committee for public motor transport, who however could not be nominated as better persons were available among the representatives of employees.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if any official, appointed by the Labour Commissioner, to visit Rohtak actually went there to form the committees of the employers and the employees ?

Minister: At the time when the Government had to collect relevant information in this matter, Labour Inspectors were instructed to contact the employers and the employees engaged in a trade, for instance, Transport, so that the Government might get correct information. I think the hon. Member is referring to the letter in which he gave suggestions regarding the formation of such a committee at Rohtak.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that the President of the City Congress Committee, Rohtak made certain complaints in that letter? For instance, it was said that the Inspector did not reach there in time and the people went away after waiting for him for a long time and afterwards the Inspector made recommendations of his own accord?

Minister: I don't remember all these things. I can, however, give the desired information, if the hon. Member gives notice.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if it was also complained in that letter that the representatives of the employers and the employees selected for that committee were related to each other?

Minister: Even if this be a fact, it has not affected the decision of the Government in fixing the minimum wages fixed by it. The information given by the Committee of Rohtak related to Rohtak only and the Government fixed the minimum wages after consulting the representatives of the transport employees and employers of the whole State.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the Government is aware of the fact that when an officer is deputed by it to do a thing and he does not care to contact the persons concerned in the matter, it creates disaffection against the Government?

Minister: I thank the hon. Member for the information given by him.

DESTRUCTION OF STANDING CROPS AT CHANDIGARH.

*2786. **Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government has destroyed the standing crops at Chandigarh; if so, the compensation given to those who lost their crops?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Standing crops over an area of 4.33 acres had to be destroyed as the land owners inspite of previous warning had not removed the crops in time.
- (b) Compensation to those who lost their crops has been assessed at Rs. 719/0/4 and is being paid.

Mr. Speaker : I find from the order paper that there is a courtesy title before the name of every hon. Member but there is an exception in the case of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.

Shri Ram Sharma : It has been done on my own instruction.

Mr. Speaker : I hope the hon. Member will not object to this later on.

Shri Ram Sharma : Why should I object when this has been done at my own request.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the area of land acquired by the Government at Chandigarh ?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I wanted to know if the hon. Chief Minister is absolutely sure of the figure given by him of the land acquired at Chandigarh. I know that at the Capital site more than 50 acres of standing crops have been destroyed but the hon. Chief Minister has the audacity to say that the crops on only 4.77 acres of land have been destroyed.

Chief Minister : So far as I am concerned, I am quite sure of the figure given by me. If the hon. Member has any information, there is no use asking the question.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if, in view of the acute scarcity of food grains prevailing in the State, it is not advisable to allow the standing crops to ripe before the land is actually acquired by the Government ?

Chief Minister : We allowed the owners to remove the standing crops from the land acquired by us. As regards the land which we immediately required for the construction of roads and the houses, the

[Chief Minister]

owners were asked to remove the standing crops before the 15th December. In cases in which they were not removed by the date, the Government had to remove them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the owners were asked to remove their crops by the 15th December. Is he aware of the fact that round about this date, no crop such as wheat, rice, gram etc., is actually ripe for harvest and consequently they could not be removed by the owners ?

Chief Minister : The crop of sugarcane can be removed in December.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the area under the sugarcane crop in the area of Chandigarh ?

Chief Minister : I personally went there and allowed the removal of the standing crops.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if it is not a fact that the crop destroyed by the Government was not of sugarcane but of wheat and the owners requested the Government not to destroy it because it would ripen within fifteen days ?

Chief Minister : There is no truth in this statement.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if representations were made to officers and the Ministers besides the hon. Chief Minister in this connection by the owners of those crops ?

Chief Minister : Nobody except myself was empowered to decide about the removal of the crops.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the crop standing on the land acquired for the construction of roads and buildings, was that of sugarcane or any other ?

Chief Minister : It was mostly the crop of sugarcane.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know how many roads and buildings have been actually constructed on that land ?

Chief Minister : I will inform the hon. Lady Member when they are constructed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The hon. Chief Minister has stated that nobody except him is empowered to order the removal of the standing crops. May I know if the hon. Ministers are empowered to convey to the Government the complaints of the people, which are made to them?

(No reply).

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 2961 has been cancelled because the matter is sub-judice in the High Court.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: Sir, I have only asked for certain dates.

Mr. Speaker: If the Government has the reply ready and the hon. Member would not ask supplementary questions I may allow this question to be put.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: I have only to ask certain facts about this matter.

Mr. Speaker: I would not allow to the Supplementaries be put. Next question please.

HOUSES BUILT IN DIFFERENT TOWNSHIPS IN THE STATE.

*2967. **Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total number of houses built by the Government in different townships in the State together with the number of those which have been sold or occupied;
- (b) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government to utilize the houses which have neither been sold nor occupied?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh:

- (a) The total number of houses built by the Government in different townships in the State is 3873 and the number of those which have been sold or occupied is 3809.
- (b) The houses which have not been sold or occupied so far will be put to auction to displaced as well as non-displaced persons on 18th and 19th of March, 1951.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether all such houses have been put to auction ?

Minister : That is what I have replied.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether their auction has been completed ?

Minister : It is going to be completed to-day.

(*Shri Ram Sharma put question No. 3020 on behalf of Chaudhri Badlu Ram*).

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : On a point of order, Sir. Can any one put a question on behalf of an hon. Member without his authority ?

Mr. Speaker : I presume authority ?

Shri Ram Sharma : I can put a question on behalf of an hon. Member from Rohtak district.

Mr. Speaker : There cannot be a general authority. It must be specific.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Can the authority be verbal or should it be in writing ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I don't mind even if there is a verbal authority. But there cannot be general authority that a member from Rohtak can put questions given notice of by all Rohtak members.

REMOVAL OF MUNICIPAL ENGINEER, ROHTAK.

*3020. **Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Ch. Kehri Singh, Municipal Engineer, Rohtak Municipality, has been removed from his post; if so, the reason therefor ;
- (b) whether he was a permanent employee of the Municipality ;
- (c) whether the Government have removed any other permanent employee of the Rohtak Municipality or any other Municipality in the State for the same reasons ;

- (d) whether the Government have approved the appointment of Shri G. D. Arora as Municipal Engineer, Rohtak Municipality ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) Yes, because he does not possess qualifications prescribed for the post of an engineer of a first class Municipal Committee.
- (b) Government have no knowledge.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that he had no requisite qualifications. May I know whether there are any qualifications required for an hon. Minister ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Engineer had no requisite qualifications required for a first class Municipal Committee. May I know what special qualifications are required ?

Mr. Speaker : Please refer to rules.

Shri Ram Sharma : So long as the Municipal Committee of Rohtak was II class Chaudhri Kehri Singh remained Municipal Engineer but when it became first class he was removed ; may I know what were the qualifications which he did not possess ?

Minister : Please refer to rules which have been published.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the hon. Minister himself has studied them ?

Minister : Yes and that is why I am advising the hon. Member to do so.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know the minimum qualifications required for a Municipal Engineer which the man removed did not possess ; and the qualifications possessed by the newly appointed Engineer ?

Minister : Please refer to rules.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I wish to know the qualifications of the newly appointed Engineer of Rohtak.

Minister : That requires notice.

GLOBE FACTORY AT JULLUNDUR.

*3039. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Proprietors of Globe Factory, residing in Basti Danishmandan, Jullundur received any grant from the Government for effecting some alterations in the factory in the months of October and November, 1950 ; if so, how much ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

No amount was sanctioned or advanced to the proprietors of Globe Factory residing in Basti Danishmandan for repairs or alterations in the factory in the months of October and November, 1950.

OCCUPANCY TENANTS.

*2467. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :--

- (a) whether Government has come to any decision regarding the conferment of proprietary rights on the occupancy tenants in the State ;
- (b) whether any committee of officials was appointed by the Government to examine the position of such tenants ; if so, whether the committee has submitted its report ;
- (c) the approximate area of the land under the possession of occupancy tenants in the State ; and if possible, district-wise ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

- (a) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(b) *First Part*: A committee of officials and non-officials was formed to examine the position.

Second Part: A report of the Sub-Committee is under consideration of the 'main committee'.

(c) A statement showing area in possession of occupancy tenants in 1949 is laid on the table.

Name of Districts.	Area in Acres.
Amritsar	44,235
Gurdaspur	48,206
Jullundur	47,218
Hoshiarpur	2,18,421
Kangra	50,219
Ludhiana	59,804
Ferozepore	3,14,153
Ambala	46,795
Karnal	68,145
Rohtak	38,224
Gurgaon	10,956
Hissar	4,73,999
Simla	Nil
Total	14,20,375

Shri Ram Sharma: It has been stated by the Government that the question of conferment of proprietary rights on the occupancy tenants is under consideration. A similar question was asked in the last session also. May I know at what stage the matter stands now?

Parliamentary Secretary: The committee has submitted the report and the matter is at Cabinet stage.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: It has been stated by the Government that the matter is under consideration. Previous to this, if I remember correctly, an assurance was given in the address of the Governor that the matter has been decided and that the proprietary right to the occupancy tenants will be given shortly. Which of the two statements represents the actual position of the Government in this matter?

Chief Minister : So long as a matter is not brought before the House in the form of a Bill, it is said to be under consideration.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know the position of the Government with regard to its policy in this matter? Is the policy also under consideration or only the details as to how that policy is to be implemented?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that so long as a Bill is not brought before the House in its final form we cannot have any final decision on the matter. I shall be in a position to tell about it at that time only. At present the matter is under consideration.

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us whether Government has arrived at a final decision with regard to this matter and whether any Bill has been prepared with a view to conferring proprietary rights on the occupancy tenants?

Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that it has been indicated in the Address of the Governor and that the hon. Minister for Revenue has also declared at several places to the effect that the Government has decided to confer proprietary rights on the occupancy tenants?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that the matter is under consideration. I may tell the hon. Member that even if the Government may have decided and declared its intention about conferring the proprietary rights upon the occupancy tenants, the matter remains under consideration, till a Bill to this effect has been published in the Gazette.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I enquire from the hon. Chief Minister whether this Bill will be published in the Gazette during the session of the Assembly and will it be possible to bring it on the Statute Book?

Chief Minister : I hope that it will be possible?

**REPRESENTATION FROM THE SECRETARY
KRISHAK SABHA, SIMLA.**

***2468. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Secretary, Krishak Sabha,

Simla and Shri Thakur Dass of village Dhar, District Simla represented recently to the Government the various hardships and difficulties experienced by the zamindars at the hands of the Government and officials ; if so, the result thereof ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

Part I. A representation was received from the Secretary, Krishak Sabha, Simla in April, 1950 but none has been received from Shri Thakur Das of village Dhar, district Simla.

Part II. The matter involves complicated issues and is yet under consideration.

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Parliamentary Secretary kindly tell us the nature of the complaint received by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The nature of the complaint is this. The Municipal Committee, Simla, has by an order suspended certain rights of grazing cattle, share in the land and cutting of grass etc., enjoyed under *wajib-ul-arz*, by certain villages situated within its limits and jurisdiction. And now the matter is under the consideration of Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that all these villages which are situated within the limits of the Simla Municipality also possess, from the revenue point of view, the same rights as revenue estates do ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that these villages according to *wajib-ul-arz*, are in the enjoyment of necessary rights regarding grazing of cattle, cutting of grass etc., but these rights have been withdrawn by the Municipal Committee, Simla. Since this matter involves complicated issues, it is yet under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know since how long and under what department has this matter been under consideration ?

Chief Minister : Since the question arose, it was referred to the department concerned.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know since when these villages came under the jurisdiction of the Simla Municipality ?

Chief Minister : Since the date of the merger.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : According to the reply of the Government, the representation was received by it in April, 1950. May I know whether the expression like 'under consideration' and 'as soon as possible' cannot have any time limit ? The reply is very vague.

**ENTERING NEW AGRICULTURAL TRIBES OR CASTES
IN CLASS NUMBER TWO UNDER THE ALIENATION
OF LAND ACT.**

***2496. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any of the recently notified agricultural tribe or caste under the Punjab Alienation of Land Act has been entered in class number two ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) whether the Government has considered the question of doing away with this distinction among agriculturists of class one and class two ;
- (c) whether these agricultural tribes mentioned in part (a) above are entitled to buy land from class two tribes ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

- (a) If by term "Class number two" the hon. Member means "B—Separate Groups" then the answer is in the negative. Reasons for this are that the Government have decided to follow a more liberal policy than that followed by the Government in Joint Punjab with a view to giving facility to the tribes concerned to buy lands from a large section of the already notified agricultural tribes in the same group.
- (b) The question is under the consideration of Government but a decision has not yet been arrived at. In fact, the whole question of the Punjab Land Alienation Act is under the consideration of Government.

(c) No.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether Group B of agricultural tribes under the Land Alienation Act has been abolished or retained ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There are two groups of agricultural tribes under the Land Alienation Act and the same are being maintained.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to abolish the distinction in these two groups of agricultural tribes and amalgamate them ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice for this. The whole question is under the consideration of the Government.

NATIONALISATION OF TRANSPORT IN THE STATE.

*2770. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) the routes taken over by the Government under the nationalization of transport scheme in the State;
- (b) whether these routes are the same as were recommended by the Transport Controller ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

- (a) The following routes have been taken over from the operators for exclusive operation by the Government under the nationalization scheme :—

1. Amritsar-Jullundur.
2. Ambala-Shahabad-Karnal.
3. Ambala-Jagadhri.
4. Ambala-Pahowa.

In addition the operation of some new routes and of Ambala-Patiala and Ambala-Simla routes to the extent of Punjab share has been undertaken. No private operators were, however, displaced from any of these routes.

- (b) The routes nationalized were selected in consultation with the transport operators and departmental officers.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, part (b) of my question is whether these routes are the same as were recommended by the Transport Controller and the reply of the Government is to the effect that the routes nationalised were selected in consultations with the transport operators and departmental officers. It is obvious that the information which I wanted has not been supplied to me. It is a simple question and I want a simple and straight answer.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, my question is that whether the routes taken over by the Government are the same as were recommended by the Transport Controller or the Government included others in which certain M.L.As. or officers were interested ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No insinuation, please.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It is a statement of fact, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : It may be a statement of facts but insinuations should be avoided.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : If this is your pleasure, then may I ask whether routes nationalised by the Government are the same as were specifically recommended by the Transport Controller or they included some others also ?

Chief Minister : Government is not prepared to disclose all that passed between the Government and its officers.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, Is it a relevant reply ? I seek your protection. -

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The remedy is not with me.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : But the hon. Leader of the House should not take undue advantage of this.

Mr. Speaker : There is no question of taking undue advantage. He does not like to disclose certain facts.

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us whether the routes nationalised by the Government are the same as were recommended by the Transport Controller ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied to this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I have not asked whether nationalisation of these routes has been brought about in consultation with the Transport Controller. But my question is whether the routes nationalised by the Government were the same as were recommended by the Transport Controller ?

Mr. Speaker : This is a repetition of the same question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : But the reply has not been given.

Sardar Shiv Singh : May I know whether by giving another opportunity to Shri Prabodh Chandra to ask another supplementary question, the hon. Speaker has shown that he is more sympathetically disposed towards him. (*Loud laughter*).

Mr. Speaker : This is a reflection on the Chair and the hon. Member should be careful to avoid this in future.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I do not mind the Chair giving some latitude to some Members whose remarks might provide entertainment to the House. But I submit that they should not be encouraged to pass such remarks on the Chair.

Mr. Speaker : I have made it clear to the hon. Member. I hope he will avoid any reflection on the Chair.

Sardar Shiv Singh : Sir, I assure you that I never meant any disrespect to you.

PURCHASE OF VEHICLES BY THE GOVERNMENT.

*2771. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of vehicles brought by the Government in anticipation of the nationalization of transport scheme;
- (b) the price paid by the Government for these vehicles;
- (c) the number of vehicles that have since been sold by the Government;
- (d) the loss, if any, Government has suffered on this account ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

- (a) 426.
- (b) Rs. 37,45,498/10/6.
- (c) 295 chassis.
- (d) Nil.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the reply of the Parliamentary Secretary in (d) above, to the effect that the Government has suffered no loss on this account may I know if the remaining vehicles account for the balance of the total price paid by the Government and the sale proceeds of the vehicles already sold by it ?

Chief Minister : Out of the total number of vehicles brought by the Government, some were sold to different departments, and some were kept by the Government for its own use and some of these were sold to the public. Government did not suffer any loss on this account.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Government fixed any prices of those buses which are not in good condition and which it purposes to dispose of. Has the Government charged the prices of those vehicles which it kept for its own use or sold to other departments according to the market rates prevailing then or on 'no loss no profit' basis ?

Chief Minister : We purchased these vehicles at prices lesser than those that are prevailing now. The price paid by the Government for these vehicles which it kept for its own use was the same at which these were bought. After taking into account this price and also the price of the vehicles sold to other departments, Government has suffered no loss.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the appreciation in the prices of these vehicles may I know if it is a fact that these vehicles fetched very little price ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that Government did not suffer any loss on this account.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the cost price and the selling price of these vehicles, may I know if it is a fact that the Government has suffered a very heavy loss in this bargain ?

Chief Minister : Government did not suffer any loss. As I am myself dealing with the finances I examined all the accounts, and I assure the hon. Member that Government did not lose anything in this bargain.

Shrimati Sita Devi : In what account have the buses lying in the sheds at Jullundur been shown ?

Chief Minister : Some of these buses have been sold to other departments and some of these have been kept by the Government for its own use and the remaining buses have already been sold.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I want to know in which account have the buses lying at present in the sheds at Jullundur been shown by the Government ?

Chief Minister : Government decided to dispose of these vehicles which were not required by it.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the sum of Rs. 60,000 which was spent for constructing sheds for these vehicles has also been accounted for ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that Government did not suffer any loss on this account.

Shri Ram Sharma : Are there any buses with the Government still which have not been disposed of by it so far ?

Chief Minister : I cannot give the required information off-hand. However, I may add that out of the total number of vehicles bought by the Government some were sold to different departments and some were kept by it for its own use. It was also decided by the Government to dispose of the remaining vehicles.

Shri Ram Sharma : How many of these vehicles have been sold and how many of these still remain to be sold ?

Chief Minister : I require fresh notice for this question.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : In view of the reply of the hon. Chief Minister that the Government has not suffered any loss, may I know

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

if the supervision charges, and the expenditure in connection with the construction of the sheds have also been accounted for while working out the figures?

Chief Minister : After including all the expenses incurred in this connection, there has been no loss to the Government.

Shri Virendra : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether all the vehicles lying in the Civil Secretariate, Jullundur have been sold by the Government or there are still some vehicles left which are intended to be disposed of?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice for this question.

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SEATS IN PUBLIC BUSES.

*2773. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) as to when the present number of passengers allowed in public buses was fixed ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that buses were allowed to carry 25% more passengers than their carrying capacity on account of rationing of petrol ;
- (c) whether that order has been withdrawn with the derationing of petrol ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

- (a) The present seating capacity in the case of buses with a wheel base extending upto 161" was fixed in May, 1946 and with a wheel base extending upto 199" was fixed in October, 1948.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) No. Having regard to the circumstances consequent on the abolition of petrol rationing, it has become necessary to revise the number of trips which the stage carriage companies may be authorised to ply on the various routes. Action in

this respect is already being taken by the Regional Transport Authorities and the concession of carrying 25% extra passengers will be withdrawn as soon as the revision of trips has been completed by them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I have asked this question whether the order that buses should be allowed to carry 25% more passengers than their carrying capacity on account of rationing of petrol, has been withdrawn with the de-rationing of petrol ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated in my reply to (c) above that it has become necessary to revise the number of trips which the stage carriage companies may be authorised to ply on the various routes, and that action in this respect is already being taken by the Regional Transport Authorities and that the concession of carrying 25% extra passengers will be withdrawn as soon as the revision of trips has been completed by them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary when petrol was derationed ?

Shri Virendra : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary if the Regional Transport Authorities have been abolished ?

Parliamentary Secretary : They still exist.

Shri Virendra : Is it the intention of the Government to abolish these ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know as to why the concession of allowing 25% more passengers than the carrying capacity has not been withdrawn with the de-rationing of petrol ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It has been decided to revise the number of trips on the various routes and thus the passengers would not be put to any inconvenience due to overcrowding in the buses.

Shri Ram Sharma : Why has not this concession been withdrawn so far ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Orders have already been issued and the concession will be withdrawn.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROMOTION IN THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT.

697. **Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state.—

- (a) whether in the Punjab Civil Secretariat since 1932 it has been the policy to promote graduates and matriculates in equal proportion ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that recently this policy referred to above has been abandoned and that only matriculates officials with a record of war service have been promoted ; if so, the reason therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) Yes. This policy is in force since 1933.
- (b) This policy has not been abandoned. But as war-service men (mostly non-graduates) became senior to non-war-service men after giving them the benefit of their war-service the former had to be promoted first. The proportion of 50:50 between graduates and non-graduates will, however, be maintained by promoting in equal number of graduates as and when vacancies occur.

PROMOTION IN THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT.

698. **Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether B. A's (English only) are considered as at par with full graduates for promotions in the Civil Secretariat ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that recently the Government of India have decided not to consider B. A's (English only) as full graduates for purposes of promotion ;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the steps, if any, Government have taken or proposes to take in this connection ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.

**GIVING OF BENEFIT TO WAR SERVICE OFFICIALS IN THE
CIVIL SECRETARIAT.**

699. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government had previously decided not to give any credit of war service towards seniority to the war service officials of the Punjab Civil Secretariat following the decision of the Government of India and other Provincial Governments;
- (b) whether it is a fact that recently the policy has been arranged and seniority has been given to the war service officials?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) No such decision was made.
- (b) Does not arise.

**GIVING OF WAR SERVICE BENEFIT TO GOVERNMENT
SERVANTS IN THE STATE.**

700. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has decided to give benefit of war service to officials serving in Civil Secretariat in respect of their pay and seniority;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that the Government of India and other State Governments do not give any credit for war service towards the seniority etc. of officials employed by them;

[Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa]

- (c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative the reasons for differentiation from the Government of India and other State Governments in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes, as far as it was practicable.
(b) No.
(c) Does not arise.

RELEASE OF THE CONFISCATED LANDS OF ABSCONDERS
IN DISTRICT FERROZEPORE.

701. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) (i) whether any attached or confiscated lands of absconders in Ferozepore District were released by the State Government during the year 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 together with the dates when the properties were attached or confiscated in each case ;
(ii) whether he will lay on the Table a list of such absconders with their full home addresses whose lands have been released during the periods referred to above ;
(iii) the area of the lands released in each case ;
- (b) the offences under which cases were registered against each of the absconders together with the dates when these cases were registered ;
- (c) whether the absconders referred to above had applied to the courts of law for the release of their lands referred to in part (a) above ; if so, the orders passed by the courts concerned in each case ;
- (d) (i) when the application of each of the persons referred to in part (a) above was received by the Government for the release of their lands ;
(ii) the factors taken into consideration by the Government before releasing these properties ;

- (iii) the provision of law under which the properties under reference were released ;

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) (i) *First Part* : Yes, one in 1948-1949.
Second Part :—In 1941.
- (ii) Subedar Basant Singh son of Jawala Singh Jat of Gholia Kalan.
- (iii) 713 Kanals.
- (b) Under section 302 I.P.C. on the 13th August, 1940.
- (c) *First Part* :—Yes.
Second Part :—His application was rejected.
- (d) (i) 30-11-47 accused.
- (ii) As the accused had already been brought to trial, the land in question was restored to him, as an act of grace, on the condition of payment of Rs. 1,000/- to Government as compensation.
- (iii) The land in question vested in Government which was competent to issue the necessary orders.

STOCK OF WHEAT WITH THE FOODGRAINS
DEPARTMENT AT PATTI

702. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantity of wheat in hand at Foodgrains Department at Patti, District Amritsar on 1-4-50 ;
- (b) (i) the total quantity of wheat purchased upto 31-12-50 at Patti Mandi by the said Foodgrains Department ;
- (ii) the total amount paid as price of this wheat ;
- (iii) the average purchase price per maund upto 31-12-50 including incidental charges ;

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- (c) (i) the total amount paid to the Pakka Arhti Association as commission and other incidental charges for the wheat purchased referred to in part (b) (i) above including the rent of the buildings hired for stocking purposes upto 31-12-50 ;
- (ii) the total rent paid to the owner of the buildings referred to in part (c) (i) above upto 31-12-50;
- (d) (i) the total quantity of wheat sold to the public locally at Patti upto 31-12-50 ;
- (ii) the total amount received as sale price of this wheat upto 31-12-50 ;
- (iii) the average selling price of wheat per maund upto 31-12-50 ;
- (e) (i) the total quantity of wheat exported from Patti between 1-4-50 and 31-12-50 ;
- (ii) the total amount charged for this exported wheat ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

- (a) 70526/13/8 maunds.
- (b) (i) 163773/15/4 maunds.
(ii) Rs. 20,62,230/10/6.
(iii) Rs. 12/14/7 per maund.
- (c) (i) Rs. 52,651/1/6.
(ii) Rs. 12,515/14/9.
- (d) (i) 14,359/27/- maunds.
(ii) Rs. 2,08,423/2/3.
(iii) Rs. 14/6/- per maund.
- (e) (i) 50,765/37/22 maunds.
(ii) Rs. 7,75,879/2/11.
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SUGAR DEPOT-HOLDERS IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

703. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there are any wholesale or retail sugar depot-holders under the Co-operative Union or Multi-purpose Societies or Co-operative Banks in Amritsar District ; if so, the list of such depot-holders ;
- (b) the quantity of sugar given to each one of them during the year 1950 for distribution ;
- (c) the quantity of sugar shown as shortage or loss by each of the depots referred to above during the year 1950 ;
- (d) whether in any depots there was greater shortage than that prescribed under the rules ; if so, their list together with the excess shortage shown by each of them ;
- (e) (i) how this excess shortage was met ;
(ii) the steps, if any, taken to avoid recurrence of this excess shortage in future ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujbail :

A statement is laid on the Table *

ESTABLISHMENT OF VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN
DISTRICT AMRITSAR

704. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister of Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of applications received by the District Authorities of Amritsar during each month of 1950 for the establishment of village panchayats from the inhabitants of different villages in each tehsil of Amritsar District ;
- (b) the tehsil-wise list of the said villages ;
- (c) the progress made so far in each case ;
- (d) the number of the villages in which village panchayats have been established so far ?

*Kept in the library.

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

The required statement is given below¹.

RULE RE POSTING OF CANAL PATWARIS

705. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that under the rules no Canal Patwari can be posted within 10 miles of his home town or village ;
- (b) whether there are any Canal Patwaris in each division of Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle who are posted within a radius of 10 miles of their homes ; if so, the number of such Patwaris in each division, together with the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) No. There is no such rule.
- (b) Yes.

Majitha Division	5
Jandiala Division	8
Gurdaspur Division	4

In view of (a) above the question of giving reasons does not arise.

**RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL BODIES
IN THE STATE.**

706. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) (i) whether there are any employees including officers and establishment staff of Municipal Committees who have reached the age of 55 years but have not so far been retired ; if so, their number in each of the Municipal Committees in the State ;
- (ii) the reasons for not retiring them in each case ;

¹Kept in the library.

- (b) (i) whether there are any employees including officers and establishment in the District Boards who have reached the age of 55 years but have not been retired ; if so, their number in each District Board ;
- (ii) the reasons for not retiring them ;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up a uniform policy in all the local bodies in this respect ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) whether Government proposes to issue instructions to the local bodies that all over-age employees be made to retire ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh:

(a) to (d) Previously it was a duty of every Municipal Committee and District Board to terminate the appointment of every servant other than a ministerial servant upon his reaching the age of 55 years but it could re-employ him after that age with the sanction of the authority whose approval was necessary to the original appointment, on public grounds to be recorded in writing but could not retain him after the age of 60 years, except in very special circumstances. Information in regard to the number of employees in Local bodies in the State who have attained the age of 55 years and have not so far been made to retire is not available but Government have as recently as 9th January 1951 framed rules under the various Local Government Acts requiring local bodies to terminate the appointment of every such employee other than an inferior servant and not to retain him in service after that age except in exceptional circumstances on public grounds which must be recorded in writing, with the sanction of the State Government. These rules are being rigidly enforced.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POSTS IN THE STATE.

707. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any additional police posts were quartered in the State between 1-2-50 and 31-1-51 other than those referred to in starred question No. 2128 ; if so, their list in each District ;

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- (b) the estimated cost of each of them for the 1st year ;
- (c) the annual land revenue of the localities in which each of these police posts has been quartered ;
- (d) the ratio between the land revenue and the estimated cost of police post at each locality ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) *First Part.* Yes.

(a) *Second Part.* }

(b) }

(c) }

(d) }

A statement giving the required information is enclosed.*

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Minister for Revenue (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh): Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Rules made under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, as required by Section 133(3) of the said Act.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,63,33,270 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52, in respect of General Administration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,63,33,270 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52, in respect of General Administration.

*kept in the library.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to pages 157 and 161 of the Budget. A sum of Rs. 1,84,241 has been shown as 'charged' item against Sub-Head H-Ministers on both these pages. Whereas the word 'charged' is printed on the left side at page 157, it appears on the right side at page 161. Why I have raised this point is due to the fact that a cut motion has been given notice of by an hon. Member and if it relates to an item which is charged, then it is out of order because 'charged' items can only be discussed but cannot be reduced.

Chief Minister : You will kindly note, Sir, that this sum of Rs. 1,84,241 relates to Accounts for the year 1949-50, but we are now discussing the Budget Estimates for the year 1951-52, and that particular item is not under consideration.

Mr. Speaker : May I know if any hon. Member wants to raise discussion on any item under this Demand which is 'charged' ?

(No hon. Member rose to speak).

In that case I shall proceed with the cut motions. It would be better if following the previous practice, we take up one cut motion which is comprehensive so that the House can discuss the whole demand. I would, therefore, ask Sardar Sajjan Singh to move his cut motion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, before we take up the discussion on the General Administration demand, I would ask the Government, through you, either to set apart one day for the discussion of the Estimates Committee Report which was laid on the Table the other day and if that be not possible, one day more may be allowed for this demand so that we can discuss the various recommendations made by the Estimates Committee.

Mr. Speaker : I shall discuss that point with the hon. Chief Minister. The report of the Public Accounts Committee and that of the Estimates Committee can be discussed on a day allotted for the purpose. Anyway I shall let the House know after I consult the Leader of the House.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : (Patti, Sikh, Rural) : (*Punjabi*) Sir, I beg to move

That the demand of Rs 1,63,33,270 in respect of General Administration be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

Now-a-days general criticism is being made against the present administration on all sides. It also appears to me that the level of

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administration has further deteriorated during the last three years. We have to consider seriously why this deterioration has set in. So far as I have been able to understand I would say that there is something wrong with the Heads of Departments. They do not carry out the policy of the Government properly. As a matter of fact the Government is weak and dare not go counter to their decisions. The Heads of departments and other highly placed officers exercise full and unrestricted powers and do whatever they like on account of the position of privilege and authority they occupy. The greatest drawback that I have noticed is that the Government has specialized itself in various things. We find that the grant of special pay to officers has become a special feature of the Budget. Apart from this, the travelling allowance charged by the hon. Ministers is unduly excessive. I am sorry to say that the average T. A. drawn by five out of the seven Ministers during the year far exceeds their salary. This is not a happy state of affairs. The hon. Minister for Rehabilitation—Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail—when he was drawing Rs. 1,500/- per mensem as his salary used to draw Rs. 2,156/- as average T. A. during the month and now when he is in receipt of Rs. 1,350/- as his salary, his average T. A. per month amounts to Rs. 1,856/-. I have with me a statement showing the amount of average travelling allowance drawn by the Heads of various Departments. It appears from that Statement that the travelling allowance drawn by the Director of Panchayats during the year amounts to Rs. 7,384/- whereas his salary is Rs. 1,475/- per mensem. Similarly the Chief Engineer, Bhakra Project has drawn Rs. 6,121/- as travelling allowance. If we look to the figures of travelling allowance drawn by the heads of various departments we will find that there is a distinct increase in the amount of T. A. drawn by them during the year 1950-51 as compared to the year 1949-50.

Whatever the Ministers do, the officers follow suit. In this way the administration is corrupted. I am at a loss to know why the Ministers are charging two types of travelling allowances for the same journey.

So far as the officers are concerned they are not in receipt of any conveyance allowance. They get road allowance only, those of grade I at the rate of annas eight per mile and those of grade II at the rate of annas six per mile while the ministers are entitled to get this allowance at the rate of annas twelve per mile. What I ask is, why

this discrimination is being made against the officers? Why should they be allowed to draw it at a lower rate even though they are drawing higher salaries and keeping better cars than the Ministers. As regards status it is evident that one who draws the higher pay has a higher status. To say so in a capitalistic society where money determines one's status and position in life is to utter a truism.

Then, Sir, it is clearly laid down in the rules that T. A. cannot be made a source of income. But our Ministers are certainly making it so. In reply to one of my questions I have been told that when a Minister's car goes empty, he charges annas four per mile and when he is travelling in it he charges annas twelve per mile as road travelling allowance. I wonder how the Ministers can justify this disparity in the rates of this allowance. Is an hon. Minister so heavy and bulky that the tyres and the wheels of his car are put to such a great strain under his weight that he considers himself justified in charging annas twelve per mile when he is travelling in it? I am surprised to see that for the same journey allowance is being charged at two different rates. My submission is that the hon. Ministers should get one allowance, either the road travelling allowance or the conveyance allowance which is at present fixed at Rs 250/- per mensem and which if they do not consider sufficient they may increase to Rs. 500/- per mensem. If they cannot agree to do this the officers should also be allowed to draw conveyance allowance. Why should this concession be confined to Ministers only. It will not be out of place to point out that some officers of the P. W. D. are also in receipt of fixed travelling allowance. Why should the hon Ministers have any objection to having one fixed allowance, be it called T. A. or conveyance allowance?

Now, Sir, I want to draw your attention to the policy of our Government with regard to the Muslims. The policy of the Government in this matter runs counter to the principle underlying the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution of India wherein it is enjoined that India shall be a Secular State. How far our Government is conforming to this fundamental principle laid down in the constitution shall be clear from the facts that I am just going to place before the House. In reply to one of my questions it was stated on behalf of the Government that the number of Muslims in Government service in Gurgaon district before the disturbances of 1947 was 78. Some of them were employed in the Deputy Commissioner's

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office, a few in the Police Department and the remainder in the Forest Department. I was also told that services of all of them were dispensed with. When asked why this had been done, the Government had no reply to give. Now it has been given out by the Government that out of these ex-employees, 38 have been re-appointed. Similarly, there were 70 Muslims working as school masters before the partition but the very fact of their being of Muslim religion was considered a crime and their services were terminated. The same fate overtook 14 Muslim Patwaris. They never moved from their native places but they have been deprived of their jobs. When the Government has restored their properties to them why does it not reinstate them? I have been asking questions about this matter since the last three sessions but it appears the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon is acting like an autocrat for neither does he acquaint the Government of the true state of affairs nor is he able to enlighten the House on this matter. So, Sir, when there is not a single Muslim official in the whole of the Administration, not a single Muslim constable in the Police Department in spite of the fact that 3 lakhs of them are living in the State, how can our Government claim to be of a secular character? What I mean to say is that if our Government wants these Muslims to continue to live here it should accord them a fair treatment.

An hon. Member : How many Hindus and Sikhs are living in the West Punjab ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I am talking of my province. If the hon. Member has any complaint against the West Punjab Government he should better proceed to West Punjab and try to become a member of the legislature of that province which is the proper forum for voicing such complaints. My point is that our Government is running counter to the spirit of the Constitution. Besides, the virus of communalism is spreading.

Minister for Revenue : Does the Constitution provide for the reservation of any percentage of posts for the Muslims ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The Constitution provides that India shall be a secular State and that nobody shall be discriminated against or

deprived of his rights for reasons of his religion. If today Muslims are being discriminated against tomorrow it may be the turn of the Sikhs.

There is another matter which has caused me a great surprise. When I asked the hon. Sardar Narotam Singh, Minister for Education, if the District Board, Gurgaon, was not subject to the control of the Government he replied that it was perfectly free to dispense with the services of its employees even without giving any notice to them and that the Government could do nothing to make it comply with the rules and regulations. This has led me to think that the Government protects and encourages breach of law. There is another objectionable thing that the District Board, Gurgaon, has done. While the Government has allowed all Muslim reinstated employees to draw their original pay the District Board has re-appointed teachers with 20 years' service at the starting pay of the grade. Besides, the Board owes most of the dismissed teachers a sum about Rs. 2,400 each. In this connection I am reminded of another matter. We used to read in history books that whenever a land was conquered the first thing to which the conquerors directed their efforts was the destruction of the culture of its vanquished people. Perhaps our Government is also acting upon this very policy in regard to Muslims. There is only one Muslim school left in this State namely, the Meo High School, Nuh. Every effort is being made to throttle it. It has not been given any grant since 1947 despite the fact the District Board had made an agreement to give it a grant of rupees three thousand every year. Besides, the school authorities in spite of their utmost efforts have not been allowed to draw any money out of its deposit of rupees sixty-two thousand lying with the Government Co-operative Bank during the last three years. Sometime back the teachers of the school had to resort to strike which continued for several months owing to the failure of the authorities to pay their salaries. It has been stated on behalf of the Government that the school authorities have now been permitted to withdraw a sum of Rs. 30 thousand. But still there is no knowing when the actual payment will be made to them. May be it will take another five years. This is the sort of treatment our Government is meting out to the Muslims. Communalism is rife in the services. The whole atmosphere of the State has been vitiated by this virus.

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An hon. Friend has remarked that we should bear in mind the number of Hindus and Sikhs who are allowed to live in the West Punjab. I say that we have no concern with the West Punjab. We have to act according to our own Constitution. I am led to believe that if injustice is done to-day to one minority the same will be done to another tomorrow. As a matter of fact the Government should declare its policy in very definite and unambiguous terms. It should definitely say whether it is prepared to retain the Muslim population or not. In case they have to be retained they should be given their civil rights. And if the rights of citizenship are not to be extended to them it is better that they should be asked to go away from this country. It does not become us to pursue a vague and an uncertain policy.

In addition to this I wish to know as to why does this Government act on two different and conflicting principles. One and the same Government should have one and the same principle. I fail to understand why the District Board employees have not been reinstated when 38 men have been put on their jobs. I would like to narrate one or two more incidents for information of the House. They are as follows. Mr. Rehman Bakhsh was a member of the District Board, Gurgaon. The Government removed him from Membership during the 1947 disturbances despite the fact that he continued to live in this country and that his property was not confiscated. When this fact was brought to the notice of the Government by me in 1949, he was reappointed a Member of the District Board. Now along with this there is quite a different happening. A gentleman Sheikh Azim Ullah by name was a Member of the Municipal Committee, Faridabad. He continued to be a Member during 1948 and 1949 and attended the meetings of the Committee. But somehow his property was confiscated. I do not understand as to how this Government works. It does one thing at one time and does quite a different thing at another time under similar circumstances. Sir, I wish to tell the House that the policy of this Government is very dangerous and is calculated to lead to destruction. We saw terrible communal disturbances in 1947 and I am afraid that if things are allowed to continue as they exist at present these disturbances might repeat themselves a number of times. It is

incumbent on us to evolve a definite policy in respect of the Muslims. If we have to retain them we should give them a proper treatment. And if they have not to be retained they should be told so, so that they may go away from here.

My hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh, Parliamentary Secretary, has been pleased to say that Dr. Gopi Chand's Government is the Government of the poor and I venture to place before the House an instance to illustrate the poverty of his Government. In reply to my question No. 477 I have been told that the Chief Minister's residence is furnished with Government furniture costing Rs. 15,547. This shows the condition of poverty the Chief Minister is in. I would not like to say anything about the other members of the cabinet as they must after all be following their Chief. Here are two or three examples of the General Administration of this Government. On the 20th of March, 1950 a dispute arose between the police and the people of village Kacha Pucca in my ilaqa with the result that a Sub-Inspector was killed. At this the people of the village were made to crawl on their bellies. Such things used to happen during the British regime. But now though the Britishers have left their spirit is still dying hard. When we complained against the Superintendent of Police, a D. S. P. was deputed for investigation and the D. S. P. further transferred the work to a Sub-Inspector. All this is so very strange. After all how can a junior officer report against a senior officer? In such circumstances the Government invariably says that the complainant, the accused and the Government i.e. all the parties are in the right. I shall here relate another incident. In the jurisdiction of Police Station Ajnala a marriage party came into conflict with a Sub-Inspector. What happened at that place is really a slur on this Government.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, this matter is sub-judice.

Mr. Speaker : Is it so ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I only wish to place a few facts before the House.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot place the facts before the House if the matter is sub-judice. It is possible that the views of the hon. Member may conflict with the arguments of the complainant or the accused and they may influence the case.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Sir, I only wish to tell the House that the police stripped the women of that place of their clothes and showed them naked. This police has perpetrated such atrocities on the people that they will not be forgotten by a number of generations to come. People will remember this stigma on the face of the police and the Government for centuries. But in all seriousness I ask as to what is after all the cause of such happenings. To my mind the reason is that the offenders are in league with the Ministers and they are favoured by them. These favours are costing the State a very good deal. It is due to these favours that the prestige and the respect of the Government are going down every day.

Now I wish to refer to another incident in connection with which I shall place before the House the report of the Congress Committee also. On the 23rd and 24th August last year, lathi charge was made in Chandigarh. The District Congress Committee, Ambala, set up an Enquiry Committee about that lathi charge. The General Secretary of that Committee and three members of the Working Committee were also included in that Enquiry Committee. A copy of the report submitted by that enquiry committee has been sent to the Government. I too have a copy of the report with me and I wish to read from it. This will reveal the manner in which the Government acts. It is stated in the report —

The police caught hold of the unarmed people and broke gas bombs on their bellies and feet. They beat the people in the same manner in which the agriculturists thrash grain. Hundreds of persons were mercilessly beaten with lathis which resulted in injuries to more than two hundred of them. Two men and one lady were injured with bullets.

Another procession was taken out on 24th August. Now I wish to tell about the manner in which this was attacked. The report goes on to say —

The police attacked the processionists with gas bombs and lathis and about thirty persons were wounded. Forty-seven arrests were effected. We saw people writhing with pain on account of lathi blows and also those who had been injured by gas bombs or had their eyes badly affected. We met Mussamat Kako and recorded her statement. She said that she received a bullet wound on her foot. We saw the wound which was quite fresh. Her foot had swollen and being unable to move about she was confined to bed with severe pain. She told us that

she had been forcibly turned out of the local charitable dispensary. We met another man whose one finger and left hand had been injured by bullets. A small daughter aged two and a half years of Mussammat Prem Kaur of the same village became unconscious on account of the effect of gas and passed away on the next day, i. e. the 24th August.

It is stated in the report at a subsequent place—

Wherever we went, the people narrated this incident with tears in their eyes and we were very much moved by them. It made us wonder whether Ram Rajya could ever come into existence in this unfortunate country where our own people held the reigns of administration. Could our dreams of Ram Rajya ever materialise? Evidently we could see no signs of its coming into existence after we had seen such cruelties being committed on the people. Beating of unarmed and peaceful processionists in such a merciless manner and committing of inhuman cruelties on children, ladies and old men, including the removal of dopattas from the heads of women who had to return to their homes with their heads covered with their hands, did not provide a pleasing spectacle. This action on the part of the Government was shameful from the humanitarian point of view.

The report is signed by Shri Arya Nand, General Secretary and Sardar Kaka Singh, Shri Umi Ram and Sardar Hem Singh, who are members of the Congress Working Committee of that place.

Mr. Speaker, when we were students of the fifth or sixth class at school, we used to read a story about a senseless regime where senseless administration existed. Similar things are happening now during the reign of the Congress Government. I have got a copy of the judgement delivered by the Cantonment Magistrate, Ambala, about which I wish to say a few words. It is stated in that judgement that one Chaudhri Labh Singh, who used to be the President of the District Congress Committee, Sheikhpura, and is now a member of the District Board, Karnal, purchased a truck. He wished to get petrol for that truck and he was experiencing great difficulty in obtaining it. Being disgusted with the office staff, he wrote a letter to hon. Sardar Pratap Singh, who was at that time the Minister-in-charge of transport. He forwarded that application to the district authorities. Those officials thought that he had complained against them and should therefore be taught a lesson. They instituted a suit against him on the ground that he was the owner of trucks Nos. 1341

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and 1342 for which he applied for petrol on the 31st March, 1948, and he got it on the 1st April. They said that Chaudhri Labh Singh's signatures existed on their register. On receipt of this report, the Transport Controller remarked—'If the evidence is sufficient he should be prosecuted under Sections 182 and 193 I. P. C.' When the case went before the court and the whole matter was placed before Chaudhri Labh Singh, he proved that the number of his truck was 1354 and that trucks numbered 1341 and 1342 belonged to some other Labh Singh, whose signatures existed on the register. He summoned that other Labh Singh, who had obtained petrol, as a defence witness. The accused in that case said that as he did not know English, the question of his signing in that language did not arise. After several hearings, lasting about eight or nine months, the Magistrate acquitted the accused and wrote in his judgement—

Prosecution has failed to establish the case. It is proved beyond doubt that the accused was not the owner of trucks Nos. 1341 and 1342. He was the owner of truck No 1354.

This is the state of affairs in our present administration. If a person complains against some officials, he is subjected to harassment. This is the justice which we are getting from our Government. At first the Transport Department committed a mistake and later on the prosecution failed to verify whether the signatures which they were producing in the court were of the same Labh Singh against whom the case was instituted.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Does the Magistrate also belong to this Government or he belongs to some other Government ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Now I shall give another instance about the kind of administration carried on by our Congress Government. A public enquiry committee conducted an enquiry into the excesses of police with regard to the agitation concerning the Ludhiana Maternity Hospital. That committee consisted of the following members :—

1. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, M.L.A., Ex-chief Minister.
2. Sardar Bachan Singh, M.L.A.
3. Shrimati Sita Devi, M.L.A.
4. Shri Jagdish Chander, Advocate.

Mr. Speaker: I think the matter is *sub-judice*. I would ask the hon. Member not to refer to it.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, the question of police excesses is not *sub-judice*.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should not refer to lathi charge and other such matters because they will come before the court if they are not already *sub-judice*.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I would submit that what is before the court is, that some persons are accused of having demolished the wall and other persons are accused of defying the ban on processions.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: Sir, the matter is clearly *sub-judice*. The prosecutions have been launched as a result of a controversy, as is well known to the House. All matters pertaining to the demolition of the wall, lathi charge, defying the ban on processions and other alleged police excesses would certainly be taken up by the court. I would, therefore, submit that the hon. Member should not be permitted to refer to these in this speech.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can refer only to the grant of land to the Maternity Hospital. So far as the matters relating to the demolition of wall and lathi charge are concerned, he should not refer to them. The enquiry mentioned by the hon. Member seems to have been made by certain hon. Members of the House and some private individuals. The report might contain things like, that the police acted in a high-handed manner and the action taken by it was not justified. I would therefore request the hon. Member not to refer to the contents of the report also.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: With your permission I will submit that you will please remember that whenever a motion for adjournment was moved, in order to discuss police excesses, then there were no impediments put in the way of Members referring to particular steps taken by the police in creating a particular situation. One must say that certain excesses have been committed by the police and then the Government can say whether those allegations are true or not true.

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Member would agree with me that all these things would come before the court to adjudicate upon, so it is better if these things are not discussed on the floor of the House. I would, therefore, advise the hon. Member not to refer to them. He should refer to the question of grant of land, I would not mind that, but any thing said here, which is likely to affect the case, one way or the other, should not be touched upon now.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. In this report, no matter which is *sub-judice* has been touched. This enquiry committee conducted the enquiry only into the excesses of the police and other officials. This report has also been published in the press. But so far, no member of the committee has received any notice of contempt of court from the Government. That shows that this report has nothing to do with the case pending in the court.

Mr. Speaker : I do not agree with the hon. Member so far as this question is concerned. I would ask Sardar Sajjan Singh to proceed with his speech without referring to the Enquiry Committee report.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : This report shows that innocent people were persecuted over there. So much so that the police taking aside a boy, 16 years old, thrust a rod into his rectum.

Mr. Speaker : Order.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Did we achieve Congress Raj for these things? We thought that such excesses would be ended after the advent of independence. We thought that the administration would improve after 1947. But actually, the things have taken a turn for the worse instead of for the better. This Government of ours is a responsible Government, but its actions are irresponsible. While replying to a question of mine, the Government said that there were no prisoners of Hoshiarpur Tenant Satyagraha. But afterwards, I came to know that a court had sentenced five men in connection with that Satyagraha. The following persons were sentenced under Section 22 of the Public Safety Act :

1. Shri Kewal Krishan.
2. Shri Dilbagh Rai.

3. Shri Om Parkash.
4. Shri Om Parkash.
5. Shri Ved Parkash.

Besides the above-mentioned persons, Baba Nand Singh was also sentenced to imprisonment. On the fifth May, a procession was taken out and the court sentenced them to imprisonment on the 6th June. Baba Nand Singh went on hunger strike from the same day and that is why he died after his release. In spite of these solid facts, the Government replied that there were no prisoners of the Satyagraha and Baba Nand Singh was not a Satyagrahi prisoner.

Now I give another instance of the work of the Government. In 1948, Patwaris went on strike. In this connection, a suit was filed against a Patwari named Shri Gokal Chand, under the Essential Services Act. That man did not present himself in the court at Amritsar and thus it declared him an absconder. In this connection, a police Sub-Inspector gave the following report to the court :—

I enquired about Shri Gokal Chand accused at village Jatta, Ajnala and Amritsar. He is nowhere to be found. He is aware of the suit. He is deliberately avoiding service. There is no hope of his early arrest

But the fact is that the man had been detailed to work in the Rehabilitation Secretariat, Jullundur by the Tehsil officers and he was working over there. (*Laughter*),

In this connection, the Government has stated that it made a mistake. On the one hand it is stated that he is an absconder while on the other hand he has been drawing salary from the Secretariat. The administration of affairs is so bad that what to say of giving one crore to such a Government we should not give it even two annas. When the courts of law declare a person an absconder and the Government goes on giving him regular salaries and allowances, it reflects upon the efficiency of the administration. Should it be called administration at all? In my opinion the officers responsible for this should be punished. The matter should not be dropped simply by saying that there has been an error of judgement. I wish to place before the House some other examples in this connection.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa: Kindly give us some chosen examples.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Some of the hon. Members have other things to tell. But as far as I am concerned I wish to give only such instances of our administration, as will go to show in what manner the masses are governed by those in power. I have recently received information that I might be arrested and given a 'ragra'. (*Laughter*).

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The hon. Member should avoid that word.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, 'ragra' is not an unparliamentary word. (*Laughter*).

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Sir, I am only describing the manner in which our administration is being run. I wish to narrate for the information of the House a case which has come to my notice. A suit was filed against a Thanedar. He came to know of the witnesses who were going to appear against him. When one of them was standing outside he asked him to come to the Thana. On his refusing to do so, four constables forcibly took him inside the Thana and planting a pistol on him, took him into their custody on the charge of keeping arms. This is how the Congress Raj is carried on.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: It is not Congress Raj but Dr. Gopi Chand's Raj.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: I wrote a letter to the hon. Minister for Land Revenue and received a reply thereto. He wrote:

It is just to acknowledge your letter No. 1076 dated 13-8-50 I have called for a report and will let you know the result in due course.

But when I asked a question in this connection the hon. Parliamentary Secretary stated that no such letter was received by the Government. This is the state of affairs. A letter was written to the D. I. G. and the Government stated:

No complaint from inhabitants of village Kehamka District Amritsar was ever received by D. I. G. Jullundur Range.

I have got the receipt of the letter with me and here it is. We can only send registered and acknowledgement due letters. It is not possible for us to run after the hon. Ministers with letters and we can not secure their thumb impressions. This is the state of affairs these days.

I would like to give another example. In our ilaqa there are two outlets at Saidpur for canal water. Their numbers are D. R. 119975 and 122415. One of them was out of order. But as a matter of fact the one which was in order was charged with penalty. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Irrigation Department, we were told that it was a confidential matter. It will not be out of place to give another instance. In reply to my question No. 1287 the Government stated that the dimensions of Amritsar police lock-up are length: 19ft. 3 inches, breadth: 16 ft. 8 inches, height: 16 ft. On 8-1-1949, 71 undertrials and 2 detenus were kept there. 73 persons were locked up inside such a small room.

Sardar Bachan Singh: It is worse than black hole incident!

Sardar Sajjan Singh: This is a Government of the people!

Sardar Swaran Singh: Which month was it?

Sardar Sajjan Singh: It was the month of January.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Then the hon. Member can have no complaint. (*Laughter*).

Sardar Sajjan Singh: The hon. Members can themselves imagine the manner in which those undertrials might have passed their night in that small room. I also wish to bring it to the notice of this House that our Government often makes misstatements. In one of my questions I asked the Government to give the numbers of prisoners in certain jails on certain dates. The reply was:

All the above jails were overcrowded during the period under reply. The excess number of prisoners were accommodated in tents or in factory workshops where necessary

When it was asked as to how 612 persons could be accommodated in Jullundur District Jail when there is accommodation for 349 persons there, it was stated:

All the prisoners were confined in barracks and wards included in authorized accommodation.

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This is the state of affairs. How can such a Government be trusted? Does it deserve to be called a responsible Government?

Shri Virendra : Sir, is there no time limit?

Mr. Speaker : I can fix time limit if the Members want. I would ask the hon. Member now to wind up in ten minutes. I have given him more time because I know he takes so much trouble and interest in asking questions and collecting information. My office knows that more than fifty per cent of the questions received by the office come from Sardar Sajjan Singh. Other hon. Members will have fifteen minutes each.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When I asked a question regarding Sardar Arjan Singh of village Dhira Patra in Ferozepur District in the last session, I was told that the person was dead. But to my surprise, when I went to that village I found him alive. When the question was asked in this session the Government replied that no such information was available. In our ilaqa patwaris above sixty years of age were made to retire. But one patwari of seventy years is still working. His name is Behari Lal and he was born in 1880. In spite of the above instructions from the Government he is still working in village Miran. Instructions were issued by the Government to the effect that six times land revenue should be charged from those of the displaced persons whose claims were false. When a question was asked the Government denied it. I have got with me the number of the order issued by the Government. It is 3682 dated 28-7-50. The second order in 4094 L. R. C. dated 6-4-50. This is the way our administration functions.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I would invite your attention to another Assembly question No. 628 asked by me on the floor of the House. This question pertained to an allotment order which had been changed for no less than six times by the authorities concerned. The question is as follows :

Whether in any case allotment orders have been changed; if so, the brief history of the case and the reasons for changing the orders again and again and also the number of times, the orders were revised.

The reply given by the Government to this question runs like this :

Yes, in one case orders were revised six times. In the first instance Sunder Singh, a temporary allottee, was replaced by Mst. Rami, widow of Sardar Achhar Singh, who is a colonist of village Bala Chak, where her sons also own land. In review the application of Sardar Sunder Singh was accepted by A. D. C. Amritsar, ousting Mst. Rami. Sardar Sunder Singh was again replaced by Mst. Rami by order of D. G. R. R. Then on a representation of Sardar Sunder Singh, his allotment was again restored and that of Mst. Rami cancelled. Mst. Rami was again allowed to continue. Lastly it was ordered that the possession of Sunder Singh should not be disturbed.

I think we have never come across any such instance in which an order of the Government was altered or subjected to a review six times. Ordinarily under the law there are three stages for this purpose. The first is the passing of an order by a court of law. The second is the institution of appeal against it, and the final stage is the review of the order of the appellate court. But things are different in the regime of our Government. Here an order of the Government is changed six times. The matter does not stop here. I enquired from the Government in the same question as to when it would arrive at a final decision regarding matters mentioned in the said question. I was given the following reply by the Government :

No decision has yet been arrived at. The case will be dealt with in review.

This sorry state of affairs does not end here. Let me mention another fact. I asked another Assembly Question No. 2335, and enquired :—

Whether any abducted Muslim girl named Mst. Sharifan alias Gian Kaur was recovered by S. Dalip Singh, Police Officer on or about the 6th January, 1949 from the house of Sardar Kishen Singh s/o Harnam Singh of village Gumtala, district Amritsar ; if so, the date when she was admitted to the abducted women's camp at Amritsar ?

The reply given by the Government was in the negative. That is, no such girl was recovered. But when I challenged the veracity of the statement, the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation sent me a letter stating that a girl was recovered and had since been handed over to her father. I would like to read out that letter which I received from

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the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation on the subject. It runs like this :

Copy of a letter No. 490 G.R., dated the 2nd February, 1951 from the Financial Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation, Jullundur City, to Sardar Sajjan Singh Margindpuri, M. L. A., Patti, district Amritsar.

Subject:—Recovery of Mst. Sharifan, daughter of Sohna, an abducted Muslim girl.

I am directed to refer to your note dated the 15th October, 1950, to the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation on the subject cited above and to point out that it has been ascertained by the High powered officer, Jullundur, that the girl in question was sent to Lahore and had been taken over by her father Sohna s/o Nathu Faqir, now reported to be residing in village Dalla, Chanda Singh Wala Chak No. 85, P.S. Manawala, district Sheikhpura.

Now Mr. Speaker, you will just see what reliance can be placed on this Government. The reply of the hon. Minister conflicts with that of the officer working under him. The hon. Minister states that the girl has not been recovered. But a high officer of this very Government while replying to a query on the same subject, says that after recovery Sharifan was sent to Lahore and made over to her father. But even this reply was forthcoming only when I had challenged the statement of the Government.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : This Government is rotten to the core.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Then, Mr. Speaker, our Government issued an order that group leaders of the allottees should be made responsible for the payment of land revenue and that it should be realised from them whether or not they are able to recover the same from an allottee. In this connection I had put an Assembly Question No. 2388, which is like this.

Whether Government issued any instructions to the Deputy Commissioners during the year 1948-49 that rent and other dues from any group be realised in full from the group leaders ; if so, the provision of law under which these instructions were issued ?

The reply given to me by the Government was to the effect that no such instructions had been issued by it. Then I enquired in the same

question "whether any complaints were received by the District Authorities in the Amritsar district during the year 1948-49 from the various group leaders that they had been made to pay the arrears of other members of the group who had cultivated their lands individually ; if so, the number of such complaints". The Government gave the following reply.

- (1) Only one complaint from Sardar Kishen Singh of village Kalsian Kalan was received.
- (2) The Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, has been asked to give aid in recovery of dues from other defaulters so that the group leader is reimbursed.

But just see the help rendered by the Deputy Commissioner. He replied under his letter No. 7171, dated 4-4-51 as follows.

You are hereby informed that the rent recovered from you is legal according to the instructions as laid down in their letter No. 537 R, dated 27-4-1948. Hence your application has been filed.

From this it will appear that the administrative machinery of the Government is not the least dependable. As a matter of fact, this Government is devoid of any law or rules. It does not realise its responsibility and the condition of its administration is simply deplorable. The matter does not stop here. I would like to adduce another specimen of the inefficiency of the Government. Sardar Khushal Singh, resident of village Padri, District Amritsar, had been a very well-known patriot of this country. He was sentenced to transportation for life in 1914-15 and his property was confiscated under orders of the Government. He was released after ten years but his property was not restored to him. After the attainment of independence, his widow, Jeo, asked me that since our country had become free and was being governed by our own Government, I should try for the restoration of her landed property, which had been confiscated during the British regime. I wrote to the Government requesting thereby that the lands of Sardar Kushal Singh be restored to his widow. But the Government took three years to decide this case. In the meantime Jeo sighed and cursed the national Government for this delay and at last passed away in July 1950. But just look at the quick disposal

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

of the case by the Government. I received a letter from Government on the 1st February, 1951, which runs like this.

Order of the Governor of the Punjab.

The Governor of the Punjab is pleased to sanction the grant of a life pension of Rs. 36/- (Rupees thirty six only) per mensem to Smt. Jeo w/o late Sardar Khushal Singh of Padri c/o S. Sajjan Singh Margindpuri, M. L. A., Amritsar, for the patriotic activities of her husband, who was transported for life in 1914-15 and whose property was confiscated in favour of Government.

2. These orders will take effect from the 1st of January, 1951.

(Loud Laughter).

Mr. Speaker, just imagine the position of the Government. How ridiculous it is. Jeo died in July, 1950 and life pension is granted to her with effect from January, 1951, six months after her death.

There is yet another specimen of the inefficiency of the administration. In this connection I would draw your attention to page 67 of the 'New Expenditure for 1951-52'. It will be found that a sum of Rs. 31,640/- has been earmarked for the item, 'Continuance of the staff required for the revision of the Canal and Drainage Act VIII of 1873, during the year 1951-52.' If the previous expenditure incurred on this work is included in this amount, then the total amount expended so far, will come to Rs. 68,360/-. The work of revising the Canal and Drainage Act was undertaken on the 15th of September, 1949, but so far it has not been accomplished. Now let me tell the hon. Members the amount of work, which is required to be revised. The Canal and Drainage Act comprises 75 sections and 33 pages, and so far no interim report has been placed before the House, which could indicate that after all some thing was being done in the matter. But this is the height of inefficiency and carelessness that has been shown by the administration entrusted with this work. May I ask as to what is a Legal Remembrancer meant for? This revision work could have easily been accomplished within a few days. I think the Legal Remembrancer and an Executive Engineer should have sat together and after careful consideration amended the Canal and Drainage Act. But I am constrained to remark that our administration is rotten to the core. It has failed to realise its responsibility. While a Deputy Commissioner says one thing, an hon. Minister says something quite

different. I earnestly pray to God to bless the hon. Chief Minister and his colleagues in the Cabinet with wisdom so that they may be able to serve the country in a much better way than before.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, on seeing the Treasury Benches and the Official gallery empty, one is apt to feel that we have assembled here simply to get our speeches, which we make here on the floor of the House, recorded and duly published in the form of debates. I feel that the speeches that are made here do not seem to produce any effect on the Government, and also on those Friends who cannot form their own opinion independently.

Mr. Speaker: No reference to hon. Members.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: As members of this august House we are within our rights to invite the attention of the hon. Ministers to their failings in running the administration of the State and also to demand justification from them for their having failed to serve the public in the true sense of the word, for it is they who have brought disrepute not only to the Government but also to the fair name of our State. It is a matter of deep regret that instead of contributing our mite for the welfare of the State we have been coming here simply for drawing our allowances. Our Government does not seem to pay any heed to what we speak here on the floor of the House, what to speak of their functionaries. Today the position is that the officials of the Punjab Government have come to realize that they have nothing to do with the public or in other words they feel that they are not responsible to them for everything that they do. These officials would adore the Official Gallery pompously only on those occasions when His Excellency the Governor Addresses this House or when the hon. Chief Minister is in a mood to make any Statement. They have not realized that now they are no longer the servants of His Excellency the Governor. They have not realised that under the changed conditions they are the servants of the general public. Now that we have achieved Independence, they are responsible to the people and not to His Excellency the Governor. What to say of the officers, even our hon. Ministers have failed to realize their responsibilities. They are generally absent from their seats in the House.

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

Now about the administration of our State. Mr. Speaker, I think you will also subscribe to my view when I say that according to the conventions of Parliament any hon. Member should not say such things on the floor of the House as are not based on facts. As a matter of fact he is free to do so outside, but it is his duty to strictly observe the convention of not speaking such things as are not based on facts, and that he should base anything and everything that he speaks on the floor of the House, on facts and facts alone. I do not say that I do not speak things which are not based on facts and that I am not used to it. Being a political worker I say such things as are not based on facts but only outside this House and never have I done so within the four walls of the august House. I say it in unequivocal terms and assure you, Sir, before the apostle of truth and non-violence whose portrait is hanging just in front of us, that I have never uttered a single word on the floor of this august House which may not be a fact. On the contrary I have to say with deep regret that the replies made by the Government on the floor of the House are not based on facts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to a few instances in support of my contention. I had enquired from the Government as to what were the reasons for increasing the number of the Parliamentary Secretaries from 7 to 13. Through the same question I had also enquired if any pressure of more work had necessitated the Government to take such a step or else what other reason was there for the Government to justify its action. Mr. Speaker, you will be surprised to learn that the reply that was given by the Government was couched in a simple language and in simple five words namely 'reply is not yet ready'. This is the reply that I got from the Government. It goes without saying Sir, that even an ordinary person who appoints another domestic servant knows and knows it full well that increase in his domestic work and proper supervision of his property etc., had necessitated him to take such a step. But the case is quite different with our Government. When asked as to what work were the Parliamentary Secretaries doing, no time was lost by the Government in repeating the same five-worded sentence namely that the 'reply is not yet ready'. Here I am reminded of an instance. Once in Afghanistan 40 prisoners including Sardar Harjab Singh an Ex-M. L. A. of the United Punjab Assembly, were taken

under police custody from the jail premises to the court. When these prisoners were produced before the Presiding Officer of the court, 39 were convicted by him one by one. When the 40th prisoner was produced before the magistrate he enquired from him as to who he was. The prisoner at once replied that he was the 40th prisoner. The magistrate grew suspicious about him when he did not disclose his name and asked him as to what he meant by saying that he was the 40th prisoner. He told him that he had not committed any offence. Thereupon he narrated the whole story how he was dragged in to replace one prisoner, for keeping the total number of prisoners in tact, who had managed to escape from amongst his fellow prisoners while they were on their way to the Court under police custody. Similar is the case with our Government and the Parliamentary Secretaries. It is an open secret that in a House of 78 Members, the number of Members required to form a Ministry is 34. I have not counted you in the total number as you are neutral. The seven Ministers, the Deputy Speaker and some hon. Members who have been appointed to various committees for some ulterior motives.....

Mr. Speaker: Please do not attribute motives.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, what I wish to point out is this that like the 40th prisoner these 13 Parliamentary Secretaries who have absolutely no work to do have been appointed as such simply to bolster up the ranks of the Government Party, or in other words to continue the existence of the present Ministry.

It is being stated that our Government is out to eradicate corruption in the State. In this connection I would like to ask the hon. Ministers whether they do not realize the fact that the very foundation of their Ministry is based on corruption and that their existence is based on corruption and that the dissolution of this Ministry would be brought about through corruption. What I mean to say is this that our present Ministry is corruption incarnate.

Mr. Speaker, you will be surprised to learn that since the Partition our Government has set up as many as 17 committees. There is hardly any hon. Member of this House who, being a supporter of the present Ministry, has not been appointed to work on one committee or the other. About 13 lakh rupees have been spent by the

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

Government on the T. A. of the members of these committees. It is a matter of deep regret that so far none of these committees has submitted any report whatsoever and whenever the Government has been asked to supply the necessary information about the work done by these committees, we are told that their reports are still under the consideration of the Government. It is clear from this that the schemes of the Government only rest on paper and no practical shape whatsoever, is given to them. The appointment of some of the hon. Members on those committees is only a vote-catching device, and nothing else. The hon. Members of these committees and the Parliamentary Secretaries who have absolutely no work to do, are paid large sums simply to bolster up the ranks of the Government Party. In this connection I remember how an hon. Member had been sent to Madras to attend a conference to espouse Punjab's speciality in agriculture. Shri Gopala Reddy the Chief Minister of Madras told me that the representative of our State had cut a very sorry figure in that meeting the proceedings of which were also watched by many distinguished visitors. He further told me that he was sorry to find that the representative of our State could not speak more than just a few words. Mr. Speaker, I have enquired from the hon. Member concerned as to what for he had been to Madras. He replied that before he accepted the offer to attend that meeting he had informed the Government that his going to Madras would not serve any purpose as he was not fully conversant with English and that he could not speak more than a word or two. He also told me that he had been deputed there simply for making T. A. amounting to Rs. 800/-

Mr. Speaker : No reflection on Members please.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I would not name the hon. Member because it is not your pleasure. But what I have stated is a fact.

Similar is the case so far as the appointments made by our Government are concerned. I had enquired from the Government whether it was a fact that it had sent for the roll of an officer for promoting him to the E. A. C. Cadre. Mr. Speaker, you will be surprised to learn that the reply that I got to this question was that Government had no

knowledge of it. (*Interruptions*). This is a fact, Sir. I am prepared to undergo any punishment if what I have stated is not a fact. Again Sir, if it is proved that what I have stated is not a fact I promise before you, and on the floor of this House that I shall resign from the membership of this Assembly. In spite of the hesitation of the Commissioner to do so, Government pressed him to send the roll of such an officer whose character roll was already very bad. In this connection I would like to submit that whenever an intelligent person purchases a dog, he carefully enquires about its pedigree. I am constrained to remark that even now when we have attained Independence, those persons are being taken into service who not only themselves had been traitors to India but their forefathers also treacherously stabbed India during the Freedom Movement in 1857. Our Government which claims to be a democratic Government is following in the foot-prints of the Britishers. It is running its administration on the same old bureaucratic lines as during the British regime. What we find these days is that our Government does not hesitate to encourage those who have sold away the honour of their country for a mess of pottage. Here I cannot do without citing another instance how recruitment to services is made in our State. There occurred a vacancy of a stenographer. Almost all the candidates carried recommendatory letters from the hon. Ministers. The appointing authorities in order to get out of the difficulty decided to appoint the man who carried the letter of the Minister-in-charge of the department. But unfortunately it was found that three candidates carried letters of recommendations from that hon. Minister. It was afterwards decided by the appointing authority to draw lots. Under the circumstances may I ask the hon. Ministers to kindly let me know whether this administration is fit to be called by the name of administration. I do not think that it is an administration worth the name. In this connection I am again reminded of an instance, which relates to Afghanistan. When Aman-Ullah-Khan was forced to proceed to London, 'Bacha Saqqa' (the son of a watercarrier) was installed on the throne of Afghanistan. Bacha Saqqa after sometime appointed the son of a shoe-mender as the Inspector General of Hospitals, as he was his friend before he became the King of Afghanistan.

I think that our present Government is in no way less than the Bacha Saqqa's Government. Public is openly accusing a Minister for

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

using P. W. D. girders in his house which he has constructed recently. This fact they say can be verified by removing those girders and seeing the seal of P. W. D. imprinted on them. I personally do not believe this but if these allegations are true I should say that this is the most scandalous state of affairs. Ministers should be men of unimpeachable integrity so that people may have full confidence in them but I regret to say that the impression of the public about them is today quite different. One day I visited the Civil Secretariat and saw a huge crowd in the precincts of the building. On enquiry I was told that these young men had come there to find out a job in some department. But today jobs are given to the brothers-in-law and nephews of the hon. Ministers. I at once remarked.

कुछ भतीजे और चन्द साले हैं — औहदे तकसीम होने वाले हैं

ਕੁਛ ਭਤੀਜੇ ਔਰ ਚੰਦ ਸਾਲੇ ਹੈਂ— ਉਹਦੇ ਤਕਸੀਮ ਹੋਨੇ ਵਾਲੇ ਹੈਂ

The task of making recruitment to Government services is not given to the Public Service Commission on whose integrity nobody can have any doubt. Its hands have been tied up by the Government. A responsible officer of the Government told me that one member of the Public Service Commission has been appointed because he is the brother of a Member of this House and the second appointment has been made merely to provide an individual with a job. Besides this, favouritism is shown in the matter of recruitment in the Government departments. The rules provide that a post carrying a salary of Rs. 150/- or over must be filled by the Public Service Commission. But our Government in order to circumvent this rule makes appointments itself on such posts on temporary basis in the beginning and then goes on extending the period gradually.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : On a point of order, Sir. I may draw your attention to the remarks made by my hon. Friend during the course of his speech about the members of the Public Service Commission and request that he should be asked to withdraw these words.

Mr. Speaker : I am sorry that I was a bit inattentive at that time but if the hon. Member has used those words he should withdraw them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, I withdraw them because it is your pleasure otherwise there is no untruth in these words. Sir, I was submitting how the Government makes appointments on posts carrying a salary of Rs. 150/- or more, the recruitment of which generally falls within the purview of the Public Service Commission. The Government fills such posts for one year in the first instance and then extends the period by and by. I would ask if it is not like playing a joke with the Public Service Commission. I can say without any fear of contradiction that 95% of such posts which carry a salary of Rs. 150 or over are filled by the Government. Sometime back my hon. Friend Shri Virendra asked a question on the floor this House why a person who was once rejected by the Public Service Commission in the United Punjab has been appointed as Deputy Transport Controller by the Government. This question did not elicit any definite reply. The Government always parry such inconvenient questions and take shelter behind the technicalities by saying "I require notice" or "It is not in the public interest to answer this question." There is hardly any matter in which the Government does not make undue interference. Now-a-days we cannot get anything automatically but have to experience good deal of difficulty at every step to get it. If we are in need of water or electricity or even an ordinary thing like salt we have to look to the Government. I must deprecate the tendency of making undue interference by the Government in ordinary matters.

As regards the deplorable symptoms of corruption that exist in the men at the top and are bringing the Government into disrepute, I may quote an instance which would indicate how Ministers are indulging in corrupt practices in the State. If any check-up is made into the trunk calls made by the hon. Ministers, we will find that large number of them are made for their personal and private use. One day I was sitting in the room adjoining the drawing room of an hon. Minister. He told me that he had to make an urgent official call and for this purpose he retired to the next room. I formed an impression that he might have to make some call in connection with the reshuffling of the Cabinet. He booked a trunk call and I distinctly heard him saying that it was 'urgent official.' After two minutes when he got the connection he indulged in such a disgraceful talk that

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

I had to hang down my head in shame. He said:—

Veena! I have received no letter from you. Are you keeping fit? If you do not propose to come here, I will fix my tour at your place.

It is the misfortune of the State that the Ministers are exhibiting such traits of character. It was also my bad luck that I happened to be at his residence at that time. If anybody were to ask me to tell the name of that Minister, I will not divulge it as it would be breach of faith. May I ask if such a trunk call made by the hon. Minister can be treated as 'official' trunk call. Sometime back I happened to be at Batala and elections of Panchayats were being made. It was my ill-luck that I happened to be there at that time. I should say that it is a bad luck to be born in this State where the Government is being run by the help of an astrologer. There I knew that the Resident Magistrate was receiving a parwana after every hour to make so and so a panch. The Resident Magistrate was feeling elated and honoured for receiving personal calls from the hon. Chief Minister. Such recommendations were made to satisfy his personal ends. I remember that two hon. Ministers had asked me on various occasions to make trunk calls from their bungalows if I ever wanted to do so at Government expense. Does it behove the hon. Ministers to make private trunk calls at the expense of the Government. If this is the attitude of the hon. Ministers I think we can never weed out corruption from the State.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will now wind up.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: I will not speak for the next five days. So please allow me 15 minutes more.

Mr. Speaker: I find that during the discussion on Governor's Address and during the General discussion on the Budget 25 Members have spoken. So I wish that Members sitting on the back benches should take part in this discussion and give vent to their feelings on the particular demands. For this reason I would request the hon. Members who have already spoken to excuse me if I do not call upon them to speak.

Shri Virendra : Does it mean that those who have already spoken will not be allowed to speak again ?

Mr. Speaker : That will also be taken into consideration. I do not know what is to be done with mover and seconder of the motion of thanks. (*Laughter*).

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I am beholden to you for giving me fifteen minutes more. In reply to a question asked by me the hon. Minister for Public Works had stated on the floor of this House that Mr. K. B. Datta's seat in the Ambala City Municipality was declared vacant because he was responsible for breaking open the locks of the Municipal Office. The falsehood of this statement stands exposed in view of what has been written in the editorial of today's Tribune. What I mean to say is that even those who are at the helm of affairs of the Government do not hesitate to conceal truth and indulge in lies even over trifling matters. What respect, what prestige, what confidence can such a Government inspire in the minds of the people ?

I have just recalled an instance of how this Government encourages corrupt practices in the administration. In spite of the fact that a certain Naib Tehsildar was responsible for destroying the applications for allotment of land of all the sitting allottees of village Verak because he was himself an applicant and wanted to ensure the success of his case and the Commissioner Jullundur Division does not want to recommend his name for promotion partly for this reason and partly because he is very junior to other candidates, the latter is being compelled and pressed to forward his name just because he happens to be the son of Sardar Bhag Singh a retired officer who had rendered meritorious services to the British Government and helped it in sending many patriots like the late Sardar Bhagat Singh to the gallows. The inquiry in the case of destruction of applications for allotment was made by no less a person than Mr. M. S. Randhawa and the fact was established that this man who was then working as Naib Tehsildar in the Rehabilitation Department had himself destroyed the applications. Instead of giving him any punishment, our Government is anxious to promote him and is putting pressure upon the Commissioner to send his roll. Surely if persons like this son of Sardar Bhag Singh are not encouraged in this era of freedom, who else deserves it and what is the meaning of this freedom ?

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

Now, Sir, I want to make a few submissions about the working of the Civil Supplies Department in my district.

Mr. Speaker : Leave that aside for the demand in respect of Civil Supplies Department ; that might come up for discussion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Alright, Sir. Ludhiana cases are sub-judice and without going into details I would confine myself to saying that if such things as have happened in Ludhiana City had occurred in some other free country, those responsible for them would have been shot to death there and then or there would have been a revolution in the country. But thanks to the indulgence of this Government persons responsible for committing barbarous acts are being pampered and the innocent are being harassed. Neither has this Government any power to think or act independently nor does it care about its own reputation. On every small matter the state astrologer is being consulted.

Mr. Speaker : Please don't make such remarks.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : But, Sir, I must ask the Government as to who is paying the rent of Guildford the bungalow in which I was living for sometime as Parliamentary Secretary and which Mr. Sharma the astrologer to whom I was referring has been occupying since October, 1950. I am sure neither the hon. Chief Minister is paying it nor any other person but it is being met out of the State Exchequer. How is Mr. Sharma entitled to live in a house the rent of which is being paid by the Government.

Chief Minister : Sir, I challenge his statement. Government does not pay any rent for that house.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Then why doesn't the hon. Chief Minister say frankly who has been paying the rent since October last ? Has Mr. Sharma been paying it or the Chief Minister himself ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir, it is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker : That may be important from the point of view of the hon. Member but if anything is done by a person in his private capacity, it should not be brought in. Only administrative action done by a person in his private capacity should be discussed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Now, Sir, I want to say a few words about the officers who were suspended on some charge or the other but were after two or three years reinstated. It has been stated on behalf of the Government that out of the eight P. C. S. officers who were suspended seven have been reinstated. So far as I think, Sir, this must have caused a loss of lakhs of rupees to the Government because on their reinstatement they must have drawn full salaries for the period they were under suspension. As you know, Sir, if the decisions of a Magistrate in a large number of cases are reversed by the appellate court he is called to account for that. Cannot some such provision be made to call to account those persons on whose advice the Government decides to hold an inquiry into the conduct of certain officials and suspends them and has to incur loss because ultimately they are found to be 'not guilty' and are reinstated ?

Then, Sir, I would like to make a brief reference to the remarks made by two lawyer Friends on the floor of this House in the course of discussion on the demand for general administration.

Mr. Speaker : No personal reflections, please.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : No, Sir. One of these Friends has given a warning to the Government in a roundabout way—half explicitly and half implicitly—that if those who have committed murders and have been responsible for creating disturbed conditions during the census operations are not released, there would be a revolution. I refrain from commenting upon his mentality. The other lawyer Member whose name I consider it below my dignity to bring on my lips has been throwing mud on others forgetting that his own garments are so soiled with black deeds that all the waters of the Ganges and Jamuna will not be able to wash them clean. I would request the hon. Chief Minister to beware of such friends whose hearts have undergone no change, though they now wear white instead of blue turbans.

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

In the end I would request the hon. Chief Minister to visit the hovels of the poor to have a correct idea of the conditions prevailing in the State. Let him not be deluded by the flutter of gorgeous-coloured saris into believing that all is well with the State. Underneath the calm, shining blue surface of the ocean is hidden a terrific tumult which if ignored will cause a shipwreck.

In this very State people are finding it impossible to find cloth for a shroud. The hon. Chief Minister should not go by the applause of a few interested persons and think that all is well. These are the persons whose hearts are still as black as ever.

पालतू कुत्ते हैं हूराने हरम के हम नशीन
चोर डाकू और लुटेरा शहर का कोतवाल है

पालतू कुत्ते हैं हूराने हरम के हम नशीन ।
चोर डाकू और लुटेरा शहर का कोतवाल है ।

Mehta Ranbir Singh: (Ludhiana and Ferozepore-General-Rural) (*Hindi*). Sir, it is a pity that the Budget which is before us smacks of the Budgets of the times when we were ruled by the foreign Government. No doubt that we are an independent people at this time and the reins of our Government are in the hands of a person who fought the battle of independence with us and always took the oath of independence with us when we celebrated the Independence day on the 26th of January but I am very sorry to say that his ways of doing things are if not worse exactly the same as that of the Englishman. We did not like the ways of the Englishman and so we do not like the rule of this Government. As a matter of fact we did not have any hatred or contempt for the Englishman himself, we did not like him as he was here in this country to exploit our people and rob us of our riches. We hoped that when the Englishman had left we will have fruits of our labour and may be able to get rid of harmful policies like that of the divide and rule. But unfortunately that was not to be. I am grieved to say that even after having achieved independence and after having undergone the horrors of the partition crores of rupees are being wasted on the administration of the

State. I only wish that our hon. Ministers had taken a lesson from the Governments of other States of this country in this respect. The other States are doing some good work and are not wasting the revenues as is the case here. Our Government is spending so much on the General Administration unnecessarily that it has not been able to do anything for the displaced people or for the old residents of East Punjab despite the fact that taxation has been doubled. I may here compare the expenditure on General administration in Bombay with the expenditure incurred under the same head in our own State. Out of a total revenue of rupees 55 crores the Bombay State spends nine crores and fortyone lakhs of rupees on education and only two and a half crores i. e. a little less than 5 per cent of the total revenue on the General Administration. On the other hand we in this State spend 10 or 11 per cent of our revenue on the General Administration. I don't think we can be proud of such state of affairs. There is no gainsaying the fact that we are where the Englishman has left us and nobody has made any attempt to make any progress particularly in the matter of General Administration. It will be admitted that the Englishman always entertained very able persons in Government service and so far as their capability is concerned I have no hesitation in saying that they are as a rule much better in intelligence than those who are in the public life at present. As Lala Hardial has remarked the Englishman tried to prostitute the best brains of our country, this remark is quite well founded. Recruitment to the higher services was made by the Englishman on the basis of competitions and our best persons in the good old days sold their talent to the foreigner for an easy life. But the old days have gone and we are living in altogether different times. Now we are our own masters and the persons recruited in services by the foreigner should be and can be prostituted for the good of the State and the country in general. In the past, the foreigner prostituted them for his own ends but now when he has left the ability and the capability of the service-men remains with us and we can utilize it for the good of our people. But unfortunately no advantage is being taken of this capability. In fact what is happening is this that the members of the cabinet are using their own personal ends. They have become corrupt and are trying to amass as much wealth as they possibly can. My hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh said the other day on the floor of the House that about 90 per cent of Government officers are

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

corrupt—they are so, as they are not being properly supervised by the Ministers. If these Ministers only knew how to get work out of these otherwise efficient officers they could very easily utilize them for setting up a welfare State. The other day I was surprised to hear from the hon Chief Minister when he was replying to this allegation made by my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh that there were some black sheep among the officers. I ask if the black sheep are there why steps have not so far been taken to remove them from service. The Ministry in my opinion is at any rate guilty of inefficiency if not of corruption. They should not tolerate corruption of the officers in any case and lose no time in bringing the offenders to book.

Sir, it has been remarked in this House that no betterment of the State can be brought about so long as this House stands divided and the Parliamentary Secretaries and the Private Parliamentary Secretaries are continued without any work being entrusted to them. In connection with the appointments of the Parliamentary Secretaries and the private Parliamentary Secretaries. I feel like narrating a real story. It will be recalled that the late Maharaja of Patiala was fond of keeping wrestlers, sportsmen, artists, hunting dogs and so on. But I may tell the hon. Members that where he had a fancy for these things, he also kept a number of very able Ministers in his state despite the fact that so many Ministers were not required for a small population of fifteen lakhs. What was more, the revenue of the State did not justify the existence of so many Ministers ;

Minister for Education : Sir, the hon. Member cannot discuss a state.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I am not discussin a state. When asked as to how they kept busy, they told that half of them tried to keep some persons in power, while the other half made attempts to dislodge them. The same is the case with the Members of this Government. They have no feeling for the public. If they had any feeling for them, they would have done something for their benefit.

Now I wish to tell the House about the views expressed by hon. Gyani Kartar Singh, when he used to sit on the opposition benches

in 1938. During discussion of the Demand for General Administration, he said these words with regard to water rate—

To my mind the water rates press far more heavily on the agriculturists than even the land revenue. It is, therefore, most regrettable that the Government has not thought it worthwhile even to appoint a Committee to investigate the incidence of water rates, though, I am aware, it would be equivalent to throwing dust in people's eyes.

What is he doing today? He is himself throwing dust into the eyes of the public. Knowing all these things the hon. Members sitting on these benches talk a great deal but shout 'yes' at the time of voting. The hon. Minister for Revenue has forgotten all those things, which he used to say some years back and has increased water rate by fifty per cent. He does not care for the feelings of the poor people. He used to say that land revenue should be charged on the basis of income tax. He has conveniently forgotten all those things now.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is again irrelevant. He is discussing matters other than the General Administration.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: All these matters are included in the demand under discussion. Gyaniji said about the police—

The Police Department has been subjected, as usual, to a heavy fire of criticism, I would only submit that every constable should be sent for a month at least to a school where he should be instructed to speak politely.

I shall ask our hon. Ministers also to get training in the art of administration. Is the Government acting on those principles, which it used to hold out sometime back? In this demand is included the salary of Commissioners also about whom the hon. Minister for Revenue used to say—'The post of Commissioner is superfluous.' How does he come forward now with the demand that the high salaries of these officers should be approved? Was he deceiving the public when he used to express those views in 1938 or he has given them up for his personal convenience? Our neighbouring State of Uttar Pradesh comprises fifty or fiftyone districts. They have no Financial Commissioners while our State which consists of only twelve districts has three fat salaried Financial Commissioners. Can not the administration of this State be carried on without them?

Minister for Revenue: I said those words about the Commissioners.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: If the administration of Uttar Pradesh can be carried on very successfully through the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary, why can't our Government do the same? Are our Ministers less efficient? If they reduce their tours by one half, they can look to administrative work very well.

Another thing to which I wish to refer is the prevalence of corruption in the State. One of its causes is too much of intervention by the persons in power. In this connection, I wish to quote an instance. I asked a question in the House as to why the Government had nominated Kaka Singh as a member of Municipal Committee, Khanna, when he had been turned out of the Congress Committee on account of his misconduct. Parliamentary Secretary, Shri Dev Raj Sethi, stated in reply 'he is the best of the lot.' The case to which I am now going to refer is not sub-judice. This Kaka Singh brought two drums of oil into the Municipal limits of Khanna without payment of octroi. The officers of the Municipal Committee brought this fact to the notice of the Committee. Kaka Singh commands influence with the Ministers. The Government ordered that the Committee could not interfere in this matter. In this connection the Additional District Magistrate Ludhiana who was directed by the Government to dispose off this case remarked—

'The Octroi Inspector has allowed the drums to be brought into the Municipal limits without realising octroi tax at the barrier and is responsible for the loss to the Committee. So action should be taken against him.'

May I know if Kaka Singh brought these drums with the consent of the Octroi Inspector? He brought these by virtue of his connections with the Ministers. He knew that nobody could do him any harm. He decided to take action against those officials, who had the courage of reporting against him. A false case was made against those Municipal officials. That case too is not sub-judice. The Government issued orders from Simla that the Municipal employees concerned should be suspended and proceeded against. The House will be interested to learn the findings of the court in that case. It was held that the case was quite false. When I asked the Deputy Commissioner if there

were no rules governing such cases, he replied that he was a Government servant and had to carry out the orders received from the higher authorities. Those Municipal officials were honourably acquitted. The court went on to say that they had been involved in that false case in order to save a Municipal Commissioner against whom they had given evidence in a case. He had misused his position. When the time for action against that Municipal Commissioner came, the Government slept over the matter for months together.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).

When His Excellency, the Governor visited Ludhiana, I pointed out to him that if the Government could not trust its own District Magistrate and Commissioner, it should dismiss them and run the administration through Ministers and their touts. The two persons who had previously given correct evidence, resiled from their statements under pressure of Kaka Singh. The Magistrate had written to the Government that those persons should be dismissed from service. But still this was not done. It was the Governor who removed that Municipal Commissioner and dismissed those two employees by his special powers. This is how the Government shelters the corrupt and victimises the honest.

What is the condition of administration in our State? This can be judged from the opinion of the Daily Tribune of our State. It says: "On the larger question of whether the services have improved or deteriorated in the last three years, we believe that officials of integrity will themselves acknowledge deterioration. There is no escape from this unpleasant fact." What is the cause of this deterioration in the situation? I do not want to make any personal attack or to bring in any names. Sometime back, the hon. Chief Minister, in his official capacity, went to tour the Kangra district. That was the season of plenty of fruit in the district. The hon. Chief Minister was accompanied by some hon. Members and also a Minister of the Central Government. What happened there was this that the people were made to serve the party with eggs, chicken etc. The Patwaris were forced to provide these things. What was worst was that at the time of departure, the cars were loaded with cherry worth Rs. 450. I was told this thing by an official.

Thakur Beli Ram : This is absolutely wrong.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : You may say so. Up till now, nobody has cared to foot that bill of Rs. 450. Now, Sir, you can imagine whether the Government servant who gave so much cherry to the hon. Chief Minister will exploit the people or not. After all it is not provided that he should give such costly presents out of his own salary. Naturally, he has to get them in turn from the people. Before the arrival of the hon. Chief Minister, a tout went to the people and asked them as to who wanted to give a party to the Chief Minister. People replied that there was no need of any party. At last a man from the Pepsu territory, which was recently merged with the Ludhiana District, was picked up and he was forced to arrange a party. He spent Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 on it. But unfortunately the late Sardar Patel died after sometime and the man could not be informed in time and had to suffer the loss.

Again, Sir, a Government college is going to be opened at Urmar Tanda. The Revenue Minister ordered that contributions for the college be got along with every deed which was to be registered. Thus the people were forced to pay for the college. If such things are done by the Ministers themselves, how can corruption be ended. So far as I am concerned I have got a Naib-Tehsildar two years' imprisonment and similarly some Patwaris were got punished. But the fact is that there is corruption at the top. It is trickling from above. That is why there is corruption in services.

Then, Sir, there is a *phadi* Minister who is given all the miscellaneous departments. He has a number of departments under him. He is no other than Sardar Isbar Singh Mujhail. The Rehabilitation Department is also under him. As regards this department, I may submit that the displaced persons are now shedding the tears of blood having exhausted tears of water. Then there is the Civil Supplies Department. The position of this department is exactly the reverse of what it was a year ago. This is no more Civil Supplies Department. It is now a criminal distribution depot. I want to know if the hon. Minister is the sole proprietor of this depot or he shares it with others also. Then there is the Industries Department, which is placed under an uneducated man. He has no interest in

the technical affairs connected with industries. He is not a technical man. He has given a technical post to a lecturer of a college in the Industries Department, simply because he is a Sikh. I am one of those who do not object to the large number of officials of a particular community if they are appointed on merit. But if a person is appointed only on the basis of his religion and otherwise he is an incapable man, it is certainly objectionable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You should discuss the general administration and not the Ministers.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I am not concerned with the private life of the Ministers as Shri Prabodh Chandra has discussed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You want to follow him.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Not at all, Sir. I will discuss the general policy. But I must discuss them in their public capacity and from that criticism they can not escape. Then, Sir, it was said on the floor of the House during the debate on census trouble by a Parliamentary Secretary that an hon. Minister financed the people who were responsible for the trouble. Now either that Parliamentary Secretary should have been removed for making false allegation or action should have been taken against the Minister.

Minister for Revenue: Do you refer to me?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Two of the hon. Ministers went out in the villages and indulged in propaganda in connection with entries in the language column of the census. It is alleged that one of them even supplied jeeps for carrying on such propaganda.

Minister for Revenue: It is a baseless allegation.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: If there were a judicial enquiry the hon. Ministers concerned would not be found sitting in the cabinet but behind the bars. If they are courageous enough they should come forward and face a judicial enquiry.

Minister for Revenue: What purpose can be served by a judicial enquiry? The allegation is baseless from beginning to end.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Sir, I wish to inform the hon. Members that the hon. Minister for Revenue went to our Tehsil. There he delivered lectures instigating the ignorant people in the rural areas.

Minister for Revenue: Where did I instigate people? It is a lie.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: No useful purpose can be served by denying. It is a fact that some of the hon. Ministers have been doing this. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad, similarly, went out and delivered such lectures. Sir, my submission is that this policy of dividing the people and ruling them is an old one. It was followed by the British imperialists in India. It has been adopted by two of our hon. Ministers.

Minister for Revenue: The hon. Member is making entirely false accusations

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Sir, I believe that the people could have lived together peacefully as well as declared whatever language they liked but for these two Ministers. They have tried to sow seeds of dissention. They have proved to be worst enemies of nationalism.

Minister for Revenue: May I know what language my hon. Friend has declared?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I say what is the idea in adopting underhand means? The hon. Ministers should come forward openly and place their cards on the table. Two of the hon. Ministers live together and work in the same party yet one of them claims to espouse the cause of Harijans and instigates them in the press and on the platform, the other claims to be a champion of Sikhs. I would like to sound them a note of warning that such a policy is not going to work any longer. The masses have become conscious. People know their enemies and their friends. They can no more be duped. But one thing must be clear. Regarding the present deplorable state of affairs the responsibility rests upon the shoulders of those who are in power today. The Government of the day is missing an opportunity that has been provided to it for serving the masses ably and with sincerity. We find that every one is trying to vie with others in intrigue, deceit, slinging mud on others and telling lies (*interruptions*).

Minister for Revenue : Did the hon. Member himself tell the truth in the matter of declaring his language ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, regarding General Administration of our Government the less said the better. I would like to refer to the treatment meted out to Master Tara Singh's son. Of course, I have nothing in common with the political views of Master Tara Singh. In politics he was Guru of the hon. Minister for Revenue.

Minister for Revenue : This is a wrong statement. I have never said that he is my Guru or even a political Guru. It may be that according to his creed he may have a Guru.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Let it be then that he was his political leader. What I wanted to point out is that in administration of affairs we are not concerned with the views on political matters which individuals may hold. But our Government cancelled the licence held by the son of Master Tara Singh for the sale of fire-arms because there arose differences in political matters between the hon. Minister for Revenue and the father of the licensee. Whatever differences I may have with Master Tara Singh in politics, it is a fundamental right of his son not to be discriminated on that account in matters of trade and business.

Minister for Revenue : May I tell the hon. Member that even the High Court has rejected his appeal.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, here I am reminded of a story. Once a jackal came to a city at night. He fell down in a dyer's pot and changed his colour. When he escaped and reached the jungle, on seeing his beautiful colour, the beasts of the forest regarded him as their king. But unfortunately, later on when afterwards he misbehaved with his kith and kin, he was obliged to speak out in his natural voice. They recognised in his howl the true jackal and refused to accept him as their leader and he was killed by a lion. Similar is the case with the hon. Minister for Revenue. So far he has been posing to be a true nationalist, but the public has seen that during the census operations they have come out in their true colours. Under the cloak of nationalism such leaders have resorted to the exploitation of the poor and ignorant masses. But now their

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communalism stands unmasked. As a matter of fact such communalists should have no place in free India. The jackals have come out in their true colour.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Sir, is there no time limit ?

Mr Deputy Speaker : Order, order.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I was about to say that the order passed by our Government in suspending the licence for the sale of arms held by Master Tara Singh's son is quite contrary to law. This matter has an important bearing upon the manner in which our administration is being run. In fact, the Government has issued a lawless order, hitting at the fundamental rights of the citizens and ignoring all rules and laws of the land. This is an example which goes to show the condition of General Administration in our State. I have nothing to do with the views which Master Tara Singh may hold and I cannot be expected to be in agreement with them. But so far as his son, as an individual citizen of India is concerned, I can say that the arms licence which he held should not have been cancelled at the sweet will of the Government and some of its hon. Ministers. There are rules and regulations governing such matters. It is not a wise policy to throw them to the winds in such cases.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : You have taken more than half an hour. You must wind up now.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, my submission is that the way in which the Government of the Punjab has interfered in this matter casts a grave reflection upon their General Administration. Even in Hyderabad itself no such high-handedness was shown towards the Muslim arms dealers. There the Government did not mete out the same treatment which our State Government has meted out to Master Tara Singh's son. In Hyderabad, necessary precautions were observed. But our Government has not considered it fit to observe them.

Then, Sir, I would like to bring another fact to your notice. In Bombay 20 per cent profit is permissible to the dealers in Arms and

this includes profit allowed to the local dealers as well. Then prices of arms in Bombay are fixed and the dealers cannot charge whatever they like from the public. But what is the state of affairs here? There is no check on the dealers in arms of this State in the matter of charging price from the public. They are permitted to make 30 per cent profit. Besides, they are at liberty to charge fancy prices for the arms and thus fleece the public without any let or hindrance. But it is a thousand pities that invidious treatment has been meted out to the son of Master Tara Singh. He has neither been allowed to dispose of the arms at 30 per cent profit nor has he been permitted to effect the sales here in the Punjab under the supervision of the police. The right of disposal of arms accrues to him under the orders of the High Court and yet our Government has directed him not to sell the arms here but carry them to Bombay for disposal. From this what else can be concluded except that the Government is very vindictive and unfair to him. The matter does not stop here. The father-in-law of Master Tara Singh's son, too, has been treated very shabbily by the Government and yet my hon. Friends occupying the ministerial gaddis boast of administering even-handed justice to the people. In this connection I am reminded of a Punjabi saying—

ਜਟ ਮੁਹਾਸਿਬ ਬਾਹਮਨ ਸ਼ਾਹ । ਬਨਿਆ ਹਾਕਮ ਕੈਹਰ ਖੁਦਾ ।

जट मुहासिब बाहमण शाह । बनिया हाकम कहर खुदा ।

and it aptly applies to them.

Minister for Labour: But there is no bania among the Ministers.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : There may be no bania, by birth, among them, but the fact remains that by their actions they have proved to be much worse than banias. They have no principle like a person, who when asked, whether he liked 'Jhatka' or 'Halal' meat, replied that so long as it contained a lot of ghee, he did not mind of what type it was. Similar is the position taken up by our Ministers. They are not keen about their principles, so long as they can retain their gaddis.

Minister for Labour: We welcome the condemnation of the bania class by the hon. Member even though it may be at our own cost.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : But the agriculturist bania is still a greater curse. You may be Jats by birth but your actions are such as prove you to be worse than the much maligned bania.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, I want your ruling as to whether the word 'बदतर' 'वदतर' (worse) in the sense in which the hon. Member has used, is parliamentary or not. If not, he may be asked to withdraw it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I don't think it has been used in any derogatory sense.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Then, Sir, I would draw your attention to another important matter. I am in possession of a signed document and I am prepared to lay it on the Table of the House. It contains certain glaring allegations of corruption against a Head of Department of Government, namely acceptance of illegal gratification through a close relation, in the form of a cheque amounting to Rs. 32,000/- drawn on the Imperial Bank. I am not aware of the veracity of the statement made in this document, but the allegation is there. I, however, think that this is a defamation case and a great slur on the integrity of a high official of the State. I suggest that Government should permit the officer concerned to follow up the case and if the charge is found to be baseless, then the writer of the document, one Parshotam Lal of Delhi, should be severely dealt with for making a false charge.

Then, Sir, in 1948, this House had adopted a measure fixing fair rents of buildings. Under its provision the landlords could charge rent from their tenants within certain prescribed limits. In other words the tenants enjoyed a certain measure of protection under this Act. But what do we find now? This provision is being honoured more in the breach than in the observance. The Municipal Committees in Ferozepore district are charging six times the rent fixed under the Act, from the tenants of the houses belonging to them. And the Government has issued an ordinance enabling the local bodies to do so, perhaps it thinks that since it is all-powerful it is not accountable to any body. I think it is not fair on its part to think in this strain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member's time is up.

Pandit Faqir Chand (Ex-Member West Punjab Legislative Assembly representing West Lahore Division, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, I may point out at the very outset that the State of Punjab is seething with discontentment and there is a feeling of intense hatred against the Congress Government among the people. I would ask the Government that if it fails to adopt effective measures to remove the causes leading to this discontentment and feeling of hatred, then the consequences will be ruinous for it. Let us probe to find out the main causes responsible for bringing our Government to disrepute. I think the main reason is the speeches delivered by the Congress Members against the Government. When reports of such speeches appear in the press, they have a very adverse effect on the public. I may point out that the speeches made by the Chief Whip and the Secretary of the Congress Assembly Party can produce no other effect than hatred in the masses against the Government. I am of the opinion that if these gentlemen have any grievances, they should put it before their Leader privately rather than wash dirty linen in the public. It is a matter of regret that on the one hand they strive every nerve to maintain solidarity of the Government and on the other, with a view to playing to the galleries or earning a cheap popularity, they vex eloquent against their own Government. I think that this state of affairs must come to an end. I feel the Chief Whip and the Secretary of Congress Assembly Party.....

Sardar Bachan Singh: May I know whether it is permissible to discuss internal affairs of the Congress Assembly Party on the floor of the House?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Party affairs cannot be discussed in the House.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair).

Pandit Faqir Chand: Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh that I am not discussing any politics of the Congress Party but I am discussing the administration of the Government which represents the Congress Party here on the floor of the House. As I have already stated the speeches of the Chief Whip and the Secretary are sure to produce adverse effects on the administration of the Government.....

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Sardar Dalip Singh is not the Secretary of the Assembly.

Pandit Faqir Chand : I would like to submit for the information of my hon. Friend that the hon. Member Sardar Dalip Singh Kang is the Secretary of the Congress Assembly Party which is represented here by the hon. Members occupying the Treasury Benches. My hon. Friend should know that we have a democratic form of Government here in our State. (*Voices:* Quite right). Mr. Speaker, when the hon. Members who are the supporters of the present Ministry, do not hesitate to make highly objectionable and inflammatory speeches on the floor of the House, then you can very well imagine, Sir, how their utterances are going to have adverse effects on the administration, however efficient it may be. Perhaps my hon. Friends occupying the Treasury Benches are aware of the fact that how Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim, a Minister of the U. P. Government resigned from the Cabinet of the Congress Party simply because 32 members of the Congress Assembly Party opposed him tooth and nail as he did not subscribe to their policy. In fact he went to the extent of declaring to his party members in unequivocal terms that he would no longer continue to work as a Minister if they did not like his policy. What I wish to submit is this that Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim frankly told his party members that they were at liberty to choose some other member in his place who would work according to their policy. If the present Ministry continues its weak-kneed policy as is abundantly clear from the speeches of the hon. Members in general and my hon. Friends Chaudhri Kartar Singh and Sardar Dalip Singh Kang in particular, then how on earth can anybody say that it is running the administration efficiently and smoothly. As a matter of fact the hon. Ministers can feel for themselves how far the scathing criticisms advanced by the hon. Members against them have adversely affected the day-to-day administration. Under the circumstances it is but meet and proper on their part to take the same steps as have already been taken by Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim who has set an example in the democratic set-up. They should therefore lose no time in making room for others in whom the hon. Members may have full confidence. Our hon. Ministers are really trifling with the administration. In this connection I would like to give an instance. Through a question I had enquired from the hon. Chief Minister whether the Government which spent lakhs

of rupees on the Resources and Retrenchment Committee had taken any steps to implement its recommendation to the effect that the maximum T. A. which an hon. Minister should draw should not exceed Rs. 1,000/-. The reply that was given to this question was that the Government would follow the rules already framed by it. What I wish to submit is this that if the Government is not going to implement the recommendations of this committee set up by this House or in other words if it does not honour the resolutions passed in this August House, then why this democratic farce, in our State. By wa-ting the public money on those committees whose recommendations are not implemented at all, our Government is playing with the sentiments of the people of the Punjab. The sooner the present Ministry is dissolved, the better it is in the interests of both the Government and the State. Our hon. Ministers have exposed the administration to ridicule. In reply to a question asked by me regarding Shri K. B. Datta, I was told that he had broken the lock of the Municipal office. I want to point out Sir, how the hon. Ministers are trifling with the administration. Again, Sir, I asked the hon. Chief Minister in the same question if it was a fact that he had broken the lock of the Municipal office then what were the reasons for not prosecuting him in a court of law. In reply to this question I was told that it was not proper to do so. I am of the opinion that if an offence has been committed then the best thing would have been to prosecute him and if he has not committed any offence then his having been debarred from the membership really tantamounts to injustice. I am further of the opinion that if he has committed the offence then he should be prosecuted and it would be proved in the courts whether or not he had broken the lock. It is really a pity that such things are spoken by the Government on the floor of the House against such persons who are not in a position to defend themselves. If the hon. Ministers themselves resort to such practices, then what effects are these going to produce on the administration which has already weakened and is weakening day by day. I am already constrained to remark that the hon. Ministers are in the habit of doing things quite contrary to what they say. Their actions belie their professions. It will not be out of place to mention here that the hon. Chief Minister while replying a question lost his temper and remarked that some hon. Members were trying to throw him and his colleagues out of power.

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Here I am reminded of a Persian verse :—

ਏ ਬਾਦੇ ਸਬਾ ਈਂ ਹੱਮਾ ਆਵੁਰਦਾ ਤੁਸਤ ।
ਏ ਕਾਦੇ ਸਬਾ ਈਂ ਹਮਾ ਆਰੁਦੀਂ ਰੁਸਤ ।

What I mean to say is this that it is not quite a new thing which the hon. Chief Minister has said. Perhaps he has forgotten that being the Member of the same party and the same Cabinet during the Sachar Ministry he did not hesitate to criticize the then Chief Minister.

Mr. Speaker : Throw some light on the General Administration.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Very well Sir, if you do not permit me to say anything more on this topic, I will leave it here.

I wish to submit Sir, that the conduct of an hon. Minister is the index of the administration. As a matter of fact administration is another name of conduct of an hon. Minister. Here I am reminded of an instance. Once a king went in disguise to a zamindar who was busy crushing his sugar cane. On seeing the zamindar making merry while crushing the cane, the king thought to himself that all the zaminders must be very prosperous, and there was no reason why they should not be taxed. So he imposed the tax upon the zamindars. After sometime he again went in disguise to the same zamindar who was as usual crushing his cane. But there had been appreciable decrease in the quantity of juice. On seeing the reduced quantity of juice the king enquired from the zamindar the reason for getting only a little quantity of juice than before. The zamindar told him that it was the after effect of the thoughts of the king who must have decided to tax the zamindars that the quantity of the juice has been reduces. Similarly the thoughts and the doings of the hon. Ministers are sure to produce similar effects on the minds of the people. The higher the character of the hon. Ministers both in words and deeds the better the results in the reaction in the minds of the people.

Now about the General Administration. I quite agree with my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal who has while initiating the debate, remarked that our administration is top-heavy. In fact the cutting down of the expenditure on the administration of this poor State

is the crying need of the hour. I would like to suggest that the system of giving high salaries should be done away with. I am really constrained to remark that our Government is out to spend lavishly by paying more and more to those officials who are already drawing fat salaries.

Sir, an officer who was drawing Rs. 350/- per mensem in the pre-partitioned Punjab is now drawing Rs. 1,400/-. I would not, however, like to mention the name of that officer because you would not like that the name of any officer be mentioned here. If you allow me, Sir, I am prepared to tell his name. I may tell this much that he is an officer in the department which is under the control of the hon. Sardar Kartar Singh. I can give so many instances of this nature.

Minister for Revenue: This is the pay of the post. Does the hon. Member mean to say that no officer should be appointed as head of the department.

Pandit Faqir Chand: If the hon. Minister continues to do so, I think he will soon bring a downfall of the Congress Government. No person can reasonably expect that a person drawing Rs. 350/- per mensem can get such a rapid and unexpected promotion in a Government department. He has been made the head of the department by the patronage of the hon. Minister incharge of that department.

Minister for Revenue: His appointment was made long before I took charge of the office. He who appointed him I should say committed a sin.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister is requested not to interrupt again and again.

Pandit Faqir Chand: I have so many things in my memory about which the people ask me and I have no answer to give. Sometime back an hon. Member who is now occupying the Treasury Benches used to say emphatically before assuming charge of his office as Minister that he would never allow the Government to increase the abiana rates. But as soon as he became a Minister the glamour of the office made him forget all those professions. If such a Minister

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had been in any other democratic country he would have surely resigned from the Cabinet or would have made the Government agree to do away with the abiana altogether.

Minister for Revenue : This abiana was also imposed at a time when I was not a Minister.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Why are you betraying your guilty conscience ?

Pandit Faqir Chand : - Sir, I would now refer to the communal situation which has much deteriorated on account of the controversy in the census operations. Forces of lawlessness have been let loose in village by a communal propaganda and there is a strained atmosphere in the villages. Such a tense situation is grim pointer to the fact that there may be a danger of breach of peace in the State. The pity is that—

इस घर की आग लग गई घर के चिराग से ।

ਇਸ ਘਰ ਕੇ ਆਗ ਲਗ ਗਈ ਘਰ ਕੇ ਚਿਰਾਗ ਸੇ

I think if a judicial enquiry is made against the Ministers and the secretaries they will be found responsible for creating such a strained atmosphere in the villages. The Ministers have done so with a view to maintaining their hold on their offices. One Minister goes to the High Command and pleads not guilty and tries to shift the charge of making communal propaganda upon another Minister. Anyhow, it does not look fair and proper that Ministers in their attempt to make their position secure should play with the lives of innocent people. It is strange enough that our Ministers, after the attainment of independence, should adopt such methods and I know they are doing so in order to retain strong hold on their offices. If this is the state of affairs, I should say that the candle light of this Ministry would have its last flickers soon.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh Rural), (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have listened attentively to the speeches made by the hon. Members first on His Excellency the Governor's Address and then on the general discussion of the Budget.

I am sorry to say that the sum and substance of all their speeches is that there is mal-administration, in the State, that the travelling allowance drawn by the Ministers is excessive and that there is widespread corruption in the Government departments. No hon. Member has come forward with any constructive suggestion nor anybody has pointed out any defect in the Budget. Instead of taking recourse to constructive criticism the hon. Members have made a wrong approach by appealing to the sentiments of the hon. Members of the House by saying that our State is poor. I wonder that the hon. Members who occupied Ministerial Benches sometime back have today suddenly become critics of the Government. I am sure that if they again hold the same offices they will begin to shower encomiums upon the Government. Just as a parrot gets dazzled after its release from the cage in which he had been imprisoned for long and does not know what to do similarly our Indian people after the attainment of independence want to fall back to the old ruts of slavery.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh : My hon. Friend is saying so as if he is not a Hindustani.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, they do not offer any constructive suggestions to the Government and thus they do not know how to contribute to the well-being of the State. They move about in narrow grooves and take shortsighted view of the matters. My hon. Friend Sardar Joginder Singh is feeling upset as his dream of Ministership has not come true.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann : Sir, he is speaking to justify his salary of Rs. 400/-.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, My hon. Friend in his anxiety to become a Minister is sometime making alignment with one party and sometime with the other.

I wonder why the hon. Member who was for so long hankering after Ministership is getting annoyed again and again and is interrupting me. His excitement is misplaced. When people cannot get a thing in spite of their best efforts they cast aspersions on others and attribute ulterior motives to them out of spite. I was saying,

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Sir, that those who criticize the Government in season and out of season just for the sake of playing to the gallery do no real service to the people. All the criticism that has been levelled at the Government today was not made in an attitude of constructiveness or helpfulness. It was inspired by quite different motives—mostly personal ambitions and grouses. I wish the hon Members who have indulged in it should have known the true functions of the opposition in a democratic and parliamentary system of Government and should not have tried to exploit the situation.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann : What does your Government purpose to do to mend the situation ?

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : It's all the creation of persons like my friend. What did he do during the six months he was a minister? Now, Sir, I want to say a few words about the alleged prevalence of corruption in the administration. My submission is that corruption cannot be put an end to by accusing this Minister or that Minister, this Member or that Member of the House.

Some hon. Members : So, it cannot be put an end to, you admit.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : The Government is doing its level best to eradicate corruption. The hon. Members are aware that an Anti-Corruption Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Sardar Partap Sing Kairon in 1948 and it did laudable work. Afterwards it functioned under the chairmanship of Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava for sometime. At present there is a sub-committee for this purpose of which the chairman is Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. I would now like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to page 21 of this pamphlet. It is recorded here that 39 officers have so far been convicted on charges of corruption and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, 250 officials have been discharged or dismissed and the number of those who have been warned is about 700.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann : How many of them are patwaris and chaprasis ?

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : I can't say but there are Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors among them.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: You have got a very poor case.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: Yes, because I am saying things in a plain and unvarnished way, without mixing them with sentiments. Moreover, there are realities and truth is always bitter. It would have been much better in the interest of the dignity of this House, Sir, if instead of taking pleasure in mud-slinging and condemnation the critics of the Government had by following the example set by Sardar Ujjal Singh made constructive suggestions to improve the administration. The pity of it is, Sir, that hon. Members like Sardar Sajjan Singh who are always criticising the Government for its failure to maintain law and order do not themselves co-operate with the Government in stamping out lawlessness. On the other hand, people are being incited to commit dacoities and other heinous crime and keep dumps of illicit arms. Persons who believe in violent methods are being shielded and supported. The Government has information as to who are helping and protecting these undesirable elements at different places.

An hon. Member: What action have you taken against those who are aiding undesirable elements?

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal: This is self-condemnation.

Mr. Speaker: No interruptions, please.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: The Government is taking the necessary action. I was saying, Sir, that if the law and order position is not as satisfactory as it should have been, it is because some of our friends here cherish a great sympathy for those who want to overthrow the Government by violence and are engaged in subversive activities.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann: I challenge this statement. He must talk sense.

Mr. Speaker: It is for me to say this; the hon. Member should not take upon himself my duties.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: Sir, I would request all the hon. Members of this House to co-operate with the Government in unearthing the subversive activities of the underground elements. It is the

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duty of every responsible citizen to help the Government in apprehending the people who want to overthrow it by violent methods.

So I have in my own way tried to place before this House the reasons for the draw-backs in the law and order of the State.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann: Sir, the hon. Parliamentary Secretary himself helps people who indulge in subversive activities.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: Then my hon. Friend should have taken action against me when he was a Minister.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann: The help is being given now.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: The hon. Member should bring this fact to the notice of the Government.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann: We have brought it to the notice of the Government but it takes no action.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: I can only say that it is not good on the part of the hon. Member to interrupt me like that. Coming again to the law and order in the State, I wish to say that no Government can be ever successful in the establishment of law and order unless and until the people feel the responsibility and co-operate with it. It is incumbent on every citizen of the State to help the Government in apprehending and duly punishing the offenders.

Sir, so far as the locust menace and the anti-locust campaign are concerned, I am in a position to say that the military, the volunteers and the teachers as also the students of schools and colleges have been going out in thousands to destroy locusts. They have done wonderful work and the result is that the locusts have been almost wiped out in the districts of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur. (*Voices.* Did you also kill some locusts). Unlike some of my hon. Friends I have not been enjoying at home and have been going out for killing locusts. (*Interruptions.*) I know that some of my hon. Friends are having sweet dreams of becoming Ministers again but I don't think that such an idea gives them licence for making these uncalled-for interruptions. It is really a bane of this State that the Members of its Assembly are

not capable of doing anything except the making and the breaking of ministries. It is something very reprehensible. I wonder how those who have been the slaves of the Englishman and who ever acted in a most servile manner to get lands from him can have the courage to criticize the work of those who have been rotting all their lives in jails for the achievement of independence.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: On a point of order Sir. It appears as if the hon. Member is casting aspersions on some other hon. Members of the House when he says that they have been acting as slaves of the Englishman for favours or that they have been helping the wrong-doers. If it is so he should kindly be asked to withdraw these words.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: Sir, I have not named anybody but if the guilty conscience pricks somewhere

(चोर की दाढ़ी में तिनका । चेर की दाड़ी में तिनका)

I can't help. (*Voices.* hon. Mr. Sachar has no beard).

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Sir, despite the fact that the hon. Member for whom the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has used the adage

(चोर की दाढ़ी में तिनका । चेर की दाड़ी में तिनका)

has no beard, it was not proper for him to say that and he should withdraw his words.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: My hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha should know that I did not associate any particular person with the adage and I still have no hesitation in repeating that it does not lie in the mouth of those who were slaves of the Englishman to ridicule the present working of the Government. Those who suffered for the achievement of independence deserve much better treatment at their hands than they are giving them.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: Sir, the hon. Member is vexing so eloquent over the sacrifices of those in power, but will he kindly say as to how many times has he himself been to jail ?

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : It is really a pity that allegations of blackmarketing are being brought by those who in spite of the fact that they did not own any factory in the West Punjab have got factories allotted in their names in the East Punjab.

Mr. Speaker : Please don't impute motives.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : And then there are people from whom evacuee property has been recovered.

Mr. Speaker : Please speak on the General Administration.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, I wish to speak only on the General Administration. I want to point out that this unfortunate Punjab which was at one time a part of the bigger Punjab and which has already suffered a great deal should not any further be made a victim of conflicts between various classes, say between urbanites and the ruralites, the Hindus and the Sikhs or the land-lords and the Harijans. If we wish well by our State we should not contribute in the creation of class distinctions or class hatred. We should on the other hand try to bring about a rapprochement between the conflicting parties and refrain from all destructive criticism. It is only by this way that our State can go forward.

Thakur Dalip Singh (Kangra South, General, Rural) (Punjabi) : The Budget has been under discussion for the last few days and several hon. Members have expressed their views with regard to it. I shall not be wrong if I say that our administration is top-heavy, slack, corrupt and inefficient. I shall substantiate my statement by giving facts. In my opinion, it is our Ministry which is responsible for the prevailing state of affairs. If the hon. Ministers are strong, efficient and honest, nobody can dare to be corrupt and inefficient. The Government says that the public is as much to blame as the officials. It is said that the giving of bribe is as serious a crime as the taking of it is. I, however, think that the Government officials always act in the same manner in which the Ministers act. In this connection, I wish to refer to the case of North Western Frontier Province. During the Premiership of Dr. Khan Sahib, the people there complained of corruption in the Public Works Department. He said that it would cease to exist in future and if it still persisted it would mean

that he was himself dishonest. Similarly, I wish our Ministers to make it clear that they would not tolerate corruption. They should regard it as their paramount responsibility to remove this evil. Here, however, the whole responsibility is thrown on the Public. It is said that the people do not co-operate with the Government. I wish to tell them that 'as the rulers so the ruled'. If the rulers are good the ruled are naturally good and vice versa. In order to make the people good the rulers should try to serve as a model for them. In some cases the Government is itself responsible for the existence of corruption. While big officers are drawing huge sums in the form of travelling allowance, in the case of low paid officers it has been reduced. These people are thus compelled to take bribes from those with whom they have to deal. I have personal knowledge about the patwaris of my district. They have received no travelling allowance since 1947. They say that the Deputy Commissioners, Ministers and Members get their travelling allowance all right, but they, who are already underpaid get nothing in that form. They submitted their bills and knocked from one office to another but nobody cared to pay any heed to their difficulty. Sometimes they do not get their salaries for months together. They say that if they do not get their salaries in time and are paid no travelling allowance, how are they to feed their families. In that case they have to extort money from those who have to deal with them. Similarly, as explained in detail by my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh, there is too much of inefficiency in the administration. No action is taken on the representations of people for a very long time. Hon. Minister for Revenue said that with rise in status the salary has also to increase. In most of the cases people have begun to occupy high offices on account of the migration of Muslims. Those who would have been only Inspectors have become Superintendents of Police and those who could hardly become Tehsildars are now Extra Assistant Commissioners, merely because Muslims have migrated to Pakistan. Moreover, the system of recruitment to services is very defective. Nepotism and favouritism prevail everywhere. As my hon. Friend Shri Prabodh Chandra pointed out, the nomination rolls of those in whom some Minister is interested are sometimes called for. The relatives and friends of those in power are being given positions of responsibility. This has led to inefficiency. A certain person belonging to Mukerian was allotted a certain piece of land. Another person brought a forged allotment

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letter for the same land and the first allotment was cancelled. This matter was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur and the Rural Rehabilitation Officer there, it has been admitted that the latter order was issued by mistake, but nobody cares to find out how it was obtained.

Then, Sir, the Government says that it does not possess funds for certain kinds of work, but we find that many new departments are being un-necessarily opened. There are no funds for the poor clerks and peons, but the number of Parliamentary Secretaries is being un-necessarily increased. Similarly, huge sums of money being spent as the salaries and travelling allowance of the establishments of several departments which are doing no useful work. For instance, the Estimates Committee has stated in its report that there is no need of supplying a jeep to the Sub-Inspector (mobile), working on Kalka-Simla section, but the Government has recently decided to give it to him. Our Government does not spend where it is essential but incurs heavy expenditure on un-necessary things. Similarly, our Government is known for black-marketing. People think that it is the businessmen who indulge in black-marketing, but I feel that our Government does it.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, the attendance on Treasury Benches is very thin. Where have most of the Ministers gone ?

Thakur Dalip Singh : I was saying, Sir, that to a great extent the Government itself is responsible for the propagation of black-market. For instance, the profit allowed to the Sugar dealers in the whole-sale of sugar is $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas a maund and in the retail sale 3 annas a maund. How can the dealers sell sugar properly at this small margin of profit. We are told that if they sell 10 seers of sugar at the end of the month at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ rupees a seer, they earn Rs. 50. They have to resort to black market because the profit allowed is almost negligible. Our Government should, dispassionately, consider all these things, so that there is least opportunity for black market. We are all dishonest and we practise corruption. Honest is one who does not get the opportunity to be dishonest. Given the opportunity he certainly practises corruption. People say that if those at the top

are corrupt, why should they try to be honest. After all how many persons who get thousands and lakhs of rupees as bribes, have so far been punished. If at all some people have been punished they are only small fry. They got Rs. 10 or 20 as bribes. But the top ones go scott-free. I am reminded of a story in connection with the honesty of the Government. Once upon a time a man was travelling on foot in the countryside. He had 1,000 rupee coins with him which he had put in a long purse made of cloth. There used to be no means of modern transport during those days. So the people had to travel long distances on foot. While that man was going on, there fell a stream in his way. While he was wading through the stream, he saw a woman washing clothes at the other bank. When he reached near her, she said aloud, "Half of it to be mine." The man heard these words and wondered as to what they meant. After he had travelled a few miles, he came upon a Sarai where he thought of staying for the night. The manager of the Sarai was a venerable old Maulvi who had a respectable grey beard on his face. The man was impressed by the gentle appearance of the Maulvi who gave him a room and a lock and key for the almirah where he could place his money. As it became dark, the traveller, being very tired, went to sleep. Now the Maulvi who was in fact a very clever man, got up and made his way into the room where the traveller was fast asleep and removed the 1,000 rupees from the almirah. In the morning, the man got up and found his money missing. He raised a hue and cry, but the Maulvi said that he had given him lock and key entirely to himself how could anybody steal the money. The man was helpless. Then he thought of the woman who had said, "Half of it to be mine." He thought that she looked very shrewd and he should go to her for help. So he went back to the stream and met her there. He told her his story. She said that she could get him back his money provided he agreed to give half of it to her. The man agreed to that condition. At this, she put on new clothes and some ornaments and hired some people to carry her in a palanquin towards the Sarai. She instructed the man to hide himself and not to make any noise. She further told him that, if she succeeded, she would start to caper about. Once again, the clever Maulvi gave her the same room to stay for the night and also gave her the lock and key. During night, he got up as usual and went into

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that room to steal the ornaments of the woman. Now she was awake and she caught hold of the Maulvi and began to raise hue and cry. The Manvi entreated her not to raise noise. She said that she would keep quiet only if he would return the money of the previous man. He agreed to do that and actually returned to her Rs 1,000. At this, she began to caper about. Similarly the bearers, the Maulvi and the man who had lost money all began to jump about. Each one of them had his or her reason for doing that. The woman felt happy to get Rs. 500/- and she was jumping about on that account. Similarly the man was happy to get back at least Rs. 500 out of his Rs. 1,000 which he had lost. The bearers were, likewise, happy to have got Rs. 50 for carrying the woman over only one or two miles. The Maulvi was happy because his honesty was saved. The honesty of the Government is also like that of the Maulvi. The administration, today, is going on not because of the Ministers but because of the previous momentum. With these words, Sir, I submit that the Government should spend more where it is necessary to do so and less where it is not necessary to do so.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa (Ex-Member West Punjab Legislative Assembly representing Sialkot, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, a lot has, already, been said on this demand by the hon. Members. This morning while I was coming to attend the meeting of the House, I met a friend. He asked what was the subject for today's discussion. I told him that it was general administration. He said that it should be better called, 'generally no administration' because the administration is generally non-existent, these days. My hon. Friend Sardar Shiv Saran Singh remarked in his speech that we talked sentimentally on the floor of the House. But I may tell him that we respectfully try to convey to the Government the feeling of the public during our speeches here on the floor of the House.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Tuesday, 20th March, 1951.

Chief Reporter
Punjab Vidhan Sabha
Chandigarh

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