

# **Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates**

**From 4th March to 26th March 1943**

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**Vol. XXI**

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## **OFFICIAL REPORT**



**Lahore :**

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1943**

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Speaker*

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Sir Shahab-ud-Din, Kt., K.B.,  
B.A., LL.B. (Sialkot South, Muhammadan,  
Rural).

*Deputy Speaker*

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Jullundur  
West, Sikh, Rural).

*Secretary*

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Abnasha Singh, Barrister-at  
Law.

*Deputy Secretary*

Khan Bahadur Hakeem Ahmed Shuja, B.A.

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## LIST OF MEMBERS

### PREMIER

The Hon'ble Malik Khizar Hayat.

### MINISTERS

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, Kt., B.A., LL.B., Minister of Revenue (Jhajjar, General, Rural).

The Hon'ble Sir Manohar Lal, Kt., M.A., Finance Minister (University).

The Hon'ble Mian Abdul Haye, B.A., LL.B., Minister of Education (South-Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).

The Hon'ble Sardar Bakdev Singh, Minister of Development (Ambala North, Sikh, Rural).

The Hon'ble Sardar Shaikat Hyat-Khan, Minister of Public Works.

### PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Mir Maqbool Mahmood, General (Amritsar, Muhammadan, Rural).

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz, M.B.E., Education, Medical Relief and Public Health (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan Women, Urban).

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Revenue and Irrigation (Pind Dadan Khan, Muhammadan, Rural).

Chaudhri Tikka Ram, B.A., LL.B., M.B.E., Development (Rohtak North, General, Rural).

Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh, B.A., Finance (Gurdaspur, General, Rural).

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad, B.A., LL.B., M.B.E., Local Government and Public Works (Dera Ghazi Khan Central, Muhammadan, Rural).

### PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARIES

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah, O.B.E. (Ferozepore East, Muhammadan, Rural).

Bhagat Hans Raj, B.A., LL.B. (Amritsar and Sialkot, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man (Central Punjab, Landholders).

Sir William Roberts, Kt., C.I.E. (European).

Nawabzada Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan (Karnal, Muhammadan, Rural).

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani (Muzaffargarh North, Muhammadan, Rural).

Sardar Gopal Singh (American), M.B.E. (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).

### MEMBERS

Abdul Aziz, Mian (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban).

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi (Ambala and Simla, Muhammadan, Rural).

Abdul Rab, Mian, B.A., LL.B. (Jullundur South, Muhammadan, Rural).

Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Shakargarh, Muhammadan, Rural).

### MEMBERS

Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (South-East Gurgaon, Muhammadan, Rural).

Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri (North-West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).

Ajit Singh, Sardar (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural).

Akbar Ali, Pir, M.B.E. (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural).

Ali Akbar, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur East, Muhammadan, Rural).

Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik, Sir, M.B.E. (Shahpur, Muhammadan, Rural).

Allah Yar Khan Daultana, Mian (Mailai, Muhammadan, Rural).

Amar Nath Shah, Lala (Sialkot-Amritsar, General, Rural).

Amir-ud-Din, Khan Sahib Mian (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban).

Anant Ram, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Karnal South, General, Rural).

Asghar Ali, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Gujrat East, Muhammadan, Rural).

Ashaq Hussain, Nawab Major, M.B.E. (Multan, Muhammadan, Rural).

Badr Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Khan Sahib Sayed (Batala, Muhammadan, Rural).

Balwant Singh, Sardar (Sialkot, Sikh, Rural).

Baikat Ali, Malik, M.A., LL.B. (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).

Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala (Jullundur, General, Rural).

Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit (Kangra West, General, Rural).

Bhagwant Singh, Rai (Kangra East, General, Rural).

Bhim Sen Sachar, B.A., LL.B. (North-Western Towns, General Urban).

Brijraj Saran, Kanwar (East Punjab Landholders).

Chaman Lal, Diwan, B.A. (Oxon) (East Punjab, Non-Union Labour).

Chanan Singh, Sardar (Kasur, Sikh, Rural).

Dasaundha Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B. (Jagraon, Sikh, Rural).

Deshbandhu Gupta, Lala (South-Eastern Towns, General, Urban).

Dev Raj Sethi, Mr. (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural).

Dina Nath, Captain (Kangra, South, General, Rural).

Duni Chand, Lala (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural).

Duni Chand, Mr., Barrister-at-Law (Lahore City, General, Urban).

Duni Chand, Mrs. (Lahore City, Women, General).

Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai (Kangra and Eastern Hoshiarpur, Muhammadan, Rural).

Faqir Chand, Chaudhri (Karnal North, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).

- Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri (Tarn Taran, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja (Gujar Khan, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Fatehjang Singh, Captain Bhai (South-East, Sikh, Rural).
- Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja (Rawalpindi East, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Fateh Muhammad, Mian (Gujrat North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Fateh Sher Khan, Malik (Montgomery, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Ajnala, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Fazal Karim Baksh, Mian (Muzaffargarh Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Few, Mr. E. (Anglo-Indian).
- Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi (Sheikhupura, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur (Mianwali North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri (Sialkot Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Ghulam Samad, Khan Sahib Khawaja (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Girdhari Das, Mahant (South-East Multan Division, General, Rural).
- Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir, M. A., Ph. D. (West Lahore Division, General, Rural).
- Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala (Kangra North, General, Rural).
- Guest, Mr. P. H. (Punjab Commerce and Industry).
- Gurbakhsh Singh, Sardar (Batala, Sikh, Rural).
- Habib Ullah Khan, Malik (Sargodha, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Haibat Khan Dahi, Khan (Khanewal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai (Una, General, Rural).
- Hari Lal, Munshi (South-Western Towns, General, Urban).
- Hari Singh, Sardar (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural).
- Harjap Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur South, Sikh, Rural).
- Harnam Das, Lala (Lyallpur and Jhang, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural).
- Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri (Hissar South, General, Rural).
- Iftikhar Hussain Khan, Nawab (Ferozepore Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Indar Singh, Sardar (Gurdaspur North, Sikh, Rural).
- Jafar Ali Khan, Chaudhri (Okara, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikke (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural).
- Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri, B.A. (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian).
- Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar, M.B.E. (Gujranwala and Shahdara, Sikh, Rural).
- Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri (Ambala and Simla, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Kabul Singh, Master (Jullundur East, Sikh, Rural).
- Kapoor Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B. (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural).
- Karamat Ali, Khan Bahadur Shaikh, B.A., LL.B. (Nankana Sahib, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Kartar Singh, Chaudhri (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural).
- Kartar Singh, Sardar (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural).
- Kishan Das, Seth (Jullundur, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Kishan Singh, Sardar (Amritsar Central, Sikh, Rural).
- Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri (North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban).
- Lal Singh, Sardar, M.Sc., LL.B. (Ludhiana, Central, Sikh, Rural).
- Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi, B.A., LL.B. (North-Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Mohar Singh, Rao, B.A., LL.B. (North-West Gurgaon, General, Rural).
- Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah, Syed (Attock South, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Mubarik Ali Shah, Captain, Syed, M.B.E. (Jhang Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri (Jullundur North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja (Jhelum, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh, B.A. (Hons.) (Oxon), LL.D. (Dublin) (Rawalpindi Division Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Sheikh (Multan Division Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri (South-West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar (Dera Ghazi Khan North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar, C.I.E. (Dera Ghazi Khan, South, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hassan, Khan Bahadur Makhdom Syed (Alipur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hussain, Khan Bahadur, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Gujranwala East, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hussain, Sardar (Chunian, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian, B.A. (Oxon) (Kasur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Jamal Khan, Leghari, Khan Bahadur Nawab Sir (Tumandars).
- Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Lt.-Col. Sardar Sir (Attock Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Nurullah, Mian, B. Com. (London) (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural).



- Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri (Bhalwal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed (Shujabad Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan (Samundri, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri (Sialkot-North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja (Chakwal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Bohtak, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed (Lodhran, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Yasin Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (North-West Gurgaon, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan, B.A., LL.B. (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Mukand Lal Puri, Rai Bahadur (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural).
- Mula Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur West, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Muni Lal Kalra, Pandit (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural).
- Muzaffar Ali Khan, Qizilbash, Sardar (Lahore, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain, Malik, M.B.E. (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasir-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri (Gujranwala North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Khan Sahib Pir (Toba Tek Singh, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasrullah Khan, Rana (Hoshiarpur West, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Naunihal Singh Mann, Captain Sardar, M.B.E. (Sheikhpura West, Sikh, Rural).
- Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed (Jhang East, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian (Dipalpur Muhammadan, Rural).
- Partab Singh, Sardar (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural).
- Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri, M.B.E. (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Prem Singh, Chaudhri (South-East Gurgaon, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Prem Singh, Mahant (Gujrat and Shahpur, Sikh, Rural).
- Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar, B.A., LL.B. (Ferozepore West, Sikh, Rural).
- Raghbir Kaur, Shrimati (Amritsar Sikh, Women).
- Ram Serup, Chaudhri (Rohtak Central, General, Rural).
- Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri (Karnal North, General, Rural).
- Rashida Latif Baji, Begum (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan Women, Urban).
- Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri (Hafizabad, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Roshan Din, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri (Shahdara, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Rur Singh, Sardar (Ferozepore East, Sikh, Rural).
- Sadiq Hassan, Sheikh, B.A., Barrister-at-Law (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Hissar, Muhammadan Rural).
- Sahib Ram, Chaudhri (Hissar North, General, Rural).
- Sampuran Singh, Sardar (Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural).
- Santokh Singh, Sardar (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban).
- Sant Ram Seth, Dr. (Amritsar City, General, Urban).
- Sardar Khan, Noon, Major Malik (North Punjab, Land-holders).
- Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai (Jaranwala, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Shauano Devi Sehgal, Shrimati (West Multan Division, General, Rural).
- Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit (Southern Towns, General Urban).
- Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P. (East Central Punjab, Indian Christian).
- Sita Ram, Lala (Trade Union, Labour).
- Sohan Lal, Rai Bahadur Lala (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour).
- Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural).
- Sudarshan, Seth (Eastern Towns, General, Urban).
- Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, Mian, B.A. (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Sumer Singh, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (South-East Gurgaon, General Rural).
- Suraj Mal, Rai Sahib Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Hansi, General, Rural).
- Talib Hussain Khan, Khan (Jhang West, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Tara Singh, Sardar (Ferozepore South, Sikh, Rural).
- Teja Singh Swatanter, Sardar (Lahore West, Sikh, Rural).
- Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar, M.A. (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban).
- Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar (North-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural).
- Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hira, Sardar (Kabirwala, Muhammadan, Rural).

#### ADVOCATE-GENERAL

Mr. M. Saleem, Barrister-at-Law.

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Thursday, 4th March 1943.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### OATH OF OFFICE

*The following members were sworn in :*

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Asghar Ali (Gujrat East, Muhammadan, Rural).

Kanwar Brijraj Saran (East Punjab Landholders).

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (2ND INSTALMENT), 1942-43

**Finance Minister** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal): I beg to present the Supplementary Estimates (2nd instalment), 1942-43, and I beg to intimate that the demands made therein are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

### HOURS OF SITTING

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat): I beg to move—

That on and from Friday, the 5th March 1943, to the end of the session on the days of meeting other than Fridays the Assembly shall meet at 12 noon and on Fridays at 3-30 p.m. of the clock, and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 4-30 p.m. on days other than Fridays and at 8 p.m. on Fridays.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri**: Sir, 1 o'clock would be better. Since there is a change of one hour, 12 o'clock is a little early.

**Premier**: We are sticking to the old time. I am afraid there will be a clash with other engagements if we change the hour. We had better stick to the original time.

**Mian Abdul Aziz**: According to the rules the time is 2 p. m., but these rules are being frustrated every day.

**Mr. Speaker**: The question is—

That on and from Friday, the 5th March 1943, to the end of the session on the days of meeting other than Friday s the Assembly shall meet at 12 noon, and on Fridays at 3-30 p.m. of the clock, and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 4-30 p.m. on days other than Fridays and at 8 p.m. on Fridays.

*The motion was carried.*

### REFERENCES TO LATE SIR SIKANDER HYAT-KHAN

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat): Sir, it is with profound feelings of grief that I rise to make this reference to the sad demise

[Premier]

of our late lamented Premier and Leader of the House—Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. His sudden and untimely death under extremely tragic circumstances shook the country from one end to the other and moved the hearts of his friends and foes. Who could imagine when we were enjoying the brilliant function given by him to celebrate the marriages of his two sons that his end was so near? As a matter of fact when we got the stunning information on the 'phone, none of us believed it until it was confirmed.

Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan was a gentleman of unique qualities of head and heart and I cannot do justice to the subject even if I were to speak for hours. He was a brave soldier, a shrewd politician, a far-seeing statesman, an experienced and great administrator, and above all a great leader of men and a true patriot.

Sir Sikander started his career first in the Army. He was a Recruiting Officer during the last war. For his good work he was given a commission and attached to one of the Punjabi regiments. In the Third Afghan War he commanded a company on active service, being the first Indian to have exercised command. After that he returned to civil life and entered politics. It was in this sphere that unique success awaited him. In a short space of time he rose to the highest offices which had been given to very few men and filled them with distinction. If I remember correctly he was first returned to the old Legislative Council about 1923. He soon made his mark in the old Council by hard work, clear thinking and ability, and when the late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain went to the Government of India he was chosen to fill the temporary vacancy. His success in that temporary vacancy ensured his appointment later as Revenue Member, a post which he filled with great distinction. It was during his tenure of office as Revenue Member that he twice officiated as Governor of this Province, the highest office to which an Indian can aspire under the present constitution. He filled that office with great distinction and was universally acclaimed a success. On the termination of his office as Revenue Member he was selected as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, a post carrying very high salary and no worries. But his heart was always in the Punjab, with the poor and the backward in the Punjab to serve whom was his life's mission. Accordingly, on the demise of Sir Fazl-i-Husain he sacrificed his high salary and life of ease, and came back to the rough and stormy life and uncertainties of politics. His work here is recent history and I do not want to go into it. It will be for the future historian to record his verdict, but I think it can be claimed without any fear of contradiction that he was the most successful Premier under the new constitution, and that the future generations of the Punjab will look forward with gratitude and pride to his work in this sphere. He was a great man, and the loss of such a man would be felt at any time but it is very difficult to repair it during these critical days, and the breach caused by his death cannot possibly be filled.

Two things were uppermost in his mind during the last two or three years and they were communal harmony and war effort. He believed that our motherland could not achieve further autonomy without communal harmony and unless the country was made free from aggression by the victory of the United Nations which stand for freedom. In furtherance

of these objects he never spared himself, and in spite of his ill health he undertook two journeys to Iraq and Egypt to attend to the needs of the soldiers. It is a pity that now that victory is in sight and God willing the victorious armies will soon return to India he would not be there to greet them. It is the loss of such a man that we are here to mourn to-day. To me the loss is a personal one. My relations with him were not merely those of a lieutenant and his political chief. He was like an elder brother to me, and it is as such that I mourn him. God's will, however, must be done! It is as a mark of respect to the memory of that great statesman that I ask you now to adjourn the Assembly and to pass a resolution of condolence and sympathy with the members of the bereaved family. I am sure in doing so I am not only voicing the feelings of all sections of this House but of the people of the province and the country at large.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, on behalf of the members sitting on this side of the House I associate myself with all that has been said regarding the various qualities of head and heart of the late lamented Premier, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. Sir, most of us looked upon him as one who alone was able to bring about a working agreement between the Congress and the League and it is a matter of the profoundest grief that he did not live long enough to achieve this purpose which he had set at heart. His devotion to duty was unequalled and his patience even with those who did not see eye to eye with him in politics was unquestionable. I remember, during the days of the agitation in respect of the Marketing Act, I telephoned to him one day from Amritsar whether he could find time to discuss the matter with me that very day, as there was a possibility of settlement. That happened to be a day when there was a marriage taking place in his family and in spite of that he telephoned to me that I should run up to Lahore immediately. He kept on discussing the matter with me for more than two hours until a formula was reached, which eventually resulted in a settlement. Such was the devotion of the late Premier to duty both towards the province and towards the country in general. It is a matter of satisfaction that after him his worthy son has been taken into the Cabinet. (*Applause*). I do hope he will follow the wise steps of his esteemed father and win for himself the esteem and affection of all the communities living in this province.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh** (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, no one could imagine that such a catastrophe was in store for us and whenever I think of it I feel so cut up that it leaves me dumb-founded. My fears have steadily been growing for the last few years when I saw flower after flower being plucked away by some evil hand till it ultimately reached the top-most branch and snatched the crown away. The loss is unimaginable and irreparable not only for us or for the Punjab but for the whole of the Empire and the United Nations. His tremendous war effort has been successful in maintaining the name of the Punjab as the sword-arm of India. He thrice went to the Middle East at great personal risk to encourage our brethren who are laying down their lives to save India from the horrors of war. It was he who infused this unconquerable spirit into the army in the Middle East and it was due to him that we hear of their valiant deeds which no doubt will live in the history of the world. Their

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success in finishing the Italian Empire in Africa is the fruit of his efforts. Alas, he could not live to see and enjoy this glory of the final victory for our King Emperor which is near at hand. The qualities of his head and heart are too numerous to be described in a short speech of condolence. But I will be failing in my duty if I did not mention the great love he had for his zamindar brethren; to ameliorate their condition was his foremost thought. Last but not the least is the peace and tranquillity that he has given to this province, while forces of disruption have been let loose in other parts of India. I fully associate myself with all that has been said by the previous speakers and I take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to His Excellency the Governor for placing amongst us the worthy son of a worthy father, a youth who with sword in hand has fought for his country and has faced the cold steel and hot lead of the enemy with undaunted courage. I am confident that he will prove equally his talent in holding the pen also and will follow the footsteps of his illustrious father. In the end I would say that people say that they heard of Sikandar the Great. But I have seen the Great Sikander. He came in splendour and passed away in splendour. With these words I fully support the suggestion of the Honourable Premier.

**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha** (East Central Punjab, Indian Christian): Sir, I fully associate myself with the motion before the House, not only as a member of the Assembly but also on behalf of my community. All Punjabis were stunned by the shock, and share the grief at their great loss, but a humble community like mine and I know also other humble communities, representatives of which will speak for themselves, feel the same shock as one feels when one is orphaned. It is true that God in his goodness provides for everybody, but we did feel at that time as though the hand of a father had been removed from the humbler people of the Punjab. I will not at this time recall his greatness as a leader or as a politician, but I would like to pay a tribute to him as a great man, as a man who loved his fellow-men. The quality which we most appreciated in him was his genuine love for others and his sincerity of motives. I had the honour and the privilege of knowing him in his home life. I often came in contact with him when he used to be off the political stage. We here, who are politicians or dabble in politics, know that our real sentiments can be known in our homes when we are sitting round the dining table, in the privacy of our homes. The thing that impressed me most in the life of this great man was that in his private views his sentiments were nobler and greater than we had ever heard him utter on the floor of this House. As a rule people are at their best on the stage. Sir, I say that Sir Sikander never did himself justice in public. Circumstances never permitted him to do justice to himself when on the platform or before the public eye. He was a much greater man than the World knew him to be. He was, in his public life, governed by so many considerations—as a member of the Unionist Party which is a composite group of politicians holding different views on many things, as a Muslim Leaguer and so on and so forth. His views as expressed in the public stage were a compromise. His personal views were of a nobler hue. We shall mourn him with a grief which time might diminish but cannot obliterate. With these words, Sir, I associate myself with the motion before the House.

**Sir William Roberts** (European): Sir, on behalf of the European Group I should like to offer my tribute to the memory of our revered Premier the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. We have lost in him not only the Premier and Leader of the House but one of the elder statesmen of India and this during a period in his life when we might have expected another twenty years of useful and beneficent work for the country. The universal grief felt on his death showed that his loss was felt not only by his own community but by every other community. I have gone through the tributes which the whole of the Punjab and India paid to the late Premier and that sorrow qualifies us to have a very great hope that we will get similar service in future. A country gets the Government and the leaders it deserves. I am very glad indeed for being allowed to say a word in memory of a very great man.

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram** (Minister of Revenue): Sir, the latter half of the current term of the Assembly has been exceedingly unlucky for us. We have lost more than half a dozen of our most valued and most respected friends and colleagues. I believe our Chief Whip Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana was the first to leave us. He was followed in quick succession by Sir Sunder Singh Majithia, Syed Afzaal Ali Hasnie, Nawab Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan, Nawab Sir Shah Nawaz Khan of Mamdot, Rao Pohop Singh and Nawab Sir Fazl Ali. The tremendous loss which had been caused by the deaths of such friends was in itself irreparable. But to crown our misfortunes our late Leader was snatched away from us by the cruel hand of Death when he was right in the midst of joy and festivities. His death came at a time when we needed him most, when we could least spare him.

To me Sir Sikander was more than a mere Leader, a mere colleague or a mere friend. We worked together for nearly twenty years. There was the greatest personal touch in our relations. Our close association had, in a way, made us grow into each other's life and we were, as we say in Urdu, "*Do kalab yak jan*." دو کالب یک جان When I heard the news of his death on the radio on the morning of the 27th December, I was absolutely broken. My heart would not accept the truth of the news and yet when I thought that the news of the death of the Premier of the Province could not be conveyed on the radio without having truth in it, I had to reconcile myself to the accuracy of the terrible news. I was overwhelmed with grief, a grief which was too deep either for words or for tears. I was positively stunned, staggered, almost paralysed. We had been living in such close friendship, almost like brothers, that the very light seemed to have gone out of my life and life itself seemed to be ebbing away from my physical frame. The thought that an association of very nearly twenty years had come to such an abrupt end by the death of the much younger of the two colleagues with the object of the association only half accomplished filled me with despair, a despair so deep that I have not so far been able to work it off entirely.

I first came across Sir Sikander in 1921 or 1922 when he appeared as a witness before the Corruption Enquiry Committee of which I happened to be a member. From 1923 onwards we became colleagues in the Legislative Council. He was a very clear-headed young man at that time. He was selected to serve on the Jail and Police Reforms Committees and we



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all know the valuable work that he did on those Committees. As a matter of fact that work laid the foundation of his future greatness in public life. Later on, in 1927, we formed an inner group of progressive unionists. He was the life and soul of that inner group. In 1928 when the Simon Commission came out to India, he was elected Chairman of the Provincial Reforms Committee. Later on, he became Revenue Member, at first in an officiating capacity and then permanently. While he was Revenue Member, he officiated twice as Governor of this Province. In the year 1936, after the death of Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, he had to return to this Province. For six years he guided the destiny of the Punjab as our first Premier. I came into the closest touch with him in all the stages of his life—whether he was Governor or Revenue Member or a private member like myself—and I always felt that I was in the presence of a true and loyal friend who could always be relied upon.

In all the stages of his life he displayed a very keen desire for inter-communal harmony. As Chairman of the Provincial Reforms Committee, he made very earnest efforts to secure a good and everlasting agreement between the Muslims on the one hand and the Hindus and Sikhs on the other. But as ill-luck would have it, we were unable to come to any agreement. He displayed a very wonderful capacity for sustained hard work. As a result of his earnest efforts and honest hard work, he developed into a most accomplished Parliamentarian. He was an unusually clever debator and a most skilful politician. Not only that, as an administrator, he could give many a useful lesson to his confrères in other parts of the country. He was also an exceptionally far-sighted statesman, the like of whom is not born every day. The work which he did as Leader of this House or as Premier of the province or as Revenue Member is known to all his colleagues in this House and a very considerable proportion of the general Punjab population and is of a character which will be remembered through generations. I purposely refrain from commenting upon his work either in the administrative field or in the political field. However there are just a few points to which I may draw the attention of his friends and admirers because they are of deep significance to those who looked upon Sir Sikander as their Leader or as their colleague in politics. He had four things particularly in mind; two relate to the present war and two relate to the general composition of his political self. He always had a great solicitude for the protection of the poor and the weak against their exploitation by the rich and the strong. The second point was the vital importance of inter-communal harmony. Thirdly, he had great solicitude for those soldiers who are fighting the present war in order to save the cause of freedom and democracy. The fourth point was the prosecution of the present war with the greatest possible vigour until victory is won. According to him this vigorous prosecution of the war was to be continued and persisted in, regardless of the failings and shortcomings of Great Britain. These are the four points to which I wish in particular to draw the attention of his friends and admirers because if we want truly and fully to respect Sir Sikander's memory we must gird up our loins in order to see that the torch which he had lit to guide us, is kept burning steadily and furiously. (Cheers).

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General, Rural) : Sir, ordinarily it would not be necessary for any member sitting on this side to speak after the Leader of the Opposition has made his remarks, but the occasion is extraordinary and of such tragic importance that I personally feel that I must pay my personal tribute to the memory of my late friend. You know, Sir, that my relations with Sir Sikander for so many years were of the most friendly nature. Even when we met after a short absence we never met without embracing each other and that must be known to those who knew him and me intimately and there never had been any note of discord between us either when we were ordinary members of the Legislative Council or when we were members of the Punjab Cabinet. There arose, unfortunately, some differences when he sat on that side and I sat on the other side. But I must say that he was doing his duty just as I was doing mine and nobody would regret the unpleasantness that occurred between us more than I do now considering the tragic end of my friend. His premature death, not only overwhelmed his friends with grief, but I am sure, even his worst opponents felt the shock of his death with equal force. I consider it most necessary to pay my personal tribute to him for an additional reason. After five years of difference between us an incident occurred during the last session of this House which raised him much higher than ever in my eyes. I was sitting here just two or three days before the closure of the session when I saw Sir Sikander standing and beckoning towards somebody. I did not know whom he wanted to call. I just looked at him and lowered my eyes thinking that he could not be calling me. After a few seconds I looked up again and he was still beckoning. Even then for obvious reasons I could not think that it was I whom he wanted, so I lowered my eyes again. Again out of curiosity I looked towards him and he was still beckoning. Then I thought that as nobody answered his call and as he continued moving his hand towards me, probably it was I he wanted. I felt at that time that something very serious had occurred somewhere in the province, perhaps a communal riot had taken place in the Punjab and he wanted to see me in that connection. I, therefore, considered it my duty to get up and walk up to him. I went to him. He took me in his right arm and took me to his room. That was the first time I walked into his room during the last 5 years and I was not only a bit nervous but a little surprised too. As we sat there, he opened the subject regarding an incident which had taken place on the very first day of the last session. I almost burst at him when he started that subject with what you may describe as '*gila*' in Punjabi or Urdu. Our conversation lasted for a good few minutes, and some of my friends would be surprised that our conversation ended with these words spoken by him 'I sincerely apologise for what has happened'. He said something more, very humble thing, but out of great respect for his memory I would not repeat all that he said. He had assumed a most gentlemanly,, humble and friendly attitude at that time. If he were alive I would not have referred to this incident publicly for obvious reasons. I believe this incident would raise him still higher in the eyes of other people as it raised him in my eyes. We parted as friends and all those five years' incidents were forgotten. Some of my friends who were present in the House on the last day of the session must have noticed a distinct change in our attitude towards each other. In fact some people said, "What

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang]

has happened? Sir Sikander has accepted Narang's suggestion and has postponed a Bill pending at that time". It was done at my suggestion. Some people were wondering as they did not know what had happened the previous day or two days before. Sir, you will permit me to make a personal reference to you. I could not understand how this change had taken place. Of course I could believe that Sir Sikander was capable of rising to great heights but still I was wondering, and I learnt two days after that the whole of this incident was due to you, that you had spoken to Sir Sikander and he had taken this step. It raised you in my eyes as it raised you in the eyes of those who came to know of the incident. I am sure you must have felt it necessary to bring about peace and conciliation again between two persons who had been friends and that all that temporary bitterness which had come into existence for some time should disappear. I am very grateful to you also and pay my most respectful tribute particularly for this incident to the memory of Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. He had told me during the conversation by way of '*gila*' 'you never attend my party', I explained to him why I did not, and it is a matter of personal consolation to me that on the happy occasion of his children's marriage I was present, and I personally tendered my congratulations to him. Alas! I did not know when we parted and I shook hands with him on leaving his house at quarter to six that in a few hours he would be no more. When I found the news of his death the following morning in the papers I could not believe just as I can very well believe Sir Chhotu Ram could not believe it.

Sir, I congratulate my young friend Shaukat Hyat on his elevation to the Cabinet. He will have nothing but affection and personal regard from me so far as his personality is concerned. Apart from being my late friend's son he has been a comrade in arms of my youngest son. They have fought together and have been helping each other. I shall look upon him with as much affection and regard as any uncle of his, and I wish him every success in his career.

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye** (Education Minister) : Mr. Speaker, what a sad occasion! It appears that we have lost all we possessed in this world. I came in contact with Sir Sikander in 1937 and I had the privilege of working with him for six long years. It was his privilege to be the first Premier of the Punjab, and I dare say that he was a very successful Premier. He will go down in history as an administrator of very high calibre and in coming generations his successors will do well if they follow in his foot steps. Sir Sikander had a religious bent of mind, and that was the secret of his success. With him religion was not a cloak, nor a dogma nor a mere emotion. He practised religion day in and day out. He by his conduct and by his actions demonstrated that the true religion was the most tolerant in this world. I hope that we, who are left behind, do our level best to bring about communal harmony without which there is no future for this country. Mr. Speaker, it was the midnight of 26th September when I was awakened at one o'clock in the morning and the sad news was conveyed to me. The next morning was to be the wedding of my son and I was expecting Sir Sikander at Ludhiana that day. No sooner the news was conveyed to me

than the entire world changed, and I was reminded of the verse of the Urdu poet who said—

ان کے جاتے ہی یہ کیا ہو غمی گھر کی صورت  
نہ وہ دیوار کی صورت ہے نہ در کی صورت

I was reminded of the day when in the year 1937 this Legislature met in another place and he made his first appearance as the Leader of the House. He on that occasion virtually said 'I stand here and I shall stay here'. Under his able leadership the Unionist Party was so consolidated that we thought that we would triumph for ever, but to-day we stand vanquished by the cruel hand of death. When the war broke out he quickly made up his mind—he did not halt between two opinions—he clearly visualised that there was no future for this country unless the Axis forces were crushed and vanquished. He did not bargain with the British. He made it clear that in this War there shall be unqualified and unconditional support from the Punjab. He loved soldiers, to him every soldier was like his own son. Mr. Speaker, you remember the day when we met him for the last time. It was the 26th December. That day he held a reception to celebrate the weddings of his sons. He was very happy to meet his friends and entertain them lavishly. No one at the time realised that we were meeting him for the last time.

Sir Sikander was great both in his public achievements and his private life. A great fighter when the occasion demanded, he was essentially a man of peace. We cannot raise a better monument to commemorate this great leader than by working to realise those ideals which were so close to his heart.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri** (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural): Sir, the sad and untimely demise of the late Sir Sikander Hyat was a shock to the whole of India, not only because he died in the prime of his life when it was least expected and when his services and talents were most needed in this most critical period of the world's history, but also because he died within a few hours of one of the biggest festive parties held in Lahore to celebrate the weddings in his family when practically all his friends and relatives had assembled at his house from all over the province. On that occasion he personally greeted and shook hands with all of them and entertained them. It was in fact the concluding function of a large number of feasts held during the preceding week. Those of us who had the privilege of dining with him on more than half a dozen occasions at dinners which took place in Lahore and Amritsar could hardly imagine that our late lamented Premier was in fact arranging his parting feasts and was saying good-bye to all. Sir, the ways of Providence are inscrutable and we have no option but to bow to its inexorable decrees. Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan was a statesman of great ability. He was a great Parliamentarian and as a Parliamentary debator he was second to none in this House—I say this with no disrespect to other illustrious members of this House. He was not only an acknowledged and unrivalled leader of the Ministerial Party in this House but was its most outstanding personality and occupied a very high position in public life of the Province, in fact, in the whole country. He will, however, be chiefly remembered as a great administrator

[R. B. Mukand Lal Puri]

who at the time of this world crisis put his whole effort on the side of the Allies and who genuinely believed in the ultimate victory of the Allies at whose disposal he placed all the resources—in men and material—of this province for the great cause to which he was wedded. In pursuance of this cause he went over to Egypt, Iran and Iraq to urge upon the soldiers of this Province to maintain their high traditions. In communal matters he was actuated by moderation and reasonableness and some of us believe that if he had been allowed to have his own way he might have achieved communal harmony in this province to a far greater measure than was permissible to him due to conflicting issues raised on an all-India basis.

Again it should not be forgotten that during the last four years we have lived through a period of great anxiety and stress and no mean credit is due to our late lamented Premier for maintaining the internal security and preventing disorder in this province during period of great uncertainty and difficulty, created by the vicissitudes of war in Europe. Our Premier would not only be remembered as a great administrator and statesman, but those of us who have had the privilege of coming into contact with him in public and private life will remember him as a gentleman of charming manners, of extreme good will, of unfailing courtesy, a gentleman who was kind to his friends and moderate towards those who differed from him. To me his demise is a matter of personal loss. He was a very kind friend. I had known him for a long time and our families have had social relations with each other for two generations. I join with the rest of the House in praying for that great departed statesman. May his soul rest in peace!

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji** (Inner Lahore, Muslim, Women) (Urdu): Sir, the whole of the Punjab mourns the loss of Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan and his sad demise has shocked the young and old alike. Sir Sikander was a stalwart of the Punjab of whom the province may well feel proud. He was born and bred in this land of five rivers whose soil now guards his remains after his death. He sympathised with the aspirations of India as a whole but the true Punjabi as he was he loved the land of his birth to the exclusion of everything else. His sympathy for the Punjab and the Punjabis manifested itself in the various services he rendered to this province at all times and in different ways. After the death of Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain he forsook his lucrative post in the Reserve Bank of India in order to serve the Punjab which he loved so much. He nobly served his province to the utmost of his ability which earned for him the love and respect of its people. As the ablest Premier in India he was the first to offer his whole-hearted support to the Allies in the present war. He did his level best to mobilize the man power of the province for fighting on their side. But now that an Allied victory is in sight and the victorious Punjabi soldiers are expected to be back in the very near future after winning laurels in the various theatres of war, it is so sad to realize that the Angel of Death has deprived him of the opportunity of welcoming them home. His death is an irreparable loss to the Punjab as in the words of the Poet of the East:—

ہزاروں سال نوگس اپنی بے نوری بہ روتی ہے  
بڑی مشکل سے ہوتا ہے چمن میں دیدہ ور پیدا

The late lamented Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan was a pillar of strength to the solidarity of the province and held the key of Hindu-Muslim unity in his hands. He always strived to bring the Hindus, Muslims and the Sikhs on the same platform. He made the marriages of his children an occasion for fostering brotherhood among the different communities by bringing them together on the same dinning table. He mixed freely among his guests imbuing them with the same spirit of fellowship and brotherhood which was the most noteworthy trait of his character. It seems as if he were entrusting to us the key of Hindu-Muslim unity, only two hours before he passed away from our midst.

Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan was a staunch Mussalman and was a strict observer of the tenets of Islam. During the month of Ramzan last, I had to go to his bungalow in connection with some business. He was about to break his fast and invited me to join him. Knowing the keen interest he took in performing his religious duties and his habit of preparing a dish on such occasions for the children with his own hands I told him that if he had prepared some dish himself I would be only too glad to partake of it. I have related this incident simply to prove the nobility of his character. In spite of his onerous duties as the Premier of the Punjab he found time to perform his religious duties as a good Musselman. That shows that he was a righteous and a virtuous man to the core of his heart. God rewards the virtuous and when they die He absolves them of their sins and allots them a place of eminence. Sir Sikander after his death has obtained his last resting place under the shadow of the walls of the mosque built by that great Muslim Emperor Aurangzeb. So long as the world lasts, so long as the Muslims live, so long as this mosque exists, people will say '*fatiha*' (invoke God's blessings) on his grave.

I would have said much more but my heart is too full for words. I feel as if I have lost a real brother. In the capacity of his sister I have every sympathy for the bereaved family and I pray that God Almighty may grant the same popularity and position to his son as was granted to the father.

Mr. Speaker, with these words I pray for the departed soul and on behalf of the women of this province support this condolence resolution.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** (Outer Lahore, Muslim, Urban) (*Urdu*): Mr. Speaker, I am very well aware of the fact that on such a sad occasion it must naturally be the desire of all the honourable members of the House to give expression to their innermost feelings cherished by them towards the late lamented Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan.

**Mr. Speaker :** Be as brief as possible.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Yes, Sir, that is what I myself propose to do. I do not intend to make a speech but only wish to record my personal sentiments and regards for the departed soul. I am sure every one of the honourable members must have felt as I did when I entered the Chamber to-day. My eyes sought that beloved personality we were so used to see in his seat, but it was so sad and painful to realize that he had departed from among us never to return. Lack of time and the intensity of grief prevent me from giving utterance to the feelings of affection and regard which I feel surging in my heart. One cannot afford to forget easily the services he rendered to his province in his high office.

[**Mian Abdul Aziz**]

I was at Dalhousie, where I did not have any radio and it was three days after Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan's sad demise that the news reached me. The news came to me as a great shock and it gave me more pain to realize that I could not reach in time for paying even my last tribute to our beloved Premier. I could not attend the funeral procession even. When I came to Lahore as soon as I could—though it was the fourth day of his death—I met Dr. Narang. He told me, that a day before his death, he remembered me and wished my presence on the occasion of the marriages of his sons. Mir Maqbool also told me that the sympathy which he cherished for me was indescribable. I cannot forget the devotion and sympathy which he had for me all through my life.

It is true that in his lifetime I had great differences with him in politics and on the floor of this House; still, I held him in high esteem for his inexhaustible adaptability to changing circumstances. He was a perfect debator, second to none in this House. I always revered him as a great leader. His life was a perfect success. I truly sympathise with his son Captain Shaukat Hyat-Khan for the sudden lamented demise of his illustrious father who will be ever honoured by posterity for all times to come. I pray, may he walk in his late father's footsteps and achieve for the Punjab that very glory which the father, in his lifetime, cherished for the Punjab and thus keep his name ever fresh in the memories of the people of the Punjab!

I am afraid, the time is limited. So I should finish my remarks with these words.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** (Kangra North, General, Rural): I rise to associate myself whole-heartedly with what has been said about our late lamented Premier, Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. He was a man of sterling worth. We all respected him and loved him. He was my personal friend and he treated me as if I was a member of his family. No doubt, we fundamentally differed from the policy of Sir Sikander or the policy of his party, but there is no denying the fact that he was a leader of sterling value. I would not take long and repeat what has been said by my honourable friends, but I would request you to convey to the bereaved family our deepest regret on the death of Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan.

**Malik Barkat Ali** (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban): Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to associate myself with the tributes of grief and tears that have been paid to the memory of the late Premier, Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. Little did we know on that fateful eve of the 28th of December 1942, when we shook hands with him for the last time, that that fine spirit which had been soaring in the regions of perfect felicity for some days past, would in the next few hours be passing away to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no man returneth. His sudden and stunning death naturally plunged the entire country into the deepest gloom. Although the ache occasioned by his sad and untimely death had not yet died down and the province can hardly be said to have recovered from the shock which it felt on the day of his death, I should like on this occasion to speak, in however muffled tones, of his great work and of those virtues which raised him.

far above his ordinary fellowmen. Mr. Speaker, I had known Sir Sikander for the last more than twenty years, but my knowledge of him was only that of a man from a distance, though I could glean even then the great fund of sound commonsense and unusual intelligence with which he stood plentifully endowed by Nature. But it was for the first time in this Chamber and on the floor of this House that I came into direct touch with him and learnt at first hand of those qualities of head and heart which he possessed and of those habits of industry and diligence which he brought to bear upon the execution of his high office. As I saw him getting up so often from his seat to reply to questions or criticisms of the policy of his Government, I felt what an indispensable pivot he was of the whole machine of Government that he was running. He in fact appeared to be carrying the entire burden of the Ministry on his shoulders. He struck me as the keystone of the arch upon which the entire edifice of the Ministry rested. I have no doubt that it was this self-imposed burden and the strain of office which accelerated his end. Mr. Speaker, it is not yet time to sit in judgment and pass any final verdict on the work of the late Premier. Undoubtedly some of the policies which he pursued gave rise to the sharpest controversies, but I shall not pursue that unpleasant theme on this occasion. I shall leave it to the historian to whose department he now stands consigned. I will here refer only to those aspects of his life and work and to those features of his character which won him the esteem and admiration of us all, namely, his personal charm of manners, the inexhaustible resource of mind and thought that he brought to bear upon the problems he tackled, his wonderful adaptability to all changing situations, his sense of realism in politics, with a keen eye for what was practical at the moment and what was but ploughing the sands of the seashore, and above all, that fine parliamentary gift of oratory which he had so well developed. Mr. Speaker, I have had many a hard and bitter duel with him on the floor of this House; on every occasion I felt what a worthy opponent he was and of what fine stuff and true mettle he was made! Whatever place he may be given in due time in the records of Indian statesmanship, we his contemporaries are entitled to say with confidence and with certainty that he was great as a party leader and great as a parliamentarian. I deeply lament that the province should have been deprived of the services of such a man. He was looking forward with great pride and hope to the future of this country and of this province in particular after the war, to the winning of which he had bent all his energies and dedicated the last ounce of his waning strength. What a tragedy that he should have been taken away just at the very moment when streaks of the dawn of victory had begun to radiate from the horizon of the war! He had done much towards laying the first stone of the Temple of Peace, and much do I wish, if wishing were not the vainest of all things, that he had lived to see it rise into strength and final completion, that it might have been at once his record and his tomb.

In conclusion I repeat the prayer made by previous speakers that when communicating to the members of his family your condolences, you may also convey the condolences of this House in the terrible bereavement that they have suffered and also communicate to them our sense of the magnitude of the irreparable loss which this province and this House in particular have sustained by his sudden and untimely death.



**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam** (Rawalpindi Division Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu): Sir, there is not a single person in the House whose mind is not full of grief and sorrow over the sad and untimely demise of the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. We have not yet recovered from grief to estimate his character and achievements, but I readily endorse the view expressed by my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali, that the coming historians will have to judge the true worth of this great man. For the present I will only say that the life of the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan was as revolutionising and grand as his death was tragic and pathetic. Several lessons can be learnt from the life of this revolutionary. I knew him from childhood when both of us used to play in Kashmir State and afterwards I met him in England in 1910. As to his political thoughts during that period, I may point out that he was the worst enemy of the British. He was then a great supporter of the late Mr. Dhinra, the right hand of Mr. Savarkar, and on his return to India several hundred copies of Savarkar's 'War of Indian Independence' were confiscated from his person at Bombay Custom House. At that time he worked hand in hand with Mr. Savarkar and other persons of that type. In fact he was a perfect revolutionary and a full-fledged enemy of the British Empire. But that was his beginning. His end was far different. He died as the staunchest and most loyal supporter of the British Empire. His worst enmity of the British had completely changed into his loyalty of the first magnitude towards the British Government and the British people. Only the future historians will be able to estimate his true character as a politician. But I can speak of him as a gentleman and there is no doubt about it that he was a great gentleman and was polite to both friends and enemies. There can be no two opinions about it. One cannot help making reference to the sad and tragic circumstances in which his death had occurred. An Urdu hemistitch aptly applies to this case :

جہاں بچنے ہیں نقرے وہاں ماتم بھی ہوتے ہیں

The same day which was the day of happy feasting in his house under the grand "Shamianas", turned out to be the day of mourning—a very sad and moving scene for the mortal human beings. The pitiful cries of mourners were heard from the same grand bungalow from which only a few minutes earlier melodious songs and happy tunes were coming out. Such is our mortal life. It is like a bubble which bursts as soon as it rises. Our late Premier died leaving his task half-accomplished, and now his mantle has fallen on his son Major Shaukat Hyat-Khan who ought to complete his father's mission as the Persian saying has it :

اگر پدر فتواند پسر تمام کند

I will say—

ابھی جام عمر بھرا نہ تھا کف دست ساقی چھلک پڑا  
رہی دل کی دل ہی میں حسرتیں کہ نشان قضا نے مٹا دیا

In this connection I am inclined to say that though this is the time of mourning, we can still congratulate Major Shaukat Hyat-Khan on his appointment to this exalted office of a Minister in the Punjab.

I agree with my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, who has mixed mourning with congratulations. Indeed Major Shaukat Hyat-Khan is the relic of the glory of the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan and I hope that he will prove worthy of this exalted office. Even if he is unsuitable, I would venture to say that the measure of his unsuitability will be the measure of the glory of the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. His appointment is only a proof of his father's grandeur irrespective of whether he is suitable or unsuitable for the Ministry. The way of his appointment points to his father's greatness and has no precedent or parallel in the history of this province or country or British Empire. This is all due to the greatness of his father. The more he is unsuitable and unfit for this office, the greater it becomes the proof of the greatness of his father. An Urdu couplet of Mirza Ghalib aptly applies to his case which runs :—

بنا ہے شہ کا مصاحب پھر ہے اتراتا  
دگر نہ شہر میں غالب کی آبرو کیا ہے

In the end I once again like to repeat the sentence with which I had begun my speech with regard to the life and death of the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. His life was full of glory and grandeur. He was a revolutionary. But his end was equally tragic and full of lessons.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to associate myself with this motion of condolence.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan will no doubt be remembered by future generations as the greatest man ever born in this province. Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan's qualities as a statesman and administrator have been described in detail by some of my friends who have preceded me. Therefore I would just say a few words about one trait of his character which was most conspicuous and it was that he was capable of rising to the greatest heights and whenever such occasion arose he did not hesitate for one second to make any sacrifice which was required. I mention two or three of such occasions when I happened to be with him and therefore I know the background as well. The first occasion arose when His Excellency the Viceroy expanded his Executive Council and thought it was not necessary to have a man from the Punjab on that Council. Our late Premier felt that that was an encroachment on the rights and privileges of this province which it had acquired on account of its contribution to the war, and it is an open secret that Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan was prepared to go to the greatest lengths if Sir Sikander's demand was not acceded to. It was due to the wise statesmanship of the British Government that they acceded to his wishes and saved a most critical situation at that time. The second occasion arose when the All-India Muslim League called upon its members to resign from the Defence Council. He went to attend the meeting at Bombay and I also had the privilege of accompanying him. There they considered all the pros and cons of this question and Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan said that nothing was more sacred than the honour and prestige of his own community and as it was a question where the honour and prestige of Muslims was involved

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan]

he would not hesitate to resign from the Defence Council and if it came to that he would also resign the premiership or do anything else to maintain the dignity and honour of his community. He, therefore, resigned from the Defence Council although he knew that there were hitches and obstacles in his way. Similarly, so far as the struggle for independence of this country is concerned, I still remember the last speech which he made. That last speech was made at Chakwal on the occasion of the National War Front Conference. In that speech he said, in words which were not liable to any other interpretation, that if the British Government did not grant complete independence to India immediately after the war was over, he was going to be the first man to take up the sword and fight against the British. I remember how this speech was appreciated by the vast audience that was present at that time. Therefore, my point is that although he was a confirmed co-operator, he never lost the opportunity, whenever he thought that he could further the cause of his country by non-co-operation of saying so. I maintain that this great characteristic was due to his being a really religious minded man. I remember the occasion when he went last year to Delhi on some official business for a day. At about 8 p.m. he said that he was afraid that he might miss the train. I told him that there was still one hour more but he replied that he had not yet performed a most important duty and what was it, of paying a visit to the Dargah of Khawaja Nizam-ud-Din Aulya. He said that there was not a single occasion when he went to Delhi and left that place without paying a visit to the Dargah of Khawaja Nizam-ud-Din Aulya. It was due to his being religious-minded that he was so humble in spite of occupying such a high position. It was due to his being religious minded that he was not at all vindictive with his political opponents. Therefore, Sir, by his death the British Empire has suffered a terrible loss. I think there is no other man in the British Empire who can say that he had done more to help the war effort than Sir Sikander had done. India has suffered a terrible loss because I knew that he was a staunch nationalist in view of what he had uttered at Chakwal. The Punjab has lost the greatest Punjabi ever born and, last but not the least, the Muslim community has lost one of the greatest Muslim leaders who was born at a time when there were so many controversial things to be settled and so much of statesmanship was required. I would finish my speech just by saying one sentence with reference to the appointment of the Honourable Major Shaukat Hyat-Khan. Sir, we all feel very grateful to His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Premier for having removed the various hurdles which were in the way of Major Shaukat Hyat-Khan being appointed as a Minister. I think by removing those hurdles they have acted in a most democratic way because they have given effect to what was voiced by the members of this House and also by those outside.

*(At this stage several members stood up to speak).*

**Mr. Speaker :** Our practice on such occasions is that the Leader of the House and the leaders of various parties make speeches and then the discussion is closed. To-day many gentlemen have already spoken and many more appear to be anxious to speak. I have no objection to allow them if the House is unanimously of that opinion.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I think all of them associate with this motion.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** Every one.

**Mr. Speaker :** I fully associate myself with the honourable members, who have spoken before me. There can be no two opinions that the most tragic, unexpected, sad and premature demise of Sir Sikander Hyat Khan, has deprived the Punjab, nay, the whole of India, of a great statesman, a perfect administrator and a gallant soldier. His loss to the country as well as to this House is irreparable. I came to know him about 25 years ago and during this long period my personal relations with him were very close and cordial, both in and outside the House. His genial temperament, affable manners, and refined courtesy had endeared him to such an extent that every one, who had come in contact with him, considers his death as a personal bereavement. Honourable members, now let us pray standing for the deceased's salvation and record our deep condolence and sympathy with the members of his family.

*The members accordingly stood in their seats.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the House do now adjourn as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 3-30 p.m. on Friday, 5th March 1943.*

1911

1911年1月1日 星期日  
1911年1月2日 星期一  
1911年1月3日 星期二

1911年1月4日 星期三

1911年1月5日 星期四

1911年1月6日 星期五



1911年1月7日 星期六

1911年1月8日 星期日

1911

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 5th March 1948

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 8-30 p. m. of the clock.  
Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### PRICE CONTROL

**\*8484. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware that great inconvenience is being experienced by the public in obtaining essential commodities and food-stuffs and exorbitant prices are being charged by the shopkeepers ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that efforts to control the prices of various commodities and food-stuffs have grossly failed ;

(c) the steps the Government have taken to ensure adequate supplies of various commodities ; and the measures which the authorities propose to take to ease the serious situation prevailing in the province on account of a tremendous rise in prices ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) Yes, but this is not true of all commodities, e. g., salt and sugar.

(b) Efforts have not been as successful as had been hoped.

(c) Government has been seriously concerned with the situation and every effort is being made to improve matters. A certain amount of success has been achieved, particularly in the supply of sugar and salt. The main steps taken have been :—

(i) *The control of supplies*—The movement of all important foodgrains are controlled, and no export is allowed except under permit issued by Government. This has been done with a view to ensuring adequate supplies for consumption in the Province.

(ii) *Salt*—A new system has been introduced by which salt supplies are sent to the nominees of district authorities. In this way it has been possible to ensure adequate supplies and in consequence reasonable prices.

(iii) *Sugar*—Every effort has been made to see that prices fixed by the Government of India are enforced and that supplies are properly distributed.

(iv) *Provincial Reserves*—Government has made purchases of wheat, gram and, to a smaller extent, maize, rice and *bajra*. Allotments of food-grains have been made to every district in the Province and are being

[Ch. Tikka Ram]

distributed at very reasonable prices. For instance wheat is being distributed at considerably cheaper rate than the current market price. While it is true that Government Reserves are limited, they are very definitely meeting needs of the poorest classes of the population.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I know whether Chaudhri Tikka Ram is still the Parliamentary Secretary ? Was it not incumbent on him to have resigned ? Has he been reappointed ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Is not this question irrelevant at this stage ?

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** We want to know whether any member from Government benches can answer a question. The question is whether this reply has been given on behalf of the Government by a Parliamentary Secretary or by a member to whom this power has been given because no Parliamentary Secretary has been appointed so far.

**Premier :** Honourable members are unnecessarily worried. He is replying on behalf of the Government. Honourable members should know that I can authorise any member to do so.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** This is the information we wanted, that this reply has been given by the honourable member not as a Parliamentary Secretary but as a non-official member.

**Premier :** Authentic, official and on behalf of the Government.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Not as a Parliamentary Secretary ?

**Premier :** That is beside the point.

**Mr. Speaker :** " Minister " includes any member to whom a Minister may delegate any function assigned to him under the Rules of this House.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the military authorities have violated the price rates fixed by the Punjab Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** I want notice for that question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any instance of military authorities violating the price rates fixed by the Punjab Government has come to the notice of the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Again a notice is required.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any case was started against any military authority for violating the price rates fixed by the Punjab Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This question does not arise.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** May I know what machinery the Government has set up to ensure that really deserving people will get the benefit of the price control ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** In this connection I have enumerated the steps that have been taken.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether any arrangement have been made to distribute foodstuffs in rural areas ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I want notice of that question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** My question is whether any arrangements have been made to distribute the foodstuffs in rural areas.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

DETENUS IN VARIOUS JAILS

\*3435. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state regarding the health of—

(1) Mian Mohammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee,

(2) Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Legislative Assembly,

(3) Chaudhri Krishan Gopal Dutt, M.L.A.,

(4) Seth Sadarshan, M.L.A.,

(5) Pandit Shri Ram Sharma,

(6) Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, M.L.A.,

(7) Chaudhri Sahib Ram, M.L.A.,

(8) Sardar Partap Singh, M.L.A.,

(9) Shrimati Shanno Devi, M.L.A.,

(10) Munshi Hari Lal, M.L.A.,

(11) Dewan Chaman Lal, M.L.A.,

(12) Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, M.L.A.,

(13) Sardar Chanan Singh, M.L.A.,

(14) Chaudhri Kartar Singh, M.L.A.,

(15) Sardar Harjab Singh, M.L.A.,

(16) Master Kabul Singh, M.L.A.,

(17) Baba Rur Singh, M.L.A.,

(18) Master Hari Singh, M.L.A.,

(19) Dr. Sant Ram Sethi, M.L.A.,

who are being detained in the various jails of the Punjab ;

(a) the weight at present, and at the time of arrest of each detenu mentioned above ;

(b) the general state of health of each detenu named above ;

(c) the diet, newspapers, correspondence and interviews allowed to the above-mentioned detenus ;

(d) the place and the period of detention of each of the said detenus ;

(e) the dates of their arrest ;

(f) whether the Government intends to try the detenus mentioned above in a court of law ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private



[Mir Maqbool Mahmood]  
enlightenment only I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether similar questions were answered before on the floor of the House or not ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is not a supplementary question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. My point of order is this that similar questions have been more than once answered on the floor of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is not a point of order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want your protection on this point. I want to know whether it is in the public interest to withhold information about the health of honourable members of this House.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a matter between the honourable members and the Minister in charge. My wish is that every question asked by any member should be answered. But if the Minister in charge thinks that it is not in public interest to answer it, he may refuse to do so. If he says that he does not consider it proper in "public interest" to answer a question, I have no power to force him to give a reply.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** If the answer to any question is evaded ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I am helpless.

**Premier :** For the information of the honourable member I may add that the same policy that was followed on this point in the last session is being followed now. Where answers can be given they are given and where it is not in the public interest to give the answers they are being refused. No new policy has been adopted.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Is it because their health is very bad that the answer is being withheld ?

**Premier :** They are quite hale and hearty.

#### DETENUS IN VARIOUS JAILS

\*8486. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state regarding the health of—

(1) Comrade Ram Krishan, Secretary, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee,

(2) Mr. Mulkh Raj Aggarwal, Private Secretary to Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava,

(3) Baba Sohan Lal, Assistant Secretary of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee,

(4) Sardar Bakhshish Singh, Accountant, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee,

(5) Mr. Amar Chand, Record-keeper of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee,

(6) Mr. Dev Raj Sharda of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee,

who are detained in various jails of the Punjab,

(a) the weight at present and at the time of arrest of each of the above-named detenus ;

(b) the general state of health of each detenu named above ;

(c) the diet, newspapers, correspondence, interviews and allowance, if any, allowed to the above-named detenus ;

(d) the place and period of detention of each of the said detenus ;

(e) the date of arrest of each of them ;

(f) whether the Government intends to try them in a court of law ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

MR. CHANDI RAM VARMA AND MR. RAJINDAR NATH, DETENUS

**\*8487. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state regarding the health of Mr. Chandi Ram Varma, Treasurer of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee and Mr. Rajindra Nath, M.A., Research Assistant of the Congress Assembly Party, who are detained in various jails of the Punjab ;

(a) the weight at present and at the time of arrest ;

(b) the general state of health ;

(c) the diet, newspapers, correspondence and interviews allowed to them ;

(d) the place and period for detention ;

(e) the date of arrests ;

(f) whether the Government intends to try them in a court of law ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** If all of us sitting on this side ask for the same information, will it be given to each one of us ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that if any member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment I will endeavour to see what can be given to him privately.

**Premier :** The question whether the information sought by one or more members can be given in public interest will be dealt with when it arises.

**VISIT TO SHAHPUR JAIL BY MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**\*8507. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Minister of Development visited the Shahpur Jail in the beginning of December 1942, with a view to studying the conditions obtaining there ; if so, whether they made any report recommending certain improvements to be made for the convenience of the security prisoners confined in that jail ; if so, whether any action has so far been taken on that report ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

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**DETENUS**

**\*8508. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number and names of persons detained in the various Police Stations in Lahore and the Lahore Fort in connection with the present civil disobedience movement started by the Congress from 8th August 1942, to 31st December 1942 ;

(b) the weight, at present and at the time of arrest, of the detenus mentioned above ;

(c) their general state of health ;

(d) the diet, newspapers, correspondence and interviews allowed to them ;

(e) the period of their detention respectively ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**Sardar Ajit Singh (Urdu) :** If the Government repeats the same answer to every question then what is the use of asking questions ?

**Mr. Speaker :** As already stated, I have every sympathy with the honourable member, but will he please refer me to any law or rule under which I can request or force a Minister to answer a question which he does not wish to answer on the ground that it is not in the public interest to do so? If there is no such law or rule what can I do ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I would like to bring one thing to your notice. The Government may have that right but you have to see whether that right is used properly or not.

**Mr. Speaker :** I agree that as a rule every question should be answered; but in the absence of any rule what can I do ?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** You could make a suggestion to the Ministry that if they answer the question they have nothing to lose. If they state what was the state of health of the detenus, what allowance was given to them, etc., will they lose anything, and do my friends realise that if they do not answer these questions all sorts of inferences would be drawn by the public ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Let me state one thing.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow any further discussion on that point.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I was not going to discuss that question. I wished to make a suggestion that there should be some rule governing these questions.

**Mr. Speaker :** You may try to have the rules amended.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** May I invite attention to the fact that during the last session the same procedure was followed. In reply to similar questions in which information could not be given on the floor of the House the Minister concerned offered to give whatever information he could, privately. The same policy is being followed now and as it is not in the public interest to give the information on the floor of the House, if the honourable member meets me privately I will see what information can be given.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I know why the Government is feeling shy of these starred questions which have a significance of their own ?

**Premier :** There is no obligation on the Government to supply every information asked for in a starred question.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Does the Government really think that it is in the public interest to withhold information about the state of health of certain members of the House ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That matter is not under discussion and I cannot allow an irrelevant discussion.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** I wanted to ask a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is not a supplementary question.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS IN OLD CENTRAL JAIL, MULTAN

\*8509. **Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the names of the Congress Civil Disobedience prisoners who were tried as the result of a disturbance in the Old Central Jail, Multan, on the 9th December 1942, and the period of sentence passed in the case of each detenu involved in the aforesaid disturbance ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## SARDAR KULBIR SINGH AND SARDAR KULTAR SINGH

**\*8510. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state regarding Sardar Kulbir Singh and Sardar Kultar Singh, the sons of Sardar Kishen Singh, M.L.A., who are being detained in the Punjab jails —

- (a) their weight at present and at the time of their arrests ;
- (b) their general state of health ;
- (c) the diet, newspapers, correspondence, interviews and allowance permitted to them ;
- (d) the place and period of their detention respectively ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS IN THE PUNJAB

**\*8516. Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the total strength of the cadre of Extra Assistant Commissioners in the Punjab ;
- (b) the total number in the whole cadre of Extra Assistant Commissioners coming from each of the five revenue divisions respectively ;
- (c) the total number of those in the cadre referred to in (a) above of those belonging to the Lahore and Amritsar cities ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) 250.

(b) and (c) The information is contained in the History of Services of Gazetted Officers, a copy of which is available in the Assembly Library.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** As a protest against Government's not answering the questions, I do not propose to ask any further questions on behalf of the absentee members.

*(At this stage Chaudhri Ram Sarup rose to ask question 8518 on behalf of Lala Bhagat Ram Choda who was absent.)*

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. I was desired by Lala Bhagat Ram Choda to ask questions on his behalf. I do not like to ask the questions. My point of order is whether any other member without receiving the instructions from that honourable member can ask questions on his behalf.

**Mr. Speaker :** No written authority is needed for asking a question of which another member has given notice.

PERMISSION TO STUDENT PRISONERS TO SIT FOR THE UNIVERSITY  
EXAMINATIONS

**\*8518. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that no facilities have been given to those students to appear in the Punjab University Examinations to be held in 1948 who were arrested during the last six months in connection with the present Civil Disobedience Movement of the Congress and who are at present detained as under-trial prisoners ; if so, why ;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that the above-mentioned under-trial prisoners are neither allowed to have any interview nor any newspapers ; if so, why ;

(c) whether he is also aware of the fact that the diet money allowed to these under-trial prisoners has been fixed at annas six and a half per day which is meagre when compared with the very high prices of the food-stuffs obtaining at present ; if so, whether Government contemplates taking any action to improve their lot ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8522. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of security prisoners from among those detained in New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, who applied to the Government for family allowance and the number of applicants who have been granted allowance with the amount of monthly allowance in each case ;

(b) whether there are any applications for the grant of such allowance which are still under consideration, and, if so, the number of such applications with the names of the applicants ;

(c) the total amount of family allowances paid to Gujrat jail security prisoners till 31st January 1948 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

SECURITY PRISONERS IN SUB-JAIL, GUJRAT

**\*8523. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing with regard to Baba Sohan Singh, Santa Singh Gandiwind, Buta Singh, Dasondha Singh, Arjan Singh "Sach", Makhan Singh Tarsika, Baba Kesar Singh and

[S. Hari Singh]

Baba Harnam Singh, 'Tundi Lat' all security prisoners now detained in Sub-Jail, Gujrat :—

- (a) weight on admission and present weight of each of them ;
- (b) ailment from which any one of them has suffered during the last one year ;
- (c) result of diagnosis in each case ;
- (d) medical treatment made available to each sufferer ;
- (e) the present state of health of each one of them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### JAGJIT SINGH, SECURITY PRISONER

**\*8524. Sardar Hari Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the reasons why security prisoner named Jagjit Singh has now been transferred from New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, to the Central Jail, Montgomery ;
- (b) the medical treatment made available to him at present ;
- (c) his weight at the time of his arrest ;
- (d) his present weight ;
- (e) the state of his health at present ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

**\*8536. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the total number of arrests made in the Punjab from 8th August 1942 to 31st January 1948, district-wise, in connection with the present Civil Disobedience Movement started by the Congress ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### BELIEF TO CERTAIN VILLAGES ON THE SUTLEJ

**\*8482. Syed Amjad Ali Shah** : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) what gratuitous relief has been given to the following villages which were badly affected by the rising of the River Sutlej last summer :—

- (1) Akwala,
- (2) Asafwala,

- (3) Bagguwala,
- (4) Bodewala,
- (5) Mallanwala,
- (6) Masteke,
- (7) Butewala,
- (8) Talwandi,
- (9) Nepalán,

in tehsil Zira, district Ferozepore;

(b) the amount of land revenue and irrigation revenue, respectively, which has not been collected from these villages consequent upon the above-mentioned floods in the Sutlej ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

#### GRANTS OF LAND IN CANAL COLONIES

**\*8483. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of the grants of land made in the canal colonies in the Punjab during the last 5 years; the total area thus granted and the total number of grantees, district-wise;

(b) the new grants of lands in the canal colonies which are under the consideration of the Government, district-wise ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) The labour involved in the collection of this information will be incommensurate with the results likely to be achieved. I, therefore, regret that Government does not feel justified in collecting this information.

(b) An area of about 39,000 acres has been reserved in the Haveli Project for various types of grants, other than military grants. Of this 14,000 acres will be required for locals. No final decision has been reached on the allocation of the remaining area, and it is not possible to say at this stage how many people of each district will benefit.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das:** May I know when the decision will be arrived at ?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** It will be arrived at soon.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das:** What does the Parliamentary Secretary mean by 'soon' ? Will it be decided in a few months, few years or in a century ?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I cannot give the exact date, but by 'soon' I mean a reasonable period.

**Sardar Ajit Singh (Urdu):** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary as to whether the rights of the tenants of that land situated in the Nili Bar colony and the Haveli Project, which had been cultivated by them for the last 15 years, will be recognised by the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I have said in the answer that 14,000 acres will be required for locals and that about the remaining area Government have not come to any final decision.



## PUNJAB'S SHARE OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S PUBLIC DEBT

**\*8495. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Punjab's share of the Government of India's public debt has been allotted ; if so, on what basis and the amount allocated to this province ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** The question is not understood. The Punjab Government is not concerned in the least with the debt of the Central Government. The liabilities of the two governments are entirely distinct.

The words in the question " whether the Punjab's share of the Government of India's public debt has been allotted " are not at all understood by me. We have no share whatsoever in the Government of India's debt.

However, the Punjab owes to the Central Government the following amounts—

	Rs.
Consolidated Debt .. .. .	18,47,51,056
Unconsolidated Debt .. .. .	10,00,00,000

This is the form in which actual loans and advances taken by the Punjab Government from the Government of India assumed on the introduction of provincial autonomy.

The question, if it has any meaning, is based on some wholly fallacious idea. Our debt position is described in detail in the report of the Public Accounts Committee for the year 1939-40 at pages 9-10.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** May I know what effort the Government is going to make to reduce the public debt or the interest thereof ?

**Minister for Finance :** That question does not arise.

## OPERATIONS IN GENERAL WARD, MAYO HOSPITAL, LAHORE

**\*8290. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the time of the Senior Surgeon, Mayo Hospital, is occupied in operations upon the Family Ward and Albert Victor ward patients with the consequence that operations on General ward patients have to be postponed from day to day and some of the patients have to leave the hospital disappointed ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Senior Surgeon having no time for operation on General Ward's cases this delicate work is entrusted to less experienced clinical assistants ; if so, what arrangements Government intends making to redress the grievances of the poor patients in the General wards ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) No.

(b) first part, no ;

Second part does not arise.

## TEACHING OF URDU IN SCHOOLS UNDER LOCAL BODIES

\*8372. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the arrangement, if any, made for the teaching of Urdu to Muslim students studying in such schools under the management of local bodies in the Ambala Division, as give instruction through medium of Hindi?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

## ELECTIONS TO LOCAL BODIES

\*8371. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that general elections to all the local bodies in the Province have been postponed till after the termination of the present war?

**The Honourable Captain Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** Postponements have been ordered from time to time. At present all general elections due to take place before the 31st December 1943 stand postponed for one year.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## TAHSILDARS AND EMPLOYEES OF CIVIL SECRETARIAT SELECTED AS EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

1573. **Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names, communitywise, of all the Tahsildars and the employees of the Punjab Civil Secretariat promoted to or selected for the posts of Extra Assistant Commissioners this year;

(b) the reasons for the variation in the proportion of each community among the above-named Extra Assistant Commissioners and the justification therefor?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) and (b) It is not in the public interest to disclose names. The appointment to the Punjab Civil Service of Tahsildars and employees of the Punjab Civil Secretariat is a matter of promotion and is not subject to the fixed communal proportions. In all 8 Muslims, 3 Hindus, one Anglo-Indian and 4 Sikhs were promoted in 1942.

## TAHSILDARS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT SELECTED AS EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

1574. **Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of all the candidates recommended for promotion to the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner from among the Tahsildars and also the employees of the Punjab Civil Secretariat, community-wise?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** I regret I cannot give details of the recommendations which are confidential.

## EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS AND TAHSILDARS

**1575. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names of all the Extra Assistant Commissioners and Tahsildars recruited and posted since the 1st April 1937, district-wise and community wise ;

(b) how many of the above-named Extra Assistant Commissioners and Tahsildars belong to the Gurgaon district ;

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the negative, what action the Government intends to take to remove the long-standing grievance of the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Gurgaon district in this respect ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) It is not in the public interest to disclose names. The other information is given in the attached statement ;

(b) Two.

(c) Does not arise.

*Statement*

			<i>Extra Assistant Commissioners</i>	<i>Tahsildars</i>
Muslims	..	..	69	20
Hindus	..	..	35	12
Sikhs ..	..	..	27	8
Others	..	..	7	..

The time and labour involved in ascertaining the home districts of these officers will be incommensurate with the advantage to be gained therefrom. It is, therefore, regretted that this information cannot be collected.

## DEPUTY COLLECTORS SELECTED FROM AMONGST ZILLADARS

**1576. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the names, community-wise and district-wise, of all the Deputy Collectors selected and appointed from amongst the Zilladars since 1st April, 1937 ;

(b) the proportion among them of the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Gurgaon district ;

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the negative, what steps the Government intends to take to remove the long-standing grievances of the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the above-named district in this respect ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Nil.

(c) Appointment of Deputy Collectors from Zilladars 1st Grade in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, is made purely by selection, on the basis of the service rendered as a Zilladar.

*Deputy Collectors appointed since 1st April 1937*

Serial No.	Name	Date of appointment	Community	District
1	Lal Singh .. ..	8-5-37	Sikh (Agriculturist) ..	Rawalpindi.
2	Agha Mohammad Aslam Khan.	16-10-37	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Sialkot.
3	Amar Nath Datta ..	1-7-38	Hindu (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Jullundur.
4	Mohammad Hassan Khan	15-7-38	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Hoshiarpur.
5	Lala Mohan Lal ..	16-7-38	Hindu (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Gujranwala.
6	Durga Das ..	19-8-38	Hindu (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Lahore.
7	Chuni Lal (2) Bakhshi ..	22-10-38	Hindu (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Bhara Shahpur.
8	Mohammad Ashraf .. (Invalided from service 3-1-42).	16-12-38	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Gurdaspur.
9	Bhai Sant Singh (retired)	4-6-39	Sikh (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Amritsar.
10	Moti Ram ..	6-8-40	Hindu (Agriculturist) ..	Rawalpindi.
11	Rahmat Ali (3) ..	3-12-40	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Lyallpur.
12	Maman Singh ..	9-12-40	Hindu (Agriculturist) ..	Hissar.
13	Mohammad Azam ..	21-1-41	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Sialkot.
14	Sarbaland ..	1-7-41	Muslim (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Lahore.
15	Mohammad Yakub Khana	24-8-41	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Jhelum.
16	Balwant Singh ..	3-1-42	Sikh (Agriculturist) ..	Jullundur.
17	Bhai Sheo Deo Singh ..	13-2-42	Sikh (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Jullundur.
18	Chaudhri Chiragh Ali ..	20-2-42	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Gurdaspur.
19	Mohammad Hayat Khan	15-6-42	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Shahpur.
20	Pir Mohammad ..	15-7-42	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Gujrat.
<i>Temporary Deputy Collectors.</i>				
21	Bhai Sundar Singh (1) ..	18-3-42	Sikh (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Amritsar.
22	Abid Hussain ..	30-4-42	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Multan.
23	Bhai Sant Singh ..	18-10-42	Sikh (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Amritsar.
24	Mohindar Singh ..	21-5-42	Sikh (Non-Agriculturist) ..	Kapurthala State
25	Qazi Mohammad Hanif ..	4-11-42	Muslim (Agriculturist) ..	Gujranwala.
26	Bhai Indar Singh (3) ..	..	Sikh (Agriculturist) ..	Amritsar.

## LAND RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT

**1577. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total strength of employees in the Land Reclamation Department ;

(b) how many of them are Hindu Statutory Agriculturists and to which district they belong ;

(c) how many of the employees named above belong to the Gurgaon district ;

(d) if the answer to part (c) be in the negative, what steps the Government intends to take to give a proper representation in the aforesaid Department to the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Gurgaon district ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) The total strength of employees in the Land Reclamation Department is 178.

(b) The number of Hindu Statutory agriculturists is 18 and they belong to Sialkot, Sheikhupura, Hoshiarpur, Rohtak, Lahore, Kangra, Gurdaspur and Jullundur districts.

(c) None.

(d) The Government cannot undertake to accommodate members of any particular tribe from any particular district.

HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AND RASUL  
ENGINEERING SCHOOL

**1578. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of candidates admitted into each class since 1st April 1937, yearwise, of the Rasul Engineering School, and how many of them are Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Gurgaon district ;

(b) if the answer to the above part be in the negative, what action the Government intends to take to remove the grievances of the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Gurgaon district in the matter of admission into the above-named institution ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** (a)

Year	Overseer Class	Draftsman Class	Artisan Class	Surveyor Class	Road In- spector Class	Total
1937 .. ..	38	10	..	..	..	48
1938 (January) ..	41	10	20	..	..	71
1938 (October) ..	42	14	31	..	..	87
1939 .. ..	58	10	25	..	..	93
1940 .. ..	60	10	29	..	..	99
1941 .. ..	60	10	20	..	..	90
1942 .. ..	88	15	22	12	10	147

No Hindu Statutory Agriculturist of the Gurgaon District applied for admission into any of the above classes, so none could be admitted.

(b) Out of the vacancies reserved for Hindus, 40 per cent are reserved for Statutory Agriculturists, provided that a sufficient number of suitably qualified candidates are forthcoming.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AND DEHRA DUN FOREST COLLEGE

**1579. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of all the candidates, community-wise, admitted into the Ranger Class and Assistant Conservator of Forests Class in the Dehra Dun College from the Punjab, since 1st April 1937, and to which district do they belong; how many of them are Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Gurgaon district; if none what action the Government intends to take to remove the grievances of the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of this ilaqa in the matter of admission into that College?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** A statement giving the required information is attached. None of the candidates is a Hindu Statutory Agriculturist of the Gurgaon district. Recruitment to the cadres of Forest Rangers and Assistant Conservators of Forests is made in accordance with the accepted formula for communal proportions on a provincial basis and no distinction is drawn amongst candidates from different localities.

*Statement showing the number, community and district of the candidates selected for training as Forest Rangers and Assistant Conservators of Forests at the Forest College, Dehra Dun, from 1st April 1937, onward.*

Class	Course	Number of candidates selected	COMMUNITY (DISTRICT)		
			Muslim	Sikh	Hindu
Forest Rangers	1937-39	One ..	1 (Simla .. 1)	..	..
	1939-41	Two ..	1 (Jullundur)	1 (Jullundur .. 1)	..
	1941-43	Eight ..	4 (Ferozepore 1) (Lahore .. 1) (Amritsar .. 2)	2 (Ambala .. 1) (Ferozepore .. 1)	2 (Kangra .. 1) (Rohtak .. 1)
	1942-44	Six ..	3 (Ludhiana .. 1) (Ferozepore .. 1) (Shehpur .. 1)	2 (Ludhiana .. 1) (Jullundur .. 1)	1 (Kangra .. 1)
	1943-45	Five ..	2 (Jhelum .. 1) (Ferozepore .. 1)	1 (Sialkot .. 1)	2 (Multan .. 1) (Shehpur .. 1)
	1938-40	..	..	..	..
Assistant Conservators of Forests	1940-42	Four ..	2 (Mianwali .. 1) (Sialkot .. 1)	1 (Jullundur .. 1)	1 (Karnal .. 1)
	1942-44	Three ..	1 (Hoshiarpur 1)	1 (Sheikhpura 1)	1 (Rohtak ..)

## BLOCK SYSTEM IN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

**1580. Syed Amjad Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Block system recently adopted by Government for recruitment in services is being followed in the Agriculture Department of the Province ; if so, whether it has had the effect of raising the percentage of Muslims in class I Service of the said Department ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** *First part.*—Yes, but it is applicable to vacancies required by the rules to be filled by direct recruitment only.

*Second part.*—The two vacancies that occurred in class I since the introduction of the block system in the department have been reserved for men with combatant war service. In the meantime however they have been filled by Muslim Officers, bringing the communal proportion to—

Community	Number	Percentage
Europeans.. .. .	Two	10.5
Muslims .. .. .	Eight	42.1
Hindus .. .. .	Five	26.3
Sikhs .. .. .	Four	21.1

In addition a Muslim class I officer is on deputation elsewhere at present—

## AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

**1581. Syed Amjad Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House showing, community-wise :—

(a) the number of Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture in the Province ;

(b) the Assistant Professors in the Lyallpur College ;

(c) the Research Officers ; and

(d) the Marketing Officers in the Agriculture Department ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture :—

21 posts (7 temporary)—

Muslims .. .. .	9
Sikhs .. .. .	11
Hindus .. .. .	1

(b) Assistant Professors at the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur :—

12 posts (1 temporary)—

Muslims .. .. .	4
Sikhs .. .. .	8
Hindus .. .. .	5

(c) Research officers :—

(i) Indian Agricultural Service (2 posts)—

European .. .. .	1
Hindu .. .. .	1

(ii) Punjab Agricultural Service, Class I, (9 posts) (one vacant and one temporary)—

Muslims	..	..	..	..	3
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	2
Hindus	..	..	..	..	3

\*(iii) Punjab Agricultural Service, Class II, 10 posts (3 temporary)—

Muslims	..	..	..	..	5
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	3
Hindus	..	..	..	..	2

(d) Marketing Officers :—

(i) Punjab Agricultural Service, Class I—  
Marketing Officer, Sikh.

(ii) Punjab Agricultural Service, Class II—

†Assistant Marketing Officers—4 posts (1 vacant)—

Muslim	..	..	..	..	1
Sikh	..	..	..	..	1
Hindu	..	..	..	..	1

\*Do not include temporary officers employed on schemes of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research as no communal representation is observed in appointing them under instructions from that body.

†Imperial Council of Agricultural Research scheme appointments.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG CANDIDATES AND LEAVE RESERVE CLERKS ENLISTED BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, AMBALA

**1582. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of candidates and leave reserve clerks enlisted by the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, in each of the years 1940, 1941 and 1942, and the number of Muslims out of them and also the number of clerks promoted to senior grades during these years, community-wise ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** A statement is given below :—

*Statement showing the number of candidates and leave reserve clerks enlisted by the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala*

Year	Total number of candidates	Muslims	Total number of leave reserve clerks	Muslims
1940	..	..	..	..
1941	22	7	10	4
1942	16	5	5	1



*Statement showing the number of clerks promoted by the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, to senior grades community-wise*

Year				Total number of clerks	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others
1940	..	..	..	4	3	1	..	..
1941	..	..	..	32	16	12	4	..
1942	..	..	..	31	7	11	9	4

#### NON-MUSLIM MAGISTRATES IN AMBALA DISTRICT

**1583. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the only Muslim Extra Assistant Commissioner (Revenue Assistant) in the Ambala District has also been transferred, though temporarily, from Ambala to Gurgaon; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to a resolution recently passed by the Muslim League at Ambala, protesting against the appointment of purely non-Muslim Magistrates at Ambala;

(c) whether it is a fact that oral representations in the above-named connection were also made to him and to the Chief Secretary by the Muslim representatives from the Ambala Division in the Punjab Legislative Assembly;

(d) the action that Government took or intends to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat:** (a) He was required temporarily to fill a vacancy at Gurgaon and has now returned to Ambala.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Muslim element in the Ambala District Staff will be increased shortly.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY DEPARTMENTS AT KARNAL

**1584. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the name of the Assistant Deputy Director of Agriculture and the number of Agricultural Assistants and Muqaddams posted at Karnal, community-wise;

(b) the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons posted in the veterinary hospitals of the Karnal district?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) There is no post in the Agriculture Department bearing the designation of Assistant Deputy Director of Agriculture. If the honourable member means an Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture, no such officer is actually stationed at Karnal. Sardar Umrao Singh, Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture, Rohtak, is in charge of the Karnal Tahsil. Three Agricultural Assistants—a Muslim, a Hindu and a Sikh—and two Muqaddams—a Hindu and a Sikh—are posted at Karnal.

(b) There are no posts of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Veterinary Department. Fifteen Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Veterinary Assistants are posted in the veterinary hospitals of the Karnal district.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT IN  
KARNAL

**1585. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the name of the Assistant Registrar and the number of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Co-operative Department in the Karnal district, community-wise,

(b) the number of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors posted at Karnal for the consolidation of holding work, communitywise?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) Chaudhri Mohd. Hussain, Assistant Registrar, Rohtak circle (which comprises Rohtak and Karnal districts) with headquarters at Rohtak.

		Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Total
1. Inspectors	..	8	..	2	5
2. Sub-Inspectors (Government paid)	..	15	5	..	20
3. Sub-Inspectors (P. C. U. paid)	..	12	3	3	18

(Note—The figures given under 1 and 2 above include Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for Consolidation of Holdings).

(b) 1. Number of Inspectors	..	1	..	1	2
2. Number of Sub-Inspectors	..	11	3	..	14

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT IN THE  
KARNAL DISTRICT

**1586. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, community-wise, posted in various dispensaries of the Karnal district, showing the names of the places where they are posted?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The time and trouble involved in collecting this information would not be commensurate with the benefit to be obtained therefrom.

MUSLIMS IN DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, AMBALA

**1587. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the percentage of the Muslims in the superior service in the Deputy Commissioner's office, Ambala, now, and in the years 1982 and 1922?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** The percentage of Muslims in superior service in the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Ambala, is given below :—

1922	..	..	..	33.65
1932	..	..	..	38
1943	..	..	..	35

**COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG DISTRICT AUTHORITIES AND  
MAGISTRATES IN HISSAR DISTRICT**

**1588. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the names of the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Additional District Magistrate and the number of the Magistrates I, II and III class, community-wise, posted in the Hissar district showing also against the names of the II and III class Magistrates the names of places where they are posted?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** The honourable member will find the information he requires given on page 274 of the Civil List.

**COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG OFFICERS OF VETERINARY, Co-  
OPERATIVE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT IN HISSAR DISTRICT**

**1589. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of veterinary hospitals in the Hissar district and the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in charge thereof, community-wise ;

(b) the number of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Co-operative Department, community-wise, in the Hissar district, with the names of the places where each is posted and the name of the Assistant Registrar ;

(c) the number of agricultural farms and the number of Agricultural Assistants and Muqaddams in the Hissar district, community-wise ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :**

(a) Number of veterinary hospitals in the Hissar district. .. 11  
Number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Veterinary Assistants in charge of the veterinary hospitals, community wise—

	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Total
Veterinary Assistant Surgeons	2	..	..	2
Veterinary Assistants	2	3	4	9
(b) Number of Inspectors of the Co-operative Department in the Hissar District—8	2	4	2	8
(Out of these 3 are posted at Hissar, 2 at Sirsa and 1 each at Hansi, Bhiwani and Fatehabad.)				
Number of Sub-Inspectors (paid by the Co-operative Union)—27	9	14	4	27

One Sub-Inspector is posted at each of the following places :—

Hissar, Salimgarh, Tohana, Barwala, Dabra, Rania, Kalanwali, Dabwali, Sirsa, Darba Kalan, Fatehabad, Ratia, Bahuna, Bhatu Kalan, Bhiwani, Chang, Tosham, Bhini Mahu, Narnaud, Bhowani Khara, Sisai, Hansi, Salimgarh, Sirsa, Fatehabad and Tesham.

Chaudhri Jawala Parshad is the Assistant Registrar at Hissar.

(c) There are two Agricultural Farms in the Hissar district one at Hansi and the other at Sirsa. The numbers of Agricultural Assistants and Mukaddams working in the district (including these Farms) are shown below community-wise :—

		Muslims	Hindus	Sikhs	Christians	Total
Agricultural Assistants	..	5	10	4	..	19
Mukaddams	..	4	18	6	1	29

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF HISSAR DISTRICT

**1590. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons posted in the Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries of the Hissar district, community-wise, with the names of the places where such hospitals and dispensaries are situated ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The time and trouble involved in collecting this information would not be commensurate with the benefit to be obtained therefrom.

#### DOCTORS IN CIVIL HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES IN GURGAON AND ROHTAK DISTRICTS

**1591. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the places where Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries are located in the Gurgaon and Rohtak districts and the number of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in charge of such Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries, community-wise ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The time and trouble involved in collecting this information would not be commensurate with the benefit to be obtained therefrom.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN AGRICULTURAL FARMS IN GURGAON AND ROHTAK DISTRICTS

**1592. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of agricultural farms in the Gurgaon and Rohtak districts with the names of the places where such farms are located ;

(b) the number, community-wise, of the Agricultural Assistants and Mukaddams incharge of these farms ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a)

Gurgaon district .. 1 at Gurgaon.

Rohtak district .. 1 at Rohtak.

[Minister for Development]

		<i>Agricultural Assistants</i>			<i>Muggaddams</i>		
		M.	H.	S.	M.	H.	S.
Gurgaon	..	0	1	0	0	1	0
Rohtak	..	1	2	1	3	1	0

**OFFICERS OF CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT IN GURGAON AND ROHTAK DISTRICTS**

**1593. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the name of the Assistant Registrar and the number of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Co-operative Department in the Gurgaon and Rohtak districts, showing the names of the places where each is posted and the number of the Muslims in each category?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :**

*Gurgaon District.*

Chaudhri Ram Sarup, Assistant Registrar at Gurgaon.

	<i>Names of places where posted</i>	<i>No. of Muslims</i>
No. of Inspectors—	7—Gurgaon (2), Ferozepur-Jhirka (1), Nuh (1), Palwal (1), Rewari (1), Ballabgarh (1).	3
No. of Sub-Inspectors (Punjab Co-operative Union paid).	28—One Sub-Inspector in each of the following places :—	17

Gurgaon, Farrukh Nagar, Kasan, Sohna, Wazirabad, Ujiana, Hathin, Nuh, Ghama, Taoru, Firozpur-Jhirka, Biwan, Nagina, Punhana, Pinangwa, Rewari West, Jatusana, Rewari East, Khul, Palwal East, Banni Khara, Hodel, Palwal West, Ballabgarh East, Faridabad, Chaunsa, Ballabgarh West and Firozpur-Jhirka.

*Rohtak District.*

Chaudhri Mohammad Hussain, Assistant Registrar, Rohtak.

No. of Inspectors—	5—Rohtak (1), Jhajjar (2), Gohana (1), Sonapat (1).	..
No. of Sub-Inspectors (Punjab Co-operative Union paid).	21—One Sub-Inspector in each of the following places :—	1

Rohtak, Sisana, Lahli, Badli, Jhajjar East, Beri, Jhajjar West, Subana, Juan, Ganaur, Rai, Rohat, Sonapat, Gohana, Baroda, Madina, Meham, Ladian, Rohtak, Mandauthi, Bahadurgarh.

## URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TAX

**1594. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the towns in the Province where the Urban Immovable Property Tax is enforced ;

(b) the number of the Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Clerks and Patwaris employed so far, community-wise, in this connection and also that of the District Taxation Officers and Assistant Taxation Officers, community-wise?

**Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) The required information is given in the attached statement.

(b) In accordance with the practice now well settled it is not proposed to answer this part of the question.

*Statement showing the names of rating areas to which the provisions of the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940, have so far been extended.*

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>Name of rating area</i>
Hissar	.. 1. Hissar.
Rohtak	.. 2. Rohtak.
Ambala	.. 3. Ambala City. 4. Ambala Cantonment. 5. Ambala Cantonment Sadar Bazar. 6. Civil Station Ambala City. 7. Kasauli Cantonment.
Simla	.. 8. Simla 9. Kasumpti.
Kangra	.. 10. Dharamsala.
Hoshiarpur	.. 11. Hoshiarpur.
Jullundur	.. 12. Jullundur. 13. Jullundur Cantonment.
Ludhiana	.. 14. Ludhiana.
Ferozepore	.. 15. Ferozepore. 16. Ferozepore Cantonment. 17. Fazilka. 18. Moga.
Lahore	.. 19. Lahore. 20. Lahore Cantonment. 21. Kasur.
Amritsar	.. 22. Amritsar. 23. Amritsar Cantonment.
Gurdaspur	.. 24. Dalhousie. 25. Dalhousie Cantonment.

Sialkot	.. 26. Sialkot.
	27. Sialkot Cantonment.
Gujranwala	.. 28. Gujranwala.
Shahpur	.. 29. Sargodha.
Jhelum	.. 30. Jhelum.
	31. Jhelum Cantonment.
Rawalpindi	.. 32. Rawalpindi.
	33. Rawalpindi Cantonment.
	34. Murree.
	35. Murree Cantonment.
Attock.	.. 36. Campbellpur.
	37. Campbellpur Cantonment.
Montgomery	.. 38. Montgomery.
	39. Okara.
Lyallpur	.. 40. Lyallpur.
Jhang	.. 41. Jhang-cum-Maghiana.
Multan	.. 42. Multan.
	43. Multan Cantonment.
	44. Khanewal.

### PRIVILEGE MOTION

*(The Honourable Minister for Finance rose to make the Budget speech.)*

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order, Sir. I have given notice of a privilege motion and according to the Rules it should have precedence over every other business after questions.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please see the Special Procedure Rule 12.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I will refer you to the Parliamentary procedure where a privilege motion has precedence over every other business. On page 92 of the *Campion*, you will find—

**Mr. Speaker :** Rule 12 expressly says :

On the day fixed for the presentation of the Budget no business shall take place except the presentation of the Budget and the asking of questions and the giving of replies thereto.

### BUDGET—PRESENTATION

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manchar Lal) : Another year has passed adding further to the successful financial record of the Punjab under Provincial Autonomy. We have gone through a prolonged period of heavy strain and immense anxiety, but our finances have not suffered in the least measure in stability ; they have on the other hand gained in strength. The demands of a severe famine have been met with success, from its long and manifold trials the province has emerged

unscathed—its financial effect in direct cost and indirect loss of revenue is represented by the gigantic figure of three crores, that has been met without dislocating any part of our programme of advance. The exigencies of the war, now in its fourth year, have been in some ways more severe, they began to make themselves felt immediately as the worst dread of famine was receding, and they were more difficult to estimate, and therefore to provide against. But there are signs that the period of most intense pressure, so far as our responsibilities are concerned, is over, and with the growing success of the Allied arms the danger to India, particularly to our province, has considerably diminished. The machinery to ensure security must be maintained at its full strength, but the need of providing protection against possible air raids has diminished at any rate as immediate or present necessity. We have been able to withstand successfully the direct pressure of famine and war. But war has created other problems, such as that of securing food supply and of alleviating hardship caused by inordinate rise in the price of the necessities of life. To these problems, as you are aware, your Government is addressing itself with the utmost vigilance and care, the solution of these problems does not lie within the scope of any one provincial government, as the forces that influence them are wide-reaching in their sweep. But the strict attention given here to the welfare of the masses furnishes the most effective key to their solution and this guiding principle is always nearest our heart. The cessation of war, and I venture to think that an early victorious termination of the war now well within sight, will bring in its train many social and economic problems. These are not yet : but I make bold to say that in the measure of its power, your province will not be wanting in the discharge of these tasks. (*Hear, hear*).

I can invite attention here only to the leading facts of our provincial finance. Details have been set forth with elaborate care in the lucid Explanatory Memorandum by the Finance Secretary. His study of the position created by the report of the Indus Commission deserves your particular consideration, and his examination of the existing A. R. P. arrangements would be found to be of great value. I must attempt a survey unencumbered by detail to help honourable members to form a definite and sure picture of our finances.

My task to-day is to refer particularly to the accounts and estimates of three years—the year 1941-42 for which final accounts are now available, the current year 1942-43 for which revised estimates are now ready, and the next financial year 1943-44 for which I am to present the budget to-day. These three years present a most remarkable period in the history of the Punjab finance. Their study reveals all leading features of our financial position—ability to meet exceptional strains, such as those of famine and war, government's desire to provide better conditions for the masses by steadily expanding beneficent activity, determined plans to strengthen permanent sources of wealth in fresh irrigation works, relief readily afforded to its poorly paid employees against rising prices, and foresight in laying up stocks of wheat and other food grains for times of hardship. That all this has been possible to effect is the incontestable proof of your financial strength, as it is also a sure index of the government's foresight in planning ahead.



[Minister for Finance]

1941-42

At the time of the budget for the year a surplus of about Rs. 4½ lakhs was expected but as the year proceeded the revenue receipts increased so substantially as compared with revenue expenditure that the final revised estimates this time last year showed a surplus of over Rs. 85 lakhs. This was utilized to transfer a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs to the Special Development Fund and to create a new fund called the Peasants Welfare Fund with a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs. The accounts now reveal a further improvement of Rs. 89 lakhs by increase in revenue receipts of Rs. 12 lakhs and a reduction in revenue expenditure of Rs. 27 lakhs. The year actually ended after making a provision of Rs. 60 lakhs for these two Funds with actual surplus of Rs. 64 lakhs. The variations both under receipts and expenditure are set forth in detail and examined in the Secretary's Memorandum. The main items under receipts are—

					In lakhs.
Land Revenue	..	..	..	..	+6
Stamps	..	..	..	..	+8
Irrigation	..	..	..	..	+5
					<hr/>
Total	..			..	+14
					<hr/>

It is gratifying to note that in the matter of receipts from Stamps the downward tendency apparent for some years has been fairly arrested. The land revenue had in the previous year touched the peak figure of Rs. 5.20 lakhs. The year 1941-42 marked a further increase due to the higher yield on temporary cultivation, the rise in prices of agricultural produce and enlarged cultivation. Irrigation receipts improved because larger area came under cotton and sugarcane on which higher water rate is levied and remissions under *Kharaba* were on a smaller scale. On the expenditure side the main reduction is under Civil Works, but this is offset to the extent of Rs. 11 lakhs by smaller receipts from the Central Road Fund. Further economy was enforced, because works to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs could not be executed on account of the necessary material not being available.

During the year water from the canals for maturing both Rabi and Kharif crops was abundant. The area under superior crops, such as wheat and American cotton, was larger than in the previous year and the prices of all the principal crops marked a sharp rise as compared with the previous year.

The improvement in the revenue position is strikingly satisfactory, but there was also a notable improvement in the extraordinary receipts. The budget estimate for the year was Rs. 68.09 lakhs. At the time of the revised estimate the figure stood at Rs. 92.50 lakhs and the accounts now exhibit a further increase to Rs. 1.10 lakhs. This improvement is due in the main to larger undeveloped agricultural lands being sold at favourable prices. It would be noted that it has not been necessary to bring into aid any part of these extraordinary receipts towards meeting the exceptional expenditure caused by famine or war. The whole of these

receipts are with us intact to add strength to our balances and to enable us to meet capital expenditure on Irrigation and other projects for which our responsibilities are still on an immense scale.

1942-43

When the budget for the current year was framed, a deficit of Rs. 10 lakhs was expected. The revenue was estimated at Rs. 13,58 lakhs and expenditure at Rs. 13,68 lakhs; as the year advanced, larger claims for expenditure for ensuring security, providing against the threat of air raid and the pressing necessity for the grant of dearness allowance bore heavily on our revenues, and at one time I apprehended the likelihood of a deficit of at least a crore of rupees, but the revised estimates now before the House—

	In lakhs			
Revenue .. .. .	..	..	..	15,77
Expenditure .. .. .	..	..	..	15,71

show actually a surplus of Rs. 6 lakhs. (*Hear, hear*). The surplus that stood out was really Rs. 86 lakhs, and it is only due to a transfer of Rs. 60 lakhs to the Peasants Welfare Fund and of Rs. 20 lakhs to the Special Development Fund, for which Supplementary Estimates were presented yesterday, that the surplus stands at this reduced nominal figure of Rs. 6 lakhs. Our receipts have been coming in at the most gratifying rate during the past three or four months. The revised estimates naturally can take little or no account of any changed conditions in the months of February and March, and I would not be surprised if our surplus eventually stands even at a higher figure.

The revised estimates of receipts show a betterment by the stupendous figure of Rs. 2,24 lakhs. Of this, the following could not be estimated at all at the time of the budget :—

	In lakhs
(1) Taxes on income under the Niemeyer Award (Intimation was received of this increase in contribution by the Government of India only a few weeks ago) .. .. .	+27
(2) Forests .. .. .	+25
(On account of larger sale of timber to the Defence Department of the Government of India).	
(3) Civil Works .. .. .	+88
(Largely a <i>pro forma</i> entry representing receipts from the Central Road Fund and having a similar counter entry on the side of expenditure).	
(4) Under the general head of Beneficent Departments ..	+12
(Due in the main to larger sale of seeds and better receipts from sale under Industries).	

These four aggregate Rs. 1,02 lakhs. These could not be anticipated at all. Of the other items of increase, the largest increase is under Land Revenue—an increase of Rs. 68 lakhs. This represents a big rise even on the record figure of the previous year. Suspensions and remissions of

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land revenue have been on a much reduced scale because of generally good crops and the high level of prices. It has to be noted also that there have been satisfactory recoveries from the arrears of previous years. More area has come under cultivation partly as a result of the campaign of growing more food, and the Haveli Project is already making itself felt in enhancing our revenue. Another source of increased revenue is Provincial Excise which has contributed Rs. 10 lakhs more than was estimated in the budget. "Stamps" have given us Rs. 18 lakhs more, a direct result of war conditions. Irrigation Direct receipts have improved by Rs. 17 lakhs and other various heads by Rs. 14 lakhs. These come to Rs. 1,23 lakhs. Against this big increase in receipts, there is also a large expansion of revenue expenditure. Of this, "Police" represents Rs. 31 lakhs, "Air Raid Precautions" Rs. 11 lakhs, Interest charges due to the loan raised during the year Rs. 9 lakhs, "Civil Works" met mainly from transfer from the Central Road Fund Rs. 44 lakhs, and "Jails" Rs. 11 lakhs due entirely to higher prices of food. These represent Rs. 1,06 lakhs. There is some additional expenditure under "Forests" resulting from more intensive working, under "Irrigation" due to certain special training works rendered necessary by the floods during the year, and under "Stationery and Printing" because of increased prices and also because it was considered prudent to lay in larger supplies. The increase under "Miscellaneous" is due to the transfer to two Funds of Rs. 80 lakhs mentioned by me above. The Secretary's Memorandum at page 34 exhibits these items of increases in the revised estimate at Rs. 2,08 lakhs. From this if the sum of Rs. 80 lakhs under the two Funds is excluded, it would appear that the increase in expenditure is really only Rs. 1,28 lakhs, while improvement in receipts is Rs. 2,24 lakhs, i. e., apart from these Funds the revenue position has improved by Rs. 96 lakhs, which means that instead of the budgeted deficit of Rs. 10 lakhs, the revenue surplus on the year's working is Rs. 86 lakhs. (Hear, hear). It would be noted that under "Miscellaneous", the increase is from Rs. 42 lakhs to Rs. 1,10 lakhs, i. e., an increase of Rs. 68 lakhs, but as this is after a transfer of Rs. 80 lakhs to the two Funds, there is really no increase but an actual fall of Rs. 12 lakhs due to the fact that because of better agricultural conditions in the Ambala Division less loans had to be written off than originally anticipated.

The budget estimate under Extraordinary Receipts stood at Rs. 95½ lakhs. The revised estimate stands at Rs. 1,62 lakhs, showing an improvement of Rs. 66½ lakhs. An intimation has just been received from the Financial Commissioner that the actual figure is likely to rise by at least a further Rs. 30 lakhs. The abundance of these receipts, steadily on the increase, ensures us against any possible dislocation of our finances that may follow from unforeseeable catastrophes, normally they confer on us ability to meet important capital expenditure.

The most striking features of this year's finance are—

(i) a further addition of Rs. 20 lakhs to the Special Development Fund;

(ii) the transfer of Rs. 60 lakhs to the Peasants Welfare Fund;

(iii) provisions during the year of an additional sum of Rs. 31 lakhs for Police to strengthen the machinery for securing peace and order ;

(iv) expenditure on Air Raid Precautions that now stands at the high figure of Rs. 72,45,000. In the budget a provision of Rs. 61,45,000 had been made, while in the previous year, 1941-42, it stood in the neighbourhood of only Rs. 17 lakhs ;

(v) the expenditure of about Rs. 50 lakhs in providing dearness allowance to all Government employees drawing pay up to Rs. 100. (Hear, hear). This expenditure is not exhibited as a specific item but is spread over all departments.

It is not necessary to add any comment on these outstanding facts—they signify building up beneficent activity not liable to stoppage or curtailment, provision of peace and security and relief against distress for those for whom Government has immediate responsibility.

#### 1943-44

The estimate of revenue receipts is Rs. 15,19 lakhs—very nearly the same as the revised estimate of the current year when we take into consideration the fact that the transfer from the Central Road Fund is to be only Rs. 17 lakhs as compared with Rs. 73 lakhs in the revised. The budget estimate of expenditure charged to revenue is Rs. 14,69 lakhs. This results in the apparently heavy surplus of about Rs. 50 lakhs. We are now free from the pressure of famine. The main demands of further expenditure on account of war are also not likely to be much exceeded during the year, but we cannot forget that pressing demands are being urged upon Government for the grant of a further and extended dearness allowance. Abnormal economic conditions have arisen during the past several months and it is not likely that, as long as the war lasts and possibly for a period beyond, food prices would show any substantial decline. Government as a large employer cannot ignore the general conditions produced by this broad fact and the liability that may arise on this account might at any moment seriously affect the volume of this surplus. Further it would be bold to say that conditions in the province might not require a further strengthening of the forces of law and order. For the current year the budgeted provision for Police was Rs. 1,67,75,000. This had to be increased during the course of the year by about Rs. 31 lakhs. It has now been found necessary to provide Rs. 2,12,40,000 for 1943-44. The House may wish to know how expenditure under this head has grown since the introduction of Provincial Autonomy. In 1937-38 the expenditure under "Police" was Rs. 1,23,25,000, while in 1943-44 it will stand at Rs. 2,12,40,000. In the main this was found necessary for providing adequate strength particularly in the towns to meet the requirements of increased population and to devise a competent machinery on modern lines to restrict crime and face the forces of disorder. It is not possible to define what other repercussions the progress of war may have on our finances. The surplus in these circumstances emerges as a welcome event, particularly as now the limits of expansion of our revenues seem to have been fairly reached. I cannot to-day, in all the abnormal conditions which surround us and the many calls by a changing society that are being pressed on us, construct any normal budgetary position of the province except perhaps for a year or two immediately ; I do

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not see any real prospect of increase in our revenue, while it is well known that rapidly changing conditions involve expenditure that cannot be anticipated. Of our major heads of revenue, no substantial increase of contribution under the Niemeyer Award is likely for the budget year and the future may actually produce a shrinkage if at any time reductions in taxes on income should take place. Our land revenue stands already at the unprecedented figure of Rs. 5,92 lakhs. The possibility of improvement under Provincial Excise cannot be set aside, but present circumstances are unusual, and the possibility of movement in the contrary direction cannot be ignored. Stamps, as is well-known, was a declining source of revenue. The war during the current year has given a welcome stimulus to it. This may continue for some time, but the permanent causes do not work in favour of any expansion of income under this head. Forests have also become a profitable industry under war conditions. This at best is a passing phase and already it has been necessary in the budget to reduce the receipts for 1943-44 from the current year by Rs. 10 lakhs. "Other Taxes and Duties" are estimated to produce Rs. 16 lakhs more during the year 1943-44 and this is a source that would no doubt further develop, but it is not possible to estimate the exact limits of its expansion. Irrigation works may yield us more than at present. It would depend upon the effectual development of the Haveli canals and later on the maturing of the Thal Project. The Western Jumna Canal may yield a little more and in the remoter future, if fortune favours us, the Bhakra Scheme may be a source of increased income. But when I have said this I have said all that it is possible to do to-day with the broad facts of Punjab finance before me. In this view this year's estimated surplus of Rs. 50 lakhs, however grateful we may be for it, is not a fact on which we can safely build plans of expenditure. Further, if the surplus should remain intact or because of any fortunate circumstances be even enhanced, then this time next year, there will be calls on account of our two funds.

The revenue estimate for the year in present conditions may be regarded as fairly normal as compared with 1942-43 when I spoke of real surplus of Rs. 86 lakhs. The surplus for 1943-44 is only Rs. 50 lakhs. The fall both on the revenue side and on the expenditure side will be apparent on reference to the General Abstract and I do not propose to trouble the House with any details. I will only express the hope that wherever a decline should occur in any item on the revised estimate, as the new year moves forward, the decline may be made good in other directions. I also trust that victory may so early attend the Allied arms as to make large expenditure under Air Raid Precautions and other purely defence services unnecessary. The dark clouds are already fairly lifted, and though some hard times may still confront us, the day of rejoicing cannot be far.

I may mention that the drop on the expenditure side from Rs. 15,71 lakhs to Rs. 14,69 lakhs, i.e., by Rs. 1,02 lakhs is accounted for by—

(a) the transfer in the current year of Rs. 80 lakhs to [the two Funds;

(ii) smaller provision by 54 lakhs for transfer from the Central Road Fund;

(iii) a drop of about Rs. 7 lakhs under A. R. P. mainly due to less expenditure on camouflage schemes and A. R. P. Works ;

(iv) increased expenditure over various heads by Rs. 39 lakhs mainly on account of full year's provision for dearness allowance.

#### BENEFICENT DEPARTMENTS

In the year immediately preceding the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy, the expenditure on Beneficent Departments stood at Rs. 2,87 lakhs. Since then it has steadily increased and in the Budget for 1942-43 provision was made for Rs. 3,55 lakhs. The revised estimate for the year, however, is Rs. 3,65 lakhs, and in the budget now the provision has been further enhanced to Rs. 3,77 lakhs. The rise from year to year has been steady and was not arrested even during the years of heavy famine. There is an increase under nearly every head, but more specially under Education, Medical, Co-operation and Industries.

Under "Education" seven more Government vernacular middle schools for girls are to be opened and beginning has been made by providing a sum of Rs. 10,000 for making arrangements for the teaching of Gurmukhi and Hindi as Secondary Languages. A grant of Rs. 2,17,540 is being made for district boards to enable them to pay dearness allowance to the teachers in their employ, the staff of the existing boys and girls schools is to be strengthened and a sum of Rs. 15,000 has been provided for Adult Literacy and the existing Model Schools established as a part of the Special Development Programme in rural areas are to continue.

Under "Medical" a maternity hospital has to be opened and provision has been made for grants to local bodies for improving and equipping existing hospitals and dispensaries. An additional grant is also to be given to the Punjab Medical School for Women at Ludhiana. Arrangements are being made to improve travelling facilities for medical aid in villages. One hundred nurse dais for rural areas are to continue.

Under "Public Health" sanitary works in rural areas are to receive Rs. 2½ lakhs and urban areas half a lakh. Public Health staff in connection with the Lahore Drainage and Water Supply Schemes is to continue and further town planning facilities for the province as a whole are to be provided. Ten maternity and child welfare centres are to be opened and the Punjab Health School has to be expanded. The Anti-hook-worm Scheme is to be continued for a further period of two years.

Under "Agriculture" advanced courses in fruit preservation are further secured and a large sum of Rs. 2,94,470 has been provided to ensure close contact with cultivators to effect a more worthwhile and profitable adjustment between the various crops grown.

Under "Co-operation" consolidation of holdings is to proceed with more than normal vigour and several schemes for better living in rural areas are to be helped, this apart from an allotment of Rs. 1,56,940 from the Special Development Fund.

Under "Industries" activities recently started are to continue such as the Industrial Survey of the Punjab and the retention of Commercial Section of the Marketing Organization at Amritsar. Subsidies under the Punjab

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State Aid to Industries Act and grants to help educated youngmen for the development of handicraft and cottage industries are recognised.

Here I may also mention that under another head a grant of Rs. 2,68,880 is to be made to the Municipal Committee of Lyallpur for the improvement of an abandoned area. This provision is kindred to expenditure under Beneficent Departments, though not technically falling under the head. Mention may also be made here for the provision of Rs. 8,78,000 for war publicity and communal harmony in addition to the grant of nearly a lakh transferred from the current year.

#### LOANS AND ADVANCES.

In the budget there is a provision of over Rs. 26½ lakhs for loans and advances. Rupees 8½ lakhs for *taccavi* out of which Rs. 6 lakhs are for "grow more food" campaign, Rs. 6 lakhs to the Corporation of City of Lahore and Rs. 9 lakhs to the Lahore Improvement Trust. There is also the normal provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for loans under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act.

#### HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES.

In the previous year the financial working of the scheme was analysed in some detail and concern was expressed at the gap between the interest on capital outlay and net revenue, after making allowance for depreciation, which still continued at a disturbingly high figure. The accounts for 1940-41 showed a net income of Rs. 8.60 lakhs against an interest of Rs. 27.67 lakhs, i.e., a gap of Rs. 19 lakhs. The net income as disclosed in the accounts of 1941-42 is Rs. 16.16 lakhs against an interest of Rs. 28.08 lakhs, the gap standing at roughly Rs. 12 lakhs. The budget estimate for 1942-43 indicated a net income of Rs. 18.71 lakhs, but this has now fallen to Rs. 10.84 lakhs due to increase in working expenses and establishment charges. The position thus has deteriorated since this time last year by about Rs. 8 lakhs and, as the interest figure stands at Rs. 28.51 lakhs the gap is now Rs. 17.67 lakhs. The working has thus shown an unfortunate alternation. However, the budget figures for 1943-44 show a net income of Rs. 19.61 lakhs as against an interest charges of Rs. 28.89 lakhs. If this position is realized, and I have had the estimates tested with some care, the discrepancy in the ensuing year should be no higher than Rs. 9 lakhs. The receipts show an increase, while the working expenses depreciation and establishment charges are all on a reduced scale.

I may note that these figures for obvious reasons take no account of the Lahore Electric Supply Company undertaking. As regards the scheme as a whole, it has not been possible to establish a thermal plant and because of war conditions even the completion of projects that had been well-advanced has not been possible. To make any substantial impression on the finances of this scheme, it would be necessary to wait for the better and more normal times when expansion would be feasible and larger amount of energy can be made available. In the meantime, however, effort is being made to take active steps to check erosion in the catchment area. It is an industrial undertaking that requires the utmost care in developing net income by the observance of strict economy.

## EXTRAORDINARY RECEIPTS

The Extraordinary Receipts constitute a very special feature of our estimates and they are exhibited outside our ordinary revenue receipts. As noted two years ago, these receipts have shown in recent years a very welcome upward trend. This happy position continues. The revised estimates for 1941-42 of Rs. 92½ lakhs showing an advance of Rs. 24½ lakhs over the budget estimate improved further to Rs. 1,09.64 lakhs, i.e., by Rs. 17.14 lakhs. The budget estimate for 1942-43 was Rs. 95.50 lakhs while the revised estimate shows an improvement of Rs. 66½ lakhs. The following table gives the exact position since 1937-38 :—

					<i>In thousands of rupees.</i>
1937-38	..	..	..	..	30,30
1938-39	..	..	..	..	19,24
1939-40	..	..	..	..	41,63
1940-41	..	..	..	..	91,64
1941-42	..	..	..	..	1,09,64
1942-43 (Revised Estimate)	..	..	..	..	1,62,24
1943-44 (Budget Estimate)	..	..	..	..	1,21,26
Total					5,75,95

The aggregate for seven years comes to Rs. 5,76 lakhs. As has been repeatedly pointed out, these receipts are not taken into account for meeting ordinary revenue expenditure, but they constitute a most valuable source to meet extraordinary expenditure, e.g., construction of irrigation works and capital outlay on civil works, electricity scheme and industrial development. They also furnish an effective support for our balances when they are threatened with any depreciation on account of exceptional circumstances such as famine, and they constitute a support when we have to have recourse to the loan market.

## WAYS AND MEANS POSITION

No detailed reference to ways and means position is necessary, but it continues to be sound, for as borrowers we are always able to meet our obligation. Such temporary advances as are taken by us for short periods are rapidly and easily paid off. I might here once again stress the care with which our surplus balances are invested under the direct decision and supervision of the Finance Department. Investments are regularly made in the Government of India Treasury Bills and interest earned, and as during previous years it is with some pride I mention that during the current year the interest so earned amounts to above Rs. 4 lakhs. During the four years before this present which the Finance Department has made to the revenues of the province amounted to no less than Rs. 5 lakhs. Ours is not a revenue-producing department, but in these earnings secured with careful attention and study the whole cost both direct and indirect of this Department is met.



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## IRRIGATION

I do not propose to deal at any length with our Irrigation programme now in hand. There is nothing fresh to record of which the House is not aware. The area served by the Haveli Canals continues to develop and already larger relief to people is assured ; the crops receive the needed protection and added revenue comes to the provincial exchequer. Progress with the Thal Project is being made, though circumstances beyond our control have considerably reduced the pace of the advance. The Headworks at Kalabagh have nearly been completed and, as favourable conditions arise, preparations for river diversion await completion. During the current year, a sum of Rs. 7 lakhs has been provided for the Project and in the next the provision stands at Rs. 6 lakhs. As I intimated last year, adequate financial provision has been made both for the completion of Headworks and other associate important works in the execution of the project.

The work in connection with the Western Jumna Canal Extension Scheme has proceeded with all possible vigour and supplies of water have already been made available for certain areas, particularly susceptible to famine. Bhalaut Branch was opened during the current year and other Branches and adjuncts have also started functioning. During the current year, an expenditure of Rs. 36½ lakhs, is likely to be incurred on the scheme and a provision of Rs. 16.34 lakhs has been made for the year 1948-44.

## THE BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

Much preliminary work in connection with this project had already been done by this time last year and since then field work in connection with this project has already been completed and necessary research relating to the special problems involved in the scheme has fairly advanced, but war has inevitably impeded the rate of progress. I made a passing reference last year to the enquiry set on foot at the instance of the Sind Government into the relative rights of the Punjab and the Sind Governments with regard to the use of our waters. That enquiry was completed a few months ago and the view of the learned Commission that adjudicated on the various issues has not been particularly favourable to the Punjab. If these views should ultimately prevail, the fate of many of our irrigation schemes would be seriously affected. Our work would become more expensive, and there may be serious limitations to the amount of water which the Punjab could derive from its own rivers. To me, an unsophisticated Punjabee, as undoubtedly to you, it must be a matter difficult to understand how we are to be restricted in the use of the water of the five rivers which give us our name and which flow through our bosom. However, final decisions have not been yet taken and we are representing our case to the ultimate authorities.

## OUR SPECIAL FUNDS

It would be remembered that a sum of Rs. 55 lakhs was placed towards the end of 1937-38 in what was called the Special Development Fund. A sum of Rs. 13 lakhs was added to it in the year 1940-41 and an addition was made out of an emergent surplus about this time last year of Rs. 30 lakhs. As honourable members have no doubt observed in the Supplementary Estimates presented yesterday, a further addition of Rs. 20 lakhs has been

made. The total transfer to this fund, therefore, amounts to Rs. 1,18 lakhs. This Fund has been regularly drawn upon to enlarge the field of beneficent activities in rural areas. The recent addition will allow this valuable work to be continued.

Last year about this time another fund was created in response to a resolution of this House. This fund, called the Peasants Welfare Fund, had a transfer then of Rs. 30 lakhs made to it and the House will note with satisfaction that the transfer of twice that amount (*Hear, hear*), i.e., of Rs. 60 lakhs has been now proposed in the Supplementary Estimates presented yesterday. This provision has been made this year as last year out of a substantial surplus that appeared on revised estimates as a result of the year's working. We have thus already a sum of Rs. 90 lakhs in this Fund. For various reasons into which it is not necessary to enter, it has not been possible yet to determine the exact scope of expenditure from this fund, but it is hoped that that would be done soon; then these two Funds—the Special Development Fund and the Peasants Welfare Fund—will constitute parallel, if not combined, schemes for the welfare of the deserving peasants. Another province (Bombay) followed us in the constitution of a Special Development Fund for which they adopted exactly the same name. They have built up this Fund on a much larger scale and have a varied programme of expenditure from this fund. It would be possible for us to follow the example of that province in the way in which some of the activities proceeding from the two funds may be directed. In any event, there is a large field for the amelioration of the condition of the poor masses and the two funds must prove of the utmost benefit in this direction.

Last year I attempted in broad outline a retrospect of five years of our finance. I do not wish to carry the picture for another year. The main direction of policy pursued during the period has continued with increasing strength. Beneficent expenditure has increased still further. Provision for law and order has considerably expanded and the policy of building up permanent wealth in our irrigation projects is maintained at its full strength. Along with this the revenue resources stand, I believe, permanently enlarged. The position along all these lines is even more encouraging than before but a cloud not easy to penetrate has already arisen in the horizon and may cast a serious gloom on our finances. This is the spectre of the falling rupee. But here the forces are world-wide and a province like ours can be only a passive sufferer. The exact extent of the forces in operation is on the knees of the gods. I could, if it were the occasion, attempt some probing into the future, but I might disturb complacent economic assertion and give rise to what some smug economists regard as heresies, and the question could wait for another day. All that I need say is that if I were given my own way and were not driven by the sweep of authority, I am not unprepared for eventualities in measure, for the seed has been sown betimes in the morning. We must also remember that the problems raised by the fate of the rupee are now receiving wide recognition, and Indian economic thought is no longer vague but rivets competently on our direct issues. Truly the words of the wise are as goads unless our hearts be of stone and our minds closed to lesson. In the days that lie beyond the war many heads will be brought together, but there is no certainty of safety in the multitude of counsellors. We are only a small fragment of the world, with a necessarily

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limited voice. The Punjab is, however, we may note in a book, as prepared as it is given to any Indian province to be in these fast changing days. Liberal things and of moment have been boldly and firmly devised and in confidence shall be our strength. I wish to attempt to no further probing or peering and I prophesy nought.

A witty statesman is reported to have said that you might prove anything by figures—this is a cheap jibe in which those who do not wish to analyse have for lack of thought perforce to indulge. The figures I have given above furnish an unquestionable record of commendable policy based on stern facts. They prove a desire on the part of your Government to lay firm foundations for the prosperity of the province, and prevent all evil and disorder; what is probably even more important, they demonstrate a keen anxiety to study the interest of the masses in providing healthier and ampler life. At the end of six years of this Government's existence, may I not say to you in the words of a great Roman, he was addressing Sparte, Punjab is your inheritance, be worthy of her (*Hear, hear*). Your resources to-day are richer than six years ago, your wealth in projects is an achievement of high worth—Your heritage is abundant and of great value, may it be your endeavour in the future as it has been in the past, to use it for the increasing strength and glory of your great province. The contributions of the Punjab in the present war stand out strikingly as successful and merit the highest applause. No greatness of achievement is, however, arduous for good men determined; fortune is an unfailing ally to the brave. There is a stirring in the world, a gathering of the powers of humanity. As I view events in India to-day with our feet safely planted on the path of progress, I see in the Punjab a living proof and pattern of proud and great things attempted, and precious achievements secured. The great sage, Dr. Samuel Johnson, said out of the abundance of his wisdom, "most schemes of political improvement are very laughable things". That may be true, Johnson's terrible irony focusses attention on an unfortunate characteristic of the inflated meanderings of political thinkers, but I like to hug the incontestable fact that where a people's strength is founded on sound finances, political advance for it cannot be long delayed—for then that standard of a statesman, a disposition to preserve and an ability to improve, prescribed by thinkers throughout the ages, is attained.

I must commend to the House the work of the officers and the staff of the Finance Department. To the staff we owe the careful statement of accounts which gains in clearness of arrangements every year. The Secretary's Memorandum which sets forth with remarkable fullness all essential facts is always appreciated by honourable members. This year's Memorandum has, however, some important features. It gives us a particularly useful account of the report of the Indus Commission, it describes in detail our A. R. P. organization, and it presents a full view of how the Special Development Fund has been utilized. The current year has placed a particularly heavy burden on the Secretary, who had to exercise a vigilant check particularly on the demands pressed with urgency by several departments on account of war requirements. I have the greatest pleasure in bearing my testimony to the efficient manner in which Mr. C. N. Chandra

has discharged the onerous functions of his office. (*Hear, hear*). He has fully maintained the tradition of exchequer control. He has also won added prestige for a department that cannot please easily and has to tender polite refusal not infrequently. In the long list of our distinguished Finance Secretaries, I feel that Mr. Chandra has already secured a sure place. (*Hear, hear*).

I have spoken repeatedly of Mr. H. J. Pearson, our Deputy Secretary. His record of efficient work continues unabated and his knowledge of Public Works Finance is of very high value. Lala Sundar Das Chopra, who was promoted last year to the post of Assistant Secretary in the Department has amply justified his selection. He possesses high academic qualifications and long experience in the Department and has displayed remarkable zeal and competence in his work.

Once again I must record my indebtedness to our Superintendents and Assistants and the other staff in the discharge of their onerous work. They have continued by their high sense of duty and painstaking co-operation to contribute to the success of the Department.

On behalf of the Government I have to record my tribute to the valuable assistance received from Mr. P. K. Wattal, who has for another year presided over our accounts as Accountant-General in the Province. He has laid down rigorous standards of auditorial scrutiny and in the deliberations of the Public Accounts Committee he has rendered us particularly valuable assistance.

Our relations with Sir Comeron Badenoch, the Auditor-General for India, continue most cordial ; on more than one occasion he has been good enough to discuss matters of procedure with me and I am sure that his interest in us is of great advantage to us.

Sir, I beg to present to the Assembly the Budget for the year 1943-44. (*Applause*).

*(The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 8th March 1943).*

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Monday, 8th March, 1948*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock, Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### LICENCES FOR GUNS IN HISSAR DISTRICT

**\*8374. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number and names of holders of licence for guns granted and cancelled by Mr. Grewal, during his recent short stay as Deputy Commissioner in Hissar District ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** The number of gun licences granted and cancelled by Mr. Grewal as Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, is 24 and 35 respectively. It will not serve any public purpose to lay on the table lists of the licensees concerned.

#### POLICE CHOWKIES IN KANGANPUR THANA

**\*8401. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number and names of the police chowkies set up in the Kanganpur Thana, District Lahore, in the current year and the reasons for establishing them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** Two additional posts were located simultaneously in two groups of villages in the jurisdiction of Police Station Kanganpur in the Lahore district with effect from the 1st July, 1942. The first group includes Jajjal, Daoke Kalan, Daoke Khanana, Qilla Daoke, Tangarian, Nirmalke, Attari Virk, Talwandi, and Jamsher Kalan villages and the second includes Manurian, Harchoke, Aya Singh Wala, Mahmud Khokhar, Gara Singh Wala and Gandhi Rup Singh villages. The extra police is quartered at Jajjal and Manurian villages respectively. The location of these two Additional Police Posts was necessitated by the bad record of criminality of the villages, and continued misconduct of the inhabitants.

#### SARDAR SARDUL SINGH, PLEADER

**\*8451. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh, Pleader, now detained without trial in Shahpur Jail is suffering from an attack of gout since the 14th of October ;

[S. Sohan Singh Josh.]

(b) whether it is a fact that the said detenu is suffering from myopia ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh's income from his practice as a lawyer was the only source of maintenance for his family ;

(d) whether Government intends granting adequate maintenance allowance to the said detenu's wife and family ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SARDAR SARDUL SINGH, PLEADER

**\*8453. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh, Pleader, now detained without trial in Shahpur Jail is suffering from an attack of gout since the 14th of October ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said detenu is suffering from myopia ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh's income from his practice as a lawyer was the only source of maintenance for his family ;

(d) whether Government intends granting adequate maintenance allowance to the said detenu's wife and family ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### PUNITIVE POLICE CHOWKI IN DAOKE KALAN.

**\*8468. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether a punitive police chowki has been posted in the village Daoke Kalan, Thana Kanganpur, Lahore ; if so, the month in which it was posted ;

(b) the reasons for posting the chowki there ;

(c) whether the villagers applied to the District Magistrate, Lahore, on 11th June, 1942, for the removal of the chowki ; if so, the action, if any, taken by the authorities concerned in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Yes. 1st July, 1942.

(b) For the usual reasons, viz., the misconduct of the inhabitants of the area.

(c) Yes. It is not yet intended to withdraw the additional police post as the circumstances necessitating its location still exist.

#### WAR FUND

**\*8473. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the collection of war fund is now going on in the villages in Tehsil Jaranwala, District Lyallpur, as a compulsory levy with the land revenue ; if so, under what law or rule this is being done ;

(b) the amount of this war fund collected so far in the same villages ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) No. Government have forbidden the levy of any contributions, whether voluntary or otherwise, based on the land revenue demand and collected through the Land Revenue Agency.

(b) Does not arise.

#### ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

**\*8488. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any arrests were made in the Punjab in connection with the Congress Civil Disobedience Movement between the period 9th September, 1942 and 9th January, 1943 ; if so, the number of such arrests, district-wise ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### ARREST OF WOMEN STUDENTS IN LAHORE

**\*8489. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the following students were arrested in Lahore from the Nila Gumbad Chawk, on the 9th December 1942 ; if so, under what law ;

- (1) Miss Pramjeet,
- (2) Miss Pratibha,
- (3) Miss Mohindra Kumari,
- (4) Miss Bhupindra,
- (5) Miss Ram Piari
- (6) Miss Surendra Kaur,
- (7) Miss Vishardha,
- (8) Miss Krishna Sabharwal,
- (9) Miss Gian,
- (10) Miss Anoop ;



[Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

(b) whether it is a fact that after their arrests the abovenamed students were taken to the Old Anarkali Police Station, where they were beaten by the Police, as a result of which Miss Pramjeet and Miss Pratibha fell unconscious and Miss Mohindra Kumari and Miss Bhupindra had fits of unconsciousness ;

(c) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, why the abovenamed students were maltreated by the police and the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Yes. Under Rules 38 and 56, Defence of India Rules.

(b) They were taken to Old Anarkali Police Station for purposes of remand but were not beaten by the police. I may mention that they were seen by a Magistrate very shortly after their arrival at the police station, and no complaint of ill-treatment was made to him or to the Magistrate who subsequently tried the case.

(c) Does not arise.

#### LATHI CHARGE ON CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS IN CENTRAL JAIL, MULTAN

**\*8490. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that a severe lathi charge was made on the Congress Civil Disobedience Prisoners on the 9th December 1942, in the Old Central Jail, Multan ;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that as a result of the above-named lathi charge the prisoners resorted to hunger-strike ; if so, for how many days they remained without food ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that as a result of the lathi charge mentioned in (a) the prisoner Swami Shiv Sankalp, Baba Bhola Singh, Baba Jaswant Singh and Mr. Jagan Nath, who were seriously injured along with others, were offered no medical aid after the incident ;

(d) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SEARCH OF THE OFFICE OF DR. GOPI CHAND BHARGAVA

**\*8511. Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the office of Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, the former Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, situated in the Lajpat Rai Bhawan near the D. A.-V. College, Lahore, was searched after his arrest on the 15th September 1942 ;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that after the search mentioned above the office of the said Dr. Gopi Chand was locked and sealed by the Punjab Government ;

(c) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor and the period for which it is intended to keep the abovementioned office sealed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO MASTER KABUL SINGH

**\*8512. Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Master Kabul Singh, M.L.A., who is a Security Prisoner in the Gujrat Jail, refused to accept the family allowance offered to him ; if so, the amount offered and the reasons given by him for the refusal ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : He has accepted the revised allowance offered to him which is being paid along with arrears.

#### GIANI MEHR SINGH

**\*8513. Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Giani Mehr Singh, son of Sardar Soheli Singh, of village Jabbawal, a detenu in the Campbellpur Jail, recently petitioned to the Government, Punjab, making serious allegations against the police treatment while he was detained in the Lahore Fort ;

(b) what action the Government has taken on the aforesaid application ;

(c) whether he would be pleased to lay that application on the table of the House for the information of the House ;

(d) under what law and for which offence the said Giani Mehr Singh has been arrested ;

(e) whether it is intended to try him in an open court of law ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Yes.

(b) No action was taken as the allegations were baseless.

(c) It is not in public interest to lay the application on the table.

(d) Giani Mehr Singh was arrested under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules, and is at present detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules.

(e) No. This is not required by the rules governing his detention.

## INTERNEES

**\*8525. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of political workers in the Punjab who have been interned under order of the Punjab Government in their villages or towns under the Defence of India Rules giving separately the number of those among them who are known to have held anti-fascist and anti-Jap views ;

(b) period for which the Government intends to keep them interned ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) *First Part*—192.

*Second part.*—Even if it were possible to ascertain the genuine views of such persons at all accurately, it would not be in the public interest to give the information.

(b) This depends on future circumstances.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it not in the public interest to tell us who hold anti-Japanese views ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that in the first place it is not possible to ascertain their exact views, and in the second, it would not be in the public interest to give that information at all.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Does the Government know whether any statements were made by certain individual prisoners that they held anti-Japanese and anti-Fascist views ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I want notice of that question.

## CONGRESS SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8526. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of the jails in which congress security prisoners arrested on or after 9th August, 1942, are being detained ;

(b) number of such prisoners in each of those jails ;

(c) the manner in which these prisoners are being treated with regard to the supply of food, furniture, books, newspapers and accommodation and whether any arrangements have been made for them to play games and have recreation and whether they are allowed to have interviews and to correspond with their friends and relatives ;

(d) whether cases of these prisoners are now being considered by the Government with a view to setting them free at an early date ;

(e) number of persons of professed anti-fascist views among these prisoners ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## ARRESTS UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

**\*8527. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of persons arrested and detained under Rule 129 of Defence of India Rules for purposes of interrogation in various police stations of the Punjab giving separately the number of such persons detained in Lahore and Amritsar forts since April, 1942 ;

(b) whether any cases have come to his notice in which it has been alleged that police authorities used force to compel any of these persons to make certain statements ; if so, the number of such cases ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) The time and labour involved in collecting the information required by the honourable members would be incommensurate with the result obtained ;

(b) *First part.*—No, second part does not arise.

## ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

**\*8537. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of buildings and places in the Punjab declared by the Punjab Government as notified areas in connection with the present civil disobedience movement ;

(b) the names of associations and parties in this province declared as unlawful bodies during the year 1942 ;

(c) the total number of *Khadi Bhandars* of All-India Spinners' Association declared unlawful by the Punjab Government and the total number of persons who were connected with such *Bhandars* and who have been arrested till the 31st January 1948 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## DR. GOPI CHAND BHARGAVA

**\*8538. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, the former leader of the opposition in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, was handcuffed during the whole course of his journey from Shahpur to Lahore when he was brought to Lahore on the 5th January 1948, for medical treatment ; if so, why ;

(b) his weight at present and his weight at the time of arrest ;

[Lala Bhagat Ram Chada.]

(c) the general state of his health, the names of newspapers allowed to him and whether he is allowed to correspond with his friends and relatives and also to have interviews with them ;

(d) the place and period of his detention ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

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TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION  
BUREAU

**\*8542. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Director of Information Bureau or any other Government servant went from Lahore to Lyallpur or any other place during Mr. Jinnah's visit to those places and drew travelling allowance for such journeys ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** The Director of Information Bureau went from Lahore to Lyallpur and also from Lahore to Jullundur during Mr. M. A. Jinnah's latest visits to these places. He drew no travelling allowance for either journey.

Government is not aware whether any other Government servant made similar journeys, but if the honourable member will specify the officer to whom he refers Government will make enquiries.

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PAKISTAN CONFERENCE AT JULLUNDUR AND LYALLPUR

**\*8543. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Government are aware that at the meetings and conferences held at Jullundur and Lyallpur during Mr. Jinnah's visit, strong and violent speeches were made in favour of Pakistan by Mr. Jinnah and other Muslim League Leaders ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no restriction was placed by the Punjab Government on pro-Pakistan propaganda done at the gatherings referred to above ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is a fact that facilities were not granted for an Anti-Pakistan conference which was proposed to be held at Lahore towards the end of November last ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government insisted on previous permission of the District Magistrate, Lahore, being obtained in the case of the proposed Anti-Pakistan conference but that it raised no objection to the Muslim League Conference held at Lyallpur where a good deal of propaganda in favour of Pakistan was done ; if so, the reasons for this discrimination ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): In view of the convention about questions which are essentially communal in nature, I have decided to treat this as an unstarred question and to send the honourable member a written answer.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: May I enquire whether it is a fact that the conference at Jullundur and Lyallpur were not held on the issue of Pakistan or otherwise?

**Mr. Speaker**: No answer has been given. Therefore, no supplementary question can arise.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: He has given some answer. It may be anything.

**Mr. Speaker**: What answer did the Parliamentary Secretary give?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I stated that according to the convention on communal questions I do not propose treating this as a starred question but will send a written reply.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: Does he admit that the visit of Mr. Jinnah to the Punjab was closely connected with communal movement?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I would repudiate any such insinuations about any public leader so far as his visits to this province are concerned, unless their activities clearly demonstrate such activities.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: The Parliamentary Secretary refuses to answer the question, because it is of a communal nature. Therefore I put this question, whether the Punjab Government admits that Mr. Jinnah's visit to this province was connected with communal movement. If that is so, the Government can say so.

**Premier**: I think there is some confusion. These visits themselves were not concerned with communalism, but the convention is that questions which savour of communalism will not be replied to orally in this House. What people do outside the Assembly and whether their visits are or are not connected with communalism, does not affect this convention.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: The Government has banned many of these communal movements. I want to know whether the Government does or does not consider the recent visits of Mr. Jinnah to the Punjab as being connected with communal movement, especially in view of the fact that other parallel communal movements have been banned.

**Mr. Speaker**: That is a question of opinion.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: That is a question of fact as to what Government considers about this question.

**Mr. Speaker**: That is a matter of opinion.

#### FINE UNDER CHOS ACT

\*8375. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the amount of fine imposed under the Chos Act on 47 offenders mentioned in reply to question No. 7534<sup>1</sup> dated the 21st February 1941, has been realized in full?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): Two offenders were awarded imprisonment. Fine imposed on the remaining 45 offenders has been realised in full.

#### LAND IN NILI BAR COLONY

**\*8559. Mian Sultan Mahmood Hotiana:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government recently ear-marked some land in the Nili Bar Colony for distribution among those people whose lands have been washed away by river action;

(b) whether it is a fact that the land referred to above has not been distributed so far; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) when the Government intends to distribute the abovementioned land?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram:** (a) Government have reserved some land in the Nili Bar Colony for allotment to the local inhabitants of the Dipalpur and Pakpattan tahsils of the Montgomery district who have suffered from diluvion, water-logging or loss of *sailab* due to the construction of Suleimanke Headworks.

(b) *First part.*—Yes.

*Second part.*—Selection of the grantees is being made.

(c) As soon as the selection of grantees is completed and by rabi 1943-44 at the latest.

**Mian Abdul Rab:** May I know from the Honourable Minister as to whether any land has been reserved for persons of other districts whose lands have been washed away by river action?

**Minister:** I require notice of this question.

#### ILLNESS OF THE DAUGHTER OF MRS. AVTAR NARAIN GUJRAL

**\*8474. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that a young child of Mrs. Avtar Narain Gujral of Jhelum, now confined in the Women's Jail, Lahore, has been down with typhoid fever for the last 14 days;

(b) whether or not her relations have been allowed to see the child and to arrange for proper medical aid for her;

(c) the medical facilities provided in the jail to the child;

(d) whether the Government intends letting off Mrs. Avtar Narain Gujral, who is under detention, for the proper treatment of her child?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately. For his information Mrs. Avtar Narain Gujral has been released.

TUBERCULOSIS IN MONTGOMERY JAIL

**\*8560. Mian Sultan Mahmood Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of prisoners who have died of tuberculosis so far in the Montgomery Jail during the last five years ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that last year a prisoner, Ali Bashir, died in the said Jail of the abovementioned disease ;

(c) whether it is a fact that tuberculosis germs are still to be found in the Montgomery Jail ;

(d) the preventive measures Government have taken, or intend to take in the aforesaid jail to save the prisoners confined there from contracting the abovenamed dangerous disease ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) One in 1938, none in 1939, four in 1940, six in 1941 and two in 1942.

(b) Yes. The name of the prisoner was Ali Sher and not Ali Bashir.

(c) There being no case on record at present of any convict suffering from this disease for the last four months, there is no probability of tuberculosis germs being still present in this jail.

(d) Preventive measures taken in this Jail are :—

(i) Suspected cases of tuberculosis are isolated in a separate tuberculosis ward before they are transferred to the New Central Jail, Multan.

(ii) Sputum and excreta of such patients are collected with antiseptic precautions and burnt.

(iii) In any cell where a condemned prisoner dies of this disease, the cell is well disinfected and clothing of the patient burnt.

(iv) Health and nutrition of all prisoners is well looked after. Convalescents are given proper rest and nutritious diet. Overcrowding is prevented in barracks.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** From the figures given it appears that tuberculosis has been on the increase in that jail. If so, what precautionary measures have been taken by the Government ?

**Minister :** All precautionary measures that could have been adopted are detailed here. It is not correct to say that the disease is on the increase, because in 1941 the number of cases was 6 and in 1942, it was 2 and you cannot build up an argument on the basis of these figures at all.

GIRLS' SCHOOLS IN AMBALA DIVISION

**\*8373. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any new Girls' Schools have been opened by the Government in the Ambala Division after June 1940 ; if so, their number and the names of the localities in which these have been opened ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Yes ; one, viz., Government Girls' Vernacular Middle School Bhiwani, District Hissar.



## LAHORE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

**\*8539. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with the recent dispute between the Punjab Government and the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 11,928-7-0 on the defence of the suit filed by the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited.

**Rai Bhabadur Lala Gopal Das :** And with what results ?

**Premier :** That is yet to be seen. The matter is *sub judice*.

## CONTRACTORS

**\*8561. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the number and names of contractors in the Public Works Department who are on the list of approved contractors ;

(b) the number and names of those contractors who are on the list of the approved contractors, but have not been given any work so far ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** The time and trouble involved in collecting the information asked for will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained, but if the honourable member mentions any specific instance in regard to (b) it will be looked into.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## ASSISTANTS TO INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS

**1595. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of *Muslims* from the Ambala Division among the Assistants to the Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab ; if there are none among them of the aforesaid division, the reasons therefor and the action which the Government intends to take to remove the long-standing grievances of the *Muslims* of the Ambala Division in this connection ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** There is no *Muslim* from the Ambala division among the Assistants to Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab. Appointments to these posts are not made division-wise, but suitable men from the whole of the department are selected for these posts.

## CLERKS FOR JAIL DEPARTMENT

**1596. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state, community-wise, the number of clerks recruited for the Jail Department since the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy in the Punjab and the number of *Muslims* of the Ambala Division among them ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** In conformity with long established practice the information required cannot be provided.

## SANITARY INSPECTORS IN REVENUE DIVISIONS OF PUNJAB

**1597. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of Sanitary Inspectors, community-wise, in each of the Revenue Divisions of the Punjab ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The time and labour involved in collecting this information would not be commensurate with the benefit to be obtained.

## HEAD OFFICE OF IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

**1598. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Superintendents and Head Assistants, Assistants, Senior Clerks and Junior Clerks and the number of *Muslims* among them in the Head Office of the Irrigation Department, Punjab, and the number of new entrants into service in the said department since January, 1939, and the number of *Muslims* among them ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** In accordance with the convention adopted with regard to answering questions savouring of communalism the information asked for in this question is being conveyed to the honourable member privately.

DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS AMBALA  
DIVISION

**1599. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of the District Inspectors of Schools in the Education Department, showing the number of *Muslims* of the Ambala Division among them ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) 30

(b) Nil.

PROMOTIONS OF MUSLIMS OF AMBALA DIVISION IN THE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT

**1600. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the total number of *Muslim* residents of the Ambala division who have been promoted to the 140—190, 200—250 and P.E.S. grades since April 1937.

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :**

Grades				Numbers
Ra. 140—190	..	..	..	2
Ra. 200—250	..	..	..	Nil
P.E.S.	..	..	..	Nil

**VETERINARY HOSPITALS IN GURGAON AND ROHTAK DISTRICTS AND  
COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE STAFF**

**1601. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of Veterinary Hospitals in the Gurgaon and Rohtak districts with the number of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in charge of such hospitals, community-wise ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** The required information is given below :—

Name of district	Number of Veterinary Hospitals in the district.	Number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Veterinary Assistants in charge of the Veterinary Hospitals, community-wise.		
		Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs
Gurgaon .. ..	15	12	2	1
Rohtak .. ..	16	10	2	4

**SCHEDULED CASTES AND PUNJAB EDUCATIONAL SERVICE**

**1602. Chaudhri Jugal Kishore :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is not a single member of the scheduled castes in the Punjab Educational Service ;

(b) whether appointments to the above-named service are made on a selection basis ; if so, why no member of the scheduled castes has so far been selected for appointment to the said service ,

(c) the action intended to be taken to give due representation to the scheduled castes in the Punjab Educational Service ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Because no member of the scheduled castes is serving in the higher grades of the S. E. S. from which selection is normally made.

(c) The policy of Government in the matter of communal representation in the services is well known and every effort is made to give due representation to the members of the scheduled castes as occasion arises.

**HINDU AGRICULTURISTS AND NON-AGRICULTURISTS IN GOVERNMENT  
SERVICE**

**1603. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the percentage of agriculturists and non-agriculturists among the Hindus in the Punjab ;

(b) whether the recruitment to services of the *Hindu* agriculturists and non-agriculturists is on the basis of their respective population in the province; if not, why not;

(c) the number of *Hindu* agriculturists and non-agriculturists recruited to Government services during the last 3 years;

(d) whether it is a fact that a substantial number of posts to which *Hindus* are entitled are in practice reserved for *Hindu* agriculturists; if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) Agriculturists and non-agriculturists were not distinguished in the recent census for any community and short of a fresh census the figures now asked for cannot be made available.

(b) No; fixation of rigid proportions within the share of any one community for different sub-groups in it is undesirable and would be impossible to work.

(c) The figures are not available and their collection would involve labour incommensurate with the advantages to be obtained. It may be possible to obtain figures for some specified department if the honourable member cares to ask for them.

(d) Occasionally a certain number of posts are reserved for statutory *Hindu* agriculturists. The reason for doing this is to mitigate very marked inequalities.

#### FEE CONCESSIONS

**1604. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether ordinary fee concessions admissible in Arts Colleges are also admissible in the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, and Veterinary College, Lahore; if not, why not;

(b) whether any scholarships or stipends in the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, and the Veterinary College, Lahore, are reserved for statutory agriculturists?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) Yes. Attention is invited to—

(i) paragraph 12 of the Prospectus of the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur.

(ii) Chapter IV (b) of the prospectus of the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore.

(b) Yes. Please see—

(i) paragraph 15 of the Prospectus of the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur, and

(ii) chapter IX of the Prospectus of the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore.

## PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

**Mr. Speaker :** I have to announce that under Rule 10 (1) of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules, I have nominated the following four members as members of the Panel of Chairmen :—

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali,  
Khan Sahib Sheikh Muhammad Amin,  
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal, and  
Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi.

## STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE

## ACTION TAKEN AGAINST CORRUPT OFFICIALS

**Secretary :** Annual statement<sup>1</sup> showing action taken against corrupt officials in the Punjab during the period from the 1st April 1941 to 31st March 1942, is laid on the table.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

**Mr. Speaker :** I have received the following applications from certain members of the Assembly for permission to be absent from the meetings thereof :—

## 1. Diwan Chaman Lall writes :—

"I have the honour to request you to obtain for me the permission of the Punjab Legislative Assembly to remain absent from its sittings as I am unable to put in my appearance owing to circumstances beyond my control."

## 2. Saye Mohyuddi Lal Badshah writes :—

"Most respectfully I beg to say that owing to the death of an elder member of my family I shall not be able to attend the forthcoming session of the Assembly. I therefore beg to request that permission may kindly be granted to me to remain absent from the Assembly."

## 3. Sardar Wali Muhammad Sial Hiraj writes :—

"I beg to inform you that owing to the death of my real brother, Mehr Ghulam Mohammad Khan, on 23rd February, 1943. I am obliged to stay here till Chelam with a view to performing certain religious ceremonies. It has become necessary for me to absent myself for the forthcoming session which commences on the 4th instant. It is, therefore requested that my absence may kindly be excused."

## 4. Rai Bhagwant Singh writes :—

"I have the honour to state that due to indisposition, I shall not be able to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 4th proximo. I am at present under the treatment of the Medical Officer, in charge of the Kulu Civil Hospital. He has advised me not to undertake journey at least for a period of about 3 weeks—side medical certificate attached herewith for favour of your kind perusal and necessary action. I shall attend it as soon as I am fully recovered of the disease I am suffering from."

The question is—

That the leave applied for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

## ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

**Mr. Speaker :** I have received notices of about a dozen and a half adjournment motions. As the Budget Session is approaching, all matters detailed therein, can be discussed when the Budget is taken up. Therefore, I rule them out of order.

<sup>1</sup>Kept in the Library.

## PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

**Mr. Speaker :** Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma has given notice of a so-called privilege motion, but it is not a privilege motion. Besides, the honourable member is absent.

## PUNJAB MOTOR VEHICLES RULES

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to lay on the table<sup>1</sup> the amendment made in the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

## SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS

### LAND REVENUE

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal): I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,65,330 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Land Revenue.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,65,330 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Land Revenue.

### *Dearness Allowance*

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** I move—

That the item of Rs. 4,50,080 on account of D—Land Records—District Charges—Other Allowances and Honoraria—Dearness Allowance, etc., be reduced by Re. 1.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's motion does not appear to be in order. I notice that the question of dearness allowance is sought to be raised by amendments to various demands. Strictly speaking the subject of dearness allowance should be taken up when the annual budget is discussed. In any case the question should be discussed only once. Do the honourable members agree that the matter be discussed when the Annual Estimates are discussed?

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** This dearness allowance relates to last year's accounts.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the honourable members wish to discuss the dearness allowance now, they are at liberty to do so.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Very well, we will discuss it when Demand No. 8 of the Supplementary Estimates is taken up.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,65,330 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Land Revenue.

*The motion was carried.*

<sup>1</sup>Kept in the Assembly Library.

### PROVINCIAL EXCISE

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,33,150 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Provincial Excise.

*The motion was carried.*

### STAMPS

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 29,950 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Stamps.

*The motion was carried.*

### FORESTS

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,38,190 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Forests.

*The motion was carried.*

### REGISTRATION

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,270 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Registration.

*The motion was carried.*

### IRRIGATION—WORKING EXPENSES

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,60,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Irrigation Working Expenses and other Irrigation Expenditure financed from ordinary revenues.

*The motion was carried.*

### IRRIGATION—ESTABLISHMENT

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,39,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,39,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I want to move my cut motion<sup>1</sup> on this demand.

**Mr. Speaker** : The honourable member's cut motion is out of order, but he may discuss the whole demand.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** : Sir, I want to point out that under the charges on irrigation establishment a huge amount of money is being wasted and there is slackness over control and expenditure that is being incurred. It is a great drain on the resources of the province. In the first place, I would like to know how far the money, which has been spent on the Indus Commission, has been utilised properly and what is the result of this Commission because there is a remark that the result of the enquiry seems to be going against us. They had engaged such highly paid legal advisor. He has not produced any good results. So that money has been wasted.

Next, Sir, I find that only for small indexing work highly paid officials have been kept on the job for months together. That means a big waste of money because I think indexing work could easily be done by low paid officials instead of the Superintending Engineer or Executive Engineer. If you further look at item No. 8 you will find that the whole division was continued in order to deal with *warabandi* petitions. An officer of the rank of deputy collector could be appointed who could very easily do this job. Why is a whole division being engaged and why should the Government pay the cost of the whole division when it could have been done by a zilladar or a deputy collector or any other person specially appointed for the purpose? May I draw your attention to the remarks? It is said:—

"As the Executive Engineers, Delhi, Rohtak and Project J Divisions, have been extremely busy with the construction work, they could not attend to these *warabandi* petitions. To avoid delay in the disposal of this large number of *warabandi* petitions, further extension of this Division up to 31st March 1943 has been found necessary."

While that thing was going on, a special officer could have settled all those *warabandi* cases. Similarly, I find that round-about methods are adopted of appointing an Under-Secretary and creating new posts. There are already 3 Chief Engineers. They probably did not like to have a person of the same rank as Chief Engineer because that would invite criticism and people would say that there are now 5 Chief Engineers. Just to get over this thing, they are having an Under-Secretary and a Personal Assistant of the rank of a Superintending Engineer. So I cannot help criticising the Government because this money could be used on other more important works.

**Sardar Ajit Singh** (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : I also oppose the whole demand. At present cases pertaining to *warabandi* are dealt with under section 68 of the Canal Act. Everybody knows that while deciding *warabandi* petitions canal officers take at least six months. This is very troublesome for the zamindars; for it means that their one crop is ruined because of lack of water supply. To my mind the system which is at present followed in regard to the disposal of *warabandi* petitions

<sup>1</sup> That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1

NOTE—To raise discussion on the demand.)



[S. Ajit Singh]

entails much delay and hardship to the petitioners. I would therefore request the Honourable Minister to amend this procedure. I personally think that the disposal of such petitions should in no case take more than fifteen or twenty days. Besides sometimes it so happens that big zamindars like my honourable friend the Minister for Revenue deprive the smaller zamindars of their turn (*wari*) of water supply throughout one season.

**Minister of Finance :** May I raise a point of order? The honourable member cannot make this an occasion to deliver an attack on any individual officer in this manner. How is that officer concerned with this particular demand?

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** The Honourable Minister appears to be labouring under some misapprehension. I was not at all attacking any particular official or individual. I was only making a general reference to the administration of this department. What I wanted to emphasise was that red-tapism was given full play in regard to this matter. It is a fact that the officers, right from a zilladar to an Executive Engineer, take very long (invariably six months) to dispose of *warabandi* petitions. The result is that the zamindars are hit hard. By the time *warabandi* is sanctioned, the crop is ruined for want of water-supply. Hence I take strong exception to the method adopted by the authorities in dealing with the *warabandi* petitions. This inordinate delay in the disposal of *warabandi* petitions reflects on the efficiency of the administration and is responsible for the ruination of the crops of the zamindars.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,39,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

*The motion was carried.*

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,73,550 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of General Administration.

**Mr. Speaker :** The motion moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,73,550 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of General Administration.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural) :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

to discuss the inadequacy of dearness allowance for Government servants.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** On a point of order. I beg to submit that the object of the cut motion is that the dearness allowance may be enhanced because it is inadequate. In fact he is proposing an addition to the demand under discussion. Is it permissible for an honourable member to move it without the sanction of the Governor?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member, Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma, may proceed with his speech.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Sir, it is very important to consider the scale of the prices of articles which are in daily use. If you go into the facts and figures with respect to the rise in prices during the recent year you will find that in some cases it has gone up four times higher than the prices prevailing last year. Under the circumstances the amount which is allowed to government servants by way of dearness allowance, in my opinion, is not at all sufficient to meet the necessities of life of ordinary people who are given low salaries in the government offices. For example take the case of a person who is paid less than Rs. 20 a month. The honourable the Finance Minister is a great economist and I put it to him whether he can suggest a family budget for a person getting Rs. 15 or 20 a month and having the briefest family of one child, one wife; how much he should spend on flour, how much on ghee and how much on other things of daily necessity. I fail to understand how these people who are getting 20 or 25 a month can make both ends meet. It is hardly possible for them to purchase even the ordinary necessities of life, not to talk of ghee and other things. In some cases men who are low paid have to support large families and it is even difficult for them to get flour for their families. They starve and sometimes they taken one meal a day. Under these circumstances I suggest that in the case of low paid servants the scale of dearness allowance ought to have been higher. In the present circumstances highly paid servants get a higher percentage of dearness allowance and in the case of low paid people the scale goes down.

**Minister of Finance :** No.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** In some cases there is a consolidated allowance and I do not think it is sufficient to help people getting low pay. Under these circumstances I have to commend to the honourable members of this House that this question may be seriously considered as it seriously affects the lives of people who are serving the Government and are getting very low pay.

**Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi :** May I ask one question of the honourable member? What does he mean by high and low paid? This is such a vague term that one cannot understand it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I have already given an example. By low paid people, I mean people getting even Rs. 50.

**Minister of Finance :** May I answer this question? The dearness allowance is given to persons getting as high as Rs. 100 per mensem and they are given an allowance of 10 per cent. Low paid people getting Rs. 25, Rs. 20, Rs. 15 or even less get 30 per cent, or thereabouts of their pay.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** But is it a substantial amount?

**Minister of Finance :** So far as the question of a substantial amount is concerned, a person getting Rs. 20 gets an additional amount of Rs. 6 a month. During 1942-43 the dearness allowance is likely to come to about Rs. 50 lakhs, so far as the total amount is concerned.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand under consideration, motion moved is—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1

**Sardar Ajit Singh** (South West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to oppose the demand under consideration. It goes without saying that the scale of dearness allowance sanctioned by the Government for their employees is quite inadequate. It is not at all commensurate with the abnormal rise in the prices of articles of food and other necessities of life. It has failed to compensate particularly the low paid servants. As a matter of fact the amount of dearness allowance sanctioned is so meagre that it does not materially help those government servants whose salaries range from Rs. 15 to Rs. 50. They are in a sad plight. Take, for example, the case of chaprasis. The grant of a small amount of Rs. 6 brings their salaries to say Rs. 25. It is quite obvious that with this paltry sum they can hardly provide themselves with the bare necessities of life or support their families owing to the present high cost of living. If a poor chaprasi purchases two maunds of wheat at the prevailing rate, there will be left practically nothing with which he could attend to other equally important items. The present deplorable state of affairs should set the Government furiously thinking that this paltry amount, called dearness allowance, is no longer sufficient to enable their low paid employees to tide over the difficulties arising out of the soaring prices of articles and prohibitive cost of living. I would, therefore, urge upon the Honourable Minister the desirability of increasing the present scale of dearness allowance by at least 50 per cent so that the Government servants may be able to make their both ends meet.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,73,550 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of General Administration.

*The motion was carried.*

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,70,640 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Administration of Justice.

*The motion was carried.*

#### JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,05,990 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,05,990 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March and Convict Settlements.

*Arrests and treatment of Congress Detenus.*

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural) (Urdu) :  
I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 4,920 on account of Total Superintendence be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, my object in moving this cut motion is to criticise the policy of Government regarding the arrests made in the province and the treatment meted out to the Congress detenus. You remember, Mr. Speaker, that a question was asked in this House a few days ago and it was not a political question at all. The question was quite simple. It asked about the general health and the treatment of the Congress detenus. Another question was put about the general health of distinguished Congress men like Lala Bhim Sen Sachar, Leader of the Opposition, Diwan Chaman Lal and other M. L. As. and yet another was asked about the food supplied to them and about steps taken to maintain their intellectual development. These questions were simple enough to be answered satisfactorily. I do not think it was difficult for Government to reply to them in a straightforward manner. But Government in this House as usual, did not give up their defiant and evasive attitude in replying to our questions. In the name of "public interest" the reply was withheld. Naturally this attitude allowed people to draw inferences from the answers given by Government. A doubt was created in our minds that satisfactory treatment was not given to our friends behind the bars. We insisted last time as well that the Congress detenus were intellectually starving and that they were not having satisfactory treatment in jails. But even then Government did not enlighten us on this point saying that according to the policy they have reserved a right of giving information in this respect; it is for them to see whether certain facts should be disclosed in the House or not. Sir, when this is their policy we would never degrade ourselves so much merely for getting a piece of information.

As far as treatment of detenus is concerned, I think, it is the foremost duty of every Government to see that inhuman treatment is not meted out to the men behind the bars. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble members of the Cabinet to the fact that the Congress detenus against whom no charge of any violent or even non-violent nature was yet been made known are being ill-treated by our Government. As a matter of fact they have done nothing against the law of the land and obviously for no reasons they are undergoing a mental and physical torture. On the contrary, it is a thousand pities that the war prisoners who are guilty of all sorts of crimes are treated in a far better manner than the Congress detenus who, as I have stated, have not been guilty of any crimes. The House will be surprised to know that the diet supplied to the war prisoners is far superior to the diet available even to the hon'ble members of the Cabinet. It is a fact that the Italian prisoners are political opponents of the British Government and they are out and out to crush the Allies but under the International Law every comfort is given to them. On the contrary, the Congress detenus have done no rioting and committed no political murder nor has such a serious charge been laid against them, still they are

[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma]

being treated in a very disgraceful manner. My submission is that our Government should learn a lesson from the British Government in treating the war prisoners who intended to destroy them. It is really a matter of shame that the general treatment of the Congress detenues is far inferior to the treatment meted out to the Italian prisoners of war. Do the hon'ble members of the Cabinet remember what they used to profess about these Congress detenues? They used to claim them to be their brethren. They said they had a great regard for them. But now when the relatives of these detenues want to interview them they are not allowed to do so. Certain detenues are not keeping good health and their relatives want to know about their health. But it is a pity that no information is made available to them regarding their health. I would, therefore, say with all the force at my command that the shabby treatment accorded to the Congress M. L. As. and other detenues ill-becomes the Government of this province. It is not worthy of a popular Government to treat their colleagues like that. The treatment requires further improvement and I would, therefore, urge upon Government to improve it and take immediate steps to remove legitimate grievances of the detenues. As you are aware, every day Government is asked, in this House, whether it is prepared to start legal proceedings against these detenues in a court of law or whether it would lay a charge sheet against them publicly. But no satisfactory reply is given by Government. Government, as usual, resorts to evasive replies. As a matter of fact Government does not possess any material to justify the detention of the Congress

1 p. m. detenues, and yet they are being detained in different jails of the provinces. Besides, the very disgraceful treatment meted out to these detenues is a stigma on the fair name of our province. In the circumstances, I request Government to revise its policy towards these detenues. With these words, Sir, I move my cut motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 4,920 on account of Total Superintendence be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, it is a pity that Government still persist in refusing to answer any questions on the floor of the House relating to the Congress detenues and matters connected with them. I remember that the Honourable Speaker observed the other day that he could not find any rule under which the Ministers or members sitting on the Treasury Benches could be compelled to supply information in regard to questions, the replies of which had been withheld on the plea of public interest. In the last session too, Government persisted in their refusal to answer any questions relating to Congress leaders in general and Congress M. L. As. in particular who were arrested immediately after the 10th of August. The attention of Government had been drawn more than once towards the various difficulties experienced by the detenues in different jails, but as usual they have always kept mum and have refused to give information in regard to the said detenues. You are aware that at present no heed is paid to the difficulties and troubles of these detenues whose detention is being prolonged in different jails of the province. It ill behoves Government to keep us in the dark about the condition of these detenues who are suffering from all kinds of mental and physical tortures.

It is therefore high time that Government should remove their difficulties. Unfortunately the difficulty is this that my honourable friends sitting on the ministerial benches neither want to hear anything from us nor do they wish to give us any information in regard to the detenus. They are rather glad that a majority of the opposition has been put in jail and that the present strength of the opposition is not such which can put them into anxiety. They are not content with this. They add insult to injury by withholding information from us and then they expect that in spite of the torture none should weep.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it).

I ask my honourable friends sitting on the ministerial benches whether they have seen the statement issued by Dr. Shyam Prashad Mukerjee, Minister of Bengal, at the time of his resignation on 12th February 194. If they have not done so, I would advise them to go through it carefully. If they do so, they would find that the reasons which led to his resignation exist with greater force in their case as well. In view of this I ask them whether they have taken any steps to remove the grievances of the public. They are not serving the public, rather they are acting like bureaucrats. I tell them that they will have to answer one day for this repression and callous treatment towards the detenus. We all know that Government are always harassing the detenus and they do not even hesitate to devise new means to harass and torture them. In this connection I wish to sound a note of warning to my honourable friends over there that they should be careful in meting out such a callous treatment to the detenus, otherwise they would also have to share the same fate when their turn comes. It is very much regretted that Government have detained Congress detenus without any definite individual charges. They have not been tried in any courts of law. No chance has been given to them to plead their cases. Similar treatment has been meted out to Mahatma Gandhi. He has also not been given any chance to refute or contradict the charges in court levelled against him by Government. This kind of attitude does not give any credit to Government. Let them act in a reasonable and fair manner.

In conclusion, I request Government not to make demand after demand, as it is not in the interests of the public to spend unnecessarily. I would suggest that ways and means should be devised to reduce this expenditure. Really it is not just and proper on the part of the Government to multiply their expenses. I hope that my submissions will not fall flat on the ears of my honourable friends over there like water on duck's back, and that Government will consider them cool-heartedly. With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motion now before the House.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General Rural): May I put one question to the Finance Minister? It is stated on page 40 of the Supplementary Estimates: "The increase in provision is due to the entertainment of temporary staff in connection with the increased volume of work as a result of political movements." What are those political movements in the Punjab which have necessitated the increase of expenditure here?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** This refers to the Civil Disobedience movement and various other activities of a political and subversive nature which have been going on in the province—primarily to deal with the Civil Disobedience movement.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** We have not seen any Civil Disobedience movement in the Punjab. Whether it is to the credit of the province or not, there is certainly no manifestation of any Civil Disobedience movement in the Punjab.

Now I would put another question which might help the Government in answering the first question. Has this action against the persons who are shut up in jails been taken at the instance of the Punjab Government or at the instance of the Central Government? It is a question of great importance because sometimes we hear that the Punjab Government is entirely innocent so far as the arrests of the Congress people in the Punjab are concerned. If the Punjab Government has nothing to do with these arrests and has been acting only under the orders received from higher quarters, the Punjab Government can plead its helplessness, ~~just as Mr. Fazl-ul-Haq, the Bengal Premier, did in connection with similar incidents in Bengal.~~ If I am correct in my recollection, he made a confession on the floor of the House there with respect to the arrest of some people, that he was entirely ignorant of their arrests. That meant that the Central Government had passed orders for the arrest of those people and poor Mr. Fazl-ul-Haq, ~~great as he was, the tiger or the roaring lion of Bengal, was entirely ignorant of the arrests of those people.~~ In any case he was morally free from blame. If that is so in the case of the Punjab Government also, I think the Punjab Government ought to make a confession of that kind, so that no prejudice might exist against them. If the Punjab Government has been doing these things ~~since then~~ then I would say that the Punjab Government should justify the arrests of these people and also justify the treatment which is being accorded to them. I say it with all seriousness though I do not want to use any strong language—it is a matter of shame that human beings should be treated in jails as most of these Congress people are being treated in the Punjab jails. The Premier must be spending more on his dogs than the Punjab Government is spending on these Congress leaders in the jails. He must be spending on each grey hound which he uses ~~for similar at least Rs. 20 per month as the pay of the man looking after it; and at least Rs. 15 a month for its food and he keeps, I am told, scores of such dogs, if not hundreds of them.~~ If the maintenance of a dog costs the Premier so much, has he ever thought or has any of these Ministers ever thought how much they are spending on a gentleman of the position of Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar or on Diwan Chaman Lall or on Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din or on others, all persons born and bred in the lap of luxury? I do not use the word 'luxury' in any bad sense. I mean people who have been accustomed to comforts, who are wealthy people belonging to respectable families and who are used to decent standards of living. Have these Ministers ever felt any ~~compunction~~ *thing* when they find that these gentlemen are being maintained on annas 6 a day or on annas 9-3 a day to which amount their allowance has recently been increased? Can a dog be maintained on annas 9-3 a day in these days? Yet these gentlemen are being maintained on annas 9-3 a day while these

Ministers live in a luxurious manner in their palatial houses enjoying all comforts and sumptuous parties and never thinking of these people. Is it not a matter of shame if the Punjab Government is responsible for this state of affairs? If it is not responsible, I think in their own interests, in the interests of the Government, the Ministers should make it clear that they are only helpless tools in the hands of a higher power against which they cannot raise their voice. In that case of course provincial autonomy would be exposed to be a mere farce and these Ministers would be exposed as being mere boobies or helpless tools in the hands of a higher authority whose mandates they have to carry out by shutting up and starving people in jails and depriving them even of creature comforts. So far as my information goes no interviews are allowed. (*Interruption.*) You have heard what I am told by the honourable member, Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri, that no interview has been allowed to them up till now. He knows as his own son-in-law is in jail. They have not been allowed a single interview for the last 7 months, i.e., ever since they have been in jail. Is this a thing which a civilised Government or a Government which calls itself civilised should do? Are they merely chaprasis in the hands of the Central Government to carry out orders that come from Simla or Delhi? Have they no independence left in themselves, no free judgment of their own? Have they lost all conscience? Is it only the love of office that keeps them there as helpless tools. I do not mean any disrespect but what other justification can there be for their conduct? If they are not themselves a concurring party to this repression and oppression, why should they be merely looking at and not moving their little finger in protest? The position is very plain and there is nothing mysterious about it. We all know what has happened in some other parts of the country. I am not here to defend one party or the other. People who take up certain positions and certain activities have to face all sorts of trouble and have to make all sorts of sacrifices. We people, outside, are probably feeling more for them than they do for themselves. If they were not strong and self-sacrificing enough to bear this treatment they had simply to say "We made a mistake" and they would have been out. They are perhaps quite content to suffer in silence. We, who are outside, feel for them as in spite of their being leaders of a different party they are after all human beings and we see that they are not being treated as human beings in the Punjab. I do not know of other provinces. So it is really high time that some light should be thrown on this matter. It is no use coming to this Assembly and saying, "We want more money because there have been political movements. We want Rs. 11,05,830 more because either under compulsion or we ourselves have shut up a number of people in jails and we want some more jailors and we want the Inspector-General of Prisons to make more tours of inspection and we want special allowance for assistant superintendents" and so on. This is sickening in all conscience. It is disgraceful. It is scandalous. If there is any stronger word it would not be inappropriate to use it though I would not like to use it. I think, Sir, that these gentlemen who occupy these high positions of responsibilities and are answerable constitutionally as well as morally to public opinion, ought to make some response. We find that everyday in reply to questions it is said that it is not in the public interest to answer such and such a question. That is also becoming a scandal



[Dr. Sir Gokal Chand Narang]

and I think, Sir, that it is time that they should begin to show some little regard, some little respect, for the members on this side and some little consideration for public opinion and even for themselves to save their own reputation. Do they not know what people must be thinking about it? When a question is put and they say, "it is not in public interest", do they not realise that the people must be laughing at them, even the Press Gallery must be chuckling over this, not to speak of members sitting on this side of the House and the public outside. Every day they must be laughing at the words "this is not in the public interest". And, still more, even when they are cross-examined, they sit mum. They think that under the law nobody can compel or force them to answer a question. They take advantage of this and they sit tight. How long can such a thing go on? Certainly more regard should be paid to public opinion and to the rights of the people. Look at the Opposition. There is practically no opposition and this, instead of giving them occasion for rejoicing or for feeling proud that they have crushed all opposition, should really make them realise their sense of responsibility more keenly and they should go out of their way to explain things and do things which in the face of strong opposition they might not have done. But we do not find any feeling on the ministerial benches so far as this matter is concerned. There is defiance, there is evasion, there is contemptuous silence and sometimes derisive smiles. This is all we get from the ministerial benches. I leave it to you, as the occupant of this Chair, to judge whether this is worthy of a Government, a Government which is functioning, as it claims under Provincial Autonomy. Is this Provincial Autonomy? I think we were much better off without this Provincial Autonomy. I am saying this seriously because then we could say that those people were foreigners, they were here in their own interests, and they were ruling us in their own interests. They were conquerors and too powerful and we could not prevent them from crushing us under their iron heel. But it is far more painful to be treated like this by our own kith and kin, by our own people who, under the Constitution, are supposed to represent the Province. If they behave even in a more bureaucratic and autocratic manner than the old bureaucracy did, then resentment is the greater and I would submit the scandal is the greater. That is the position which has been created by these gentlemen. This morning's papers have revealed to us certain things about the Premier's policy but I would not like to go into them just now. I would appeal to the Ministers as friends to consider the position seriously and realise their responsibility and begin to show a little more regard for people sitting on this side, a little more regard for public opinion and accord a little more humane treatment to those people whom they have shut up in jails without trial. I read in a paper about someone saying that India was enjoying more freedom than people now enjoy in Germany or even in England and elsewhere. But there is a world of difference between there and here. If people are not enjoying the same amount of liberty in Germany, the circumstances are entirely different as the restrictions are imposed by themselves and in their own interest and not as tools of an outside agency. You will agree with me that it is no consolation to say that Indians are being treated now more generously than Germans are treating Germans in this state of emergency.

That is no justification, and if modern Germany is to be their example, then I would submit that they cannot convince us. They may convince themselves but surely they cannot convince us. I do not want to take any more time of the House but I would again appeal to the Premier that he should now set an example of courage, of justice, of regard for public opinion and show us that he comes with noble intentions and that he realises his responsibility in this matter and that he does not represent only one party of the Province but he represents the whole Province, even those who are opposed to him, even those who do not belong to the community to which he belongs. He is the guardian, under the present constitution, of the rights and the liberties of every Punjabi and not only of Punjabis of a particular community or a particular party, but of all. I hope he will rise to the occasion and try at least to show us that he has got some grit in him. I may be hoping against hope but it rests with him to show whether I am hoping against hope or whether there is any hope of improvement in this respect.

**Premier:** May I say a word in reply? I did not have the advantage of hearing the whole of the speech of my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, but what I have been told is that he enquired whether the civil disobedience prisoners are being detained under the orders of the Punjab Government or under the orders of the Government of India. Was that the point?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** That was one of the questions.

**Premier:** As you are aware, the civil disobedience movement was an All-India movement and as such it had to be dealt with on an All-India basis. The Government of India has laid down general lines and broad principles under which it has got to be dealt with and the Provincial Governments, that are responsible for law and order, have been working in line with those instructions and the policy laid down. Of course we are responsible for law and order and they are detained by the Punjab Government under that policy. This is the position. As regards the grievances, the matter was discussed here during the last session if I remember correctly. Certain concessions have since been made and a communique of the Government has been issued on the point. I do not want to take the time of the House on it, for that is already known. All I have got to say is that recently 33 per cent rise has been made in the diet money of the various prisoners and I might further add that it would have been well if my honourable friend had not compared things in Russia and Germany. He knows what happens there to people. We have no such intention, and our intention is to be as humane as is possible.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** I shall just ask the Honourable Premier whether the Punjab Government has taken the spirit of the policy promulgated by the Central Government or whether the action that it has taken was taken under express orders. I shall make myself a little more clear for the sake of the Honourable Premier.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** But it has been explained by the Honourable Premier.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** No, Sir. You will excuse me. I just want to know whether they had taken action against the Punjabi leaders of the Congress because the Central Government or other Governments were taking similar action in other provinces or whether they received definite orders to arrest all the Congress men or the prominent Congress men in the Punjab. Was it the spirit of the policy of the Central Government or their express orders which were followed? There is a great deal of difference between the two. The Punjab Government may do something to oblige the Central Government. That is something different from carrying out definite detailed orders received from the Central Government and all that I want to know and people here would like to know is whether definite orders were received from the Central Government for the arrest of so and so and so and so or of prominent Congress people or whether the Punjab Government acted *suo motu* in arresting these people thinking that that was the general policy of the Central Government? I am sure the Honourable Premier would realise the difference between these two positions.

**Premier:** My reply was crystal clear if the honourable member had taken the trouble of following it. (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: Crystals can be opaque also.) I said that it was an All-India movement and broad principles had been laid down by the Central Government and dealing with this movement and the provincial government has also to apply them. If the honourable member wants to know whether one particular thing happened in one way or the other, I am afraid I cannot enlighten him with any more facts than I have given in my reply.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** Was this also laid down by the Central Government that prisoners of this position should not be given more than 6 annas or 9 annas a day, that no interviews should be allowed, no books should be allowed, that they should not be given *charpais* and that no letters should be allowed to be written by them or received by them? That is what I want to know, whether this is also a part of the policy of the Central Government that those persons should not be allowed interviews altogether from the day of their incarceration up to the day of their release. Is that so? (Interruption). I think the Honourable Premier is just receiving instructions or information about what to say from his assistants in the gallery.

**Premier:** My honourable friend is remembering the dyarchy days. We do not get instructions under provincial autonomy.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** We were very weak people. You are very powerful, very independent and noble-minded people.

**Premier:** Constitutional.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood:** On a point of order. My honourable friend has exhausted his right of speech. If he wants to put any specific question, the specific answer can be given on the floor of the House or privately. But there are other members also who want to make speeches.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I allowed the honourable member to ask a question.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** I am asking a definite question and it is whether this policy of not allowing them interviews, not allowing

them to write letters or receive letters, not allowing them *charpais* as was done in the beginning was also communicated to the Punjab Government or was it under the instructions of the Punjab Government that all those restrictions were imposed ?

**Premier :** I am afraid I cannot add anything further to what I have already stated. As to the correspondence between the Government of India and the Provincial Government my honourable friend knows it fully, and what is happening should also be known to him. General principles have been laid down by the Government of India and we are in accord with those general principles, applying them according to local circumstances. As to food grievances, I have said that a 33 per cent rise has been given.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Six annas or nine annas ?

**Premier :** It is much more.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Say what it is.

**Premier :** When the time comes I will let you know. General discussion of the budget is coming and there will be plenty of time to discuss it. If you still want that thing, I will explain it then.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It comes under this demand, because you say that the prices of foodstuffs have increased and foodstuffs have been included in this demand.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Do I take it that the Honourable Premier has not got this information in his possession ?

**Premier :** I have been asked a large number of questions and I have answered them.

**Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber** (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian) : Sir, I feel it my duty to speak in favour of this cut motion, not only from my personal or Christian point of view but also from humanitarian point of view. I am not going to discuss as to why those people are under arrest or whether they should be released or not. That point is not for me to discuss. But the point before me and what I feel is that I could not imagine how the persons, who have been interned like that under section 129 of the Defence of India Rules, which rules say that the property and personal liberty of the persons arrested under these rules will be as little interfered with as possible, can be treated so badly. If these complaints are true and if no interviews and no liberties are being allowed in their case, then I think we have got the end of all our expectations. Having such good hearted Premier and such noble hearted Ministers as Sir Chhotu Ram and Sir Manohar Lal, how can we imagine that such treatment would go on against their colleagues whom they call their friends ? I cannot imagine that. I request the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh to go there for a moment and see whether he really realises that such treatment is being meted out to those persons who are simply interned and who are simply under restrictions and who have taken no part in any kind of disturbance or who have committed no crime. I think those friends of ours can well say when they are out or they must be saying even inside—

من از بیگانهان هرگز نه نالم      که بامن هر چه رد آں آشنا کرد

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Amber]

I cannot imagine that such a state of things can go on if it is really so. I would appeal to my friends opposite that sooner they look into this matter the better. Certainly those persons are being detained under the general policy of the Government of India but the restrictions that are now imposed on those men are being worked out and laid down by yourselves. If that is so, then are you incapable of interfering with or revising those things? If we cannot expect justice from you, then my surprise will have no end.

ہو حیرت ہوں کہ دنیا کیا سے کیا ہو جائیگی

Our friends, our worthy leaders and our honourable members in whom we have confidence, can do things that can appeal to the good of the public. We know that they might have realised it to the extent to which the matter has been brought to their notice, but now as it has been further brought to their notice, it is to their own interest, it is to the interest of the province, it is to the interest of humanity and it is for the well-being, reputation and benefit of the Ministry that they should take urgent steps to rectify those grievances if they are really genuine.

**Sardar Ajit Singh** (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have to offer opposition to this demand also. Before I proceed with my remarks, I would like to read out to the honourable members a representation which I have received from one of my constituents. It gives a vivid description of the shabby treatment that is being meted out to the detenus and political prisoners confined in various Punjab jails. It reads thus:—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker**: May I know what this paper is?

**Sardar Ajit Singh**: It is a representation which has been sent to me by one of my constituents.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker**: Who has signed it?

**Sardar Ajit Singh**: It has been signed by the wife of Sardar Harjab Singh, M.L.A. She is related to me also.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker**: Do you take responsibility for its correctness?

**Sardar Ajit Singh**: I take the fullest responsibility for it. Well, Sir, it runs as follows:—

#### INSIDE PICTURE OF THE PUNJAB JAILS

The history of the treatment meted out to political prisoners in the Punjab during the last seven months is a long and painful story of vindictiveness, meanness and brutality. In no other province, perhaps, the Government have treated their political opponents harshly and inhumanly as the Punjab Government. It has the reputation of being the most reactionary Government in this country and it must be said to its credit that in the matter of treatment of political prisoners it has lived up to its reputation. Some of the points given below will give a clear picture of the treatment that is being meted to the political prisoners:

**Selection of Jails**—While selecting jails for politicals the government seemed to have only one consideration and that was to select only those jails which were considered worse jails in the province. Shahpur jail condemned for political prisoners long ago was reopened and a number of detenus and convicts were sent there. This jail had become notorious as being the most unhealthy jail. Shahpur being a small and unimportant town, no satisfactory arrangements could be made for diet, medical aid, and other necessities of political

prisoners. In spite of it political prisoners were sent there and their health report would show that a large majority lost heavily in health. There was hardly any prisoner who did not lose his weight. A substantial number developed back-ache which made it most difficult for them even to walk. The soil of Shahpur Jail is damp and full of salt petre and it was on this soil that most of the eminent citizens of the province like Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, leader of the opposition, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, Munshi Hari Lal, Diwan Chaman Lal and Mahasha Krishna and others had to sleep. They were not provided with charpoys for about two months and so they had to sleep on the ground exposed to danger of snake and scorpion bite. They were hurled together in tents, sometime 8-10 in one tent, which would begin to leak during rains, and in Shahpur there were rains almost every month. They were given vegetables to eat, which even the cattle would not touch. For months together they were supplied only 'Sabz Tori' and 'Kanshiphal' and to add to the relish of these dishes they were provided 'Iron butis' meant for ordinary convicts. As a matter of fact the whole attitude of the authorities was such as if they were not dealing with human beings. Government at least realised its folly and Shahpur Jail has been closed, but the cursed jail of Mianwali meant for dangerous criminals is still open and many political prisoners are rotting there. Old Central Jail, Multan, has become famous for the inefficiency, incompetence, brutality and high-handedness of its officials. It has the distinction of being the first jail in the Punjab where the political prisoners were subjected to a severe lathi charge resulting in injuries to more than 100 prisoners. Conditions in other jails have also been rotten. Even the Government has no confidence in their own nominees, that is non-official jail visitors are forbidden to see the Congress detenus convicts.

**Diet**—Diet sanctioned by the Government for political prisoners provides another proof of the callousness with which they have been treated. In the beginning annas six (0-6-0) a day was allowed for the diet which was quite inadequate for the maintenance of the normal health. Now they are being given annas nine and pies three (0-9-3) per day. Considering the high prices prevailing one can easily imagine what sort of diet is being given to the politicals. But the political convicts are still being given diet of (0-6-0) per day. In the beginning no distinction whatsoever was made between the detenus and convicts. But for reasons known only to Government distinction in diet, clothing and other matters has now been made and for which there is no justification. The worst feature of the whole problem is that politicals are not allowed to supplement their diet at their own cost. They cannot supplement even milk, ghee, curd or fruits which is necessary to sustain them. The Government does not provide the balanced diet which is necessary to maintain their health and at the same time does not allow them at their own cost. Does it mean, that government want to torture them by every possible means. It is an undeniable fact that on account of inefficient diet some of the prisoners have lost their health for good. Some young men who were in excellent health at the time of arrest are today physically weak. Is it not the duty of the government to give them the balanced diet and also to allow them to supplement it at their own cost.

**No interviews**—Unprecedented restrictions on interviews and correspondence have been placed. It is now seven months since majority of these prisoners were put in jails; but they have not been allowed to interview their relatives. Even little children are not allowed to go near them. Some of them are absolutely in the dark regarding the fate of their families. There are many who have left behind their families without any support whatsoever. They have no knowledge as to how they are faring. No interviews for seven months. Could callousness and brutality go further? It is something unheard of and of which only a Government like the Punjab Government can feel proud. Other Provincial Governments have allowed interviews with the political prisoners. But in this province where a 'Responsible Ministry' is in power no such thing is possible. In certain jails even in cases of serious illness no interviews have been allowed.

**Correspondence**—Government seems to be rather over-sensitive regarding the correspondence of the prisoners. In the beginning they were allowed to write and receive one post card in 2 months. After sometime a concession was announced as a result of which prisoners were allowed to receive and write one post card in a month. This rule is in force these days. Prisoners detained under the Defence of India Rules have not been tried in any court and therefore, are entitled to be treated as civil prisoners, and should therefore be allowed to carry on correspondence re their business, etc. Even the Defence of India Rules contemplate minimum interference in one's vocation. Government have a right to censor and to put restriction on their correspondence. Most deplorable aspect of this question is that when more than one letter are received in the name of the prisoner he is never given any chance to select one letter that he wants. The result is that sometime unimportant letters are given and important letters withheld. In one case 2 letters arrived for one detenus, one announcing the birth of his son and the other informing him of the death of his near relative. The post card announcing the death was given.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** On a point of order. Will the honourable member permit me to ascertain whether this letter was passed on to him through the ordinary jail channels ?

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Please have patience. You can get your doubts removed when I have finished.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** May I know whether the contents of this statement are genuine or are based on mere hearsay ?

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** It is a genuine statement and I hold myself responsible for its veracity.

The postcard announcing the death was given to him while he was never informed of the happy event. There are cases where telegrams or letter intimating the death of a father, mother or wife were never delivered to the prisoners on the plea that they had already one postcard. Giani Gurmukh Singh 'Musafir' was never informed of the death of his father though a letter had arrived for him giving sad news. Lala Behar Shah of Lahore was never informed of the death of his brother though several letters and telegrams were sent by his relatives. Many more instances can be quoted. Even important business letters are not delivered to the prisoners as a result of which some of them have suffered heavy financial losses. Members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly have not been allowed to receive Assembly Debates, Agenda papers and *Punjab Government Gazette* simply because they were not entitled to receive more than one letter. No prisoner is allowed to write even enquiring about the serious illness of any of his nearest relatives.

**Handcuffing**—During the last *Individual Civil Disobedience Movement* the Government had issued instructions that detenus of Doctor Gopi Chand Bhargava's position should not be handcuffed in future. But this time no body had been spared. Not only respectable and eminent persons were handcuffed while being transferred from one jail to another, but some of them were even sent in fetters and bars. It has become a public scandal that eminent persons like Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Gopi Chand, Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, Diwan Chaman Lal, Seth Sudarshan, Sardar Partap Singh and others were handcuffed while being transferred from one jail to another. Munshi Hari Lal was produced in Lahore High Court in handcuffs when he was taken there to defend his case. Generally the police was instructed to handcuff two persons together. Could anything be more disgraceful ?

**Books**—This time the Government has not only tried to starve the political prisoners physically but mentally as well. From the very first day the strict ban was placed on books and newspapers. It has been lifted in case of the latter but continues in the case of the former. In a number of cases even religious books have been disallowed simply because either the jail authorities or Criminal Investigation Department could not determine what a religious book is. Prisoners have been asked to present books to jail libraries, and only then they will be allowed to use them. It is difficult to understand the logic of this order. All the prisoners cannot afford to buy books. A majority of them get them from public libraries for reading purposes. Moreover, how can the Government expect prisoners to present their books to the libraries when there is no guarantee that all the political prisoners would be confined in one jail. Suppose some of the political prisoners present books to the jail library and next day they are transferred from that jail. Do the Government expect them to present new books to every Jail ? and how does the objectionable character of the books change, simply because they have been presented to the jail library. These prisoners moreover are not going to remain in Jail for ever. These books will become useless when they are gone. Ordinary convicts who inhabit these jails cannot be expected to read books on history, philosophy, science, literature. Government demand that prisoners should present their books to Jail Libraries is most illogical and absurd.

**No Writing Material**—Along with books prisoners have been deprived of any kind of writing material. They cannot keep even a small piece of paper with them. Possession of pen or paper is considered a serious crime in jail. It must be remembered that amongst the political prisoners there are legislators, lawyers, doctors, journalists and people coming from every walk of life. They cannot keep even a fragment of paper or a small piece of pencil. Why ? Simply because the Government think that they will try to communicate with the people outside and thereby will try to control the movement. But is not a reflection on the official of jail staff's efficiency and competency not a piece of paper can go out without their knowledge. Ban on the writing material only proves that either the officials of the jail are thoroughly inefficient or the Government does not trust them even. In certain cases jail officials have made fool of themselves. It is said that when Munshi Hari Lal, M.L.A., was going to Lahore to appear before the High Court he demanded from

the Superintendent Camp Jail, Shahpur, a sheet of paper on which he could put down his notes. But Superintendent expressed his inability to allow him any paper under the rules. The same happened in the case of many other prisoners. It must be noted that out of many highly educated prisoners who applied for permission to keep writing material not one was allowed this concession. Nothing allowed to go in jail which was wrapped in papers.

**No Sports**—Political prisoners are not allowed to have any outdoor games. In the beginning even playing cards were denied to them. After sometime the Government pleased to grant this as a special concession. But they cannot have Volley Ball, Badminton, or any other games, Government does not seem to be interested in their health. And that is why games are not allowed even at their own cost. Indoor or outdoor games are considered to be articles of luxury.

**Light**—In some of the jails there are no electric lights. The prisoners are therefore supplied hurricane lanterns for use at night. But one lamp for four and sometime even for eight prisoners is the rule. The kerosene oil that is supplied to them does not last beyond 10 p. m. If due to illness or any other emergency they cannot have it.

**Clothing**—In the beginning the Government had agreed to supply 'B' Class for the detenus, as well as for the convicts. After some time detenus were deprived of this 'concession' and were supplied only 'C' Class clothing. Now even convicts have been deprived of this concession. It is difficult to understand why the Government has reversed the previous order. Detenus have not been tried in any court of law and are, therefore, entitled to better treatment. If the Government wants them to keep in jail they should be given proper diet and clothing. But now the clothes that are given to them are the same as those of the ordinary prisoners.

**No Allowance**—No allowance is being given to any of the persons detained in connection with the present civil disobedience movement. There are number of prisoners detained under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, who were arrested before this movement started and who are getting allowance. There is no reason why the same right should be not conceded in the case of the prisoners detained in connection with the present Civil Disobedience Movement. By arresting the Government have deprived their families of their supporters and therefore has a moral obligation to give them allowance.

**No proper medical aid**—It is a general complaint that prisoners are not receiving proper medical aid. Some of the m who are suffering from serious eye, teeth and other such troubles have been asked to get the treatment at their own cost. They are not permitted to consult their private doctors but the Government want them to pay even for doctors in whom they have no faith.

This time the whole policy of the Government seems to humiliate and torture the political prisoners. These prisoners never expected any concession from the Government nor did they apply for any. But is it not disgraceful for the Government which claims to be responsible and representative Government that it is not giving even ordinary decent treatment to its political opponents. Even the Italian and German prisoners of War are being accorded better treatment. But these detenus are not given even that treatment which is given to political opponents in the civilised countries all over the world.

I hope that the Minister in charge has listened attentively to what I have laid down before him and he would, therefore, consider these facts and try his level best to remove the legitimate grievances of the Congress detenus. I am also sure he has some regard for certain distinguished Congressmen like Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, Lala Bhim Sen Sachar and Diwan Chaman Lall, who have had the privilege of being members of this legislature for the last four or five years and if he really holds them in great esteem he should at least see that every possible facility and comfort is given to them in respect of food and intellectual development and interviewing their relatives and that every care is taken about their general health.

With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern TOWLS, Sikh, Urban): Mr. Speaker, from the discussion that has so far taken place in this House one thing emerges very clearly and beyond the least shadow of doubt and it is that so far as the arrests in this province are concerned they have been made in pursuance



[S. Santokh Singh]

of a general policy laid down by the Central Government. This thing has been very clearly established and the Honourable Premier was pleased to admit it. Now, opinions may differ as to whether a provincial Government with full autonomy that has been given to it should or should not have acted literally in following the instructions laid down by the Central Government.

It was open to this Government to say that so far as this province was concerned, there have been no overt acts, no physical violence, no rioting and no political murders, and this Government could have easily said to the Central Government that so far as this province was concerned it was absolutely unnecessary to take action and put so many respectable people behind the prison bars, especially when no overt acts have even been alleged against them, much less proved. You know, Sir, that after having put so many respectable people behind the prison bars, this provincial Government has been callous enough to mete out to them a very harsh and inhuman treatment. In the first place they selected jails which were not very healthy and they put all those respectable people in those jails. It cannot be said that whilst the Central Government laid down the general lines of the policy they also gave instructions that those gentlemen were to be put in insanitary jails. The treatment that has been meted out to them this time has been far worse than the treatment that was meted out to the political convicts ever before. This thing was fully brought home in the last session of the Assembly. Some of us took a deputation to the late lamented Premier and he was pleased to issue certain instructions which made these restrictions a little less irksome than they were before that. In spite of all that, the general treatment of these political prisoners is such that requires further improvement, and the sooner that improvement takes place the better for the Government itself and for all concerned. At the most, the Government of India may be concerned in the detention of these people but they are not at all concerned with the inhuman treatment that is being meted out to them. That is the policy of the Provincial Government and the Provincial Government alone is responsible for this policy. I would therefore appeal to the Ministry that they should rise to the occasion and treat those who politically differ from them in a more human manner. I would go further and say that no case whatever has been made out for their perpetual detention and that the Government will be well advised to revise the whole position and if, as we know, there have been no overt acts on the part of these gentlemen and they have done nothing against the law of the land, they must be immediately set free. We know of cases where indiscriminate arrests have taken place. We know of the case of Mr. A. C. Bali, Special representative of the *Tribune*. This gentleman is well known all over the Punjab, he is as much known to the Ministers as he is known to us. It was therefore with great surprise that we heard that a man of his peaceful intentions, whom the late lamented Premier has been using for bringing about *rapprochement* in several matters, should have been not only put in jail indiscriminately without any enquiry having been made against him but kept in a solitary cell for more than thirteen days, like an ordinary felon. I do not know what this gentleman had done to deserve this treatment. Why he was put into

a solitary cell for full thirteen days, (without any interviews having been allowed and without his being allowed to talk to any person, is indeed a mystery. I would like to know what offence he had committed, although to our agreeable surprise we found, that he was as suddenly released as he had been arrested. I think Government owes a duty to tell us how a gentleman of his peaceful nature came to be put behind the bars in this indiscriminatory manner. I do feel that Government owes an apology to this gentleman for having put him into jail without any rhyme or reason whatever, or it must convince this House as to what his offence was, which necessitated his being kept in a solitary cell for more than thirteen days. It is a very important matter and I do insist that some one from the Government benches should get up and tell us all about this arrest and discharge. It might be argued, as indeed it has been argued by the Honourable Premier, that in making the arrests which this Government felt compelled to do, they were carrying out a certain policy laid down by the Government of India. That may or may not be so, but the treatment that is being meted out to these honourable gentlemen, whose only offence might be that they politically differ from the powers that be, is the result of the policy of this Provincial Government. These people have been behind the bars for more than seven months without rhyme or reason. It is time that their cases are revised and if, as I have no doubt, the Government feels satisfied that there is no further reason to keep them any more in prison, they should be immediately set free. We feel that it was not necessary for the Government to put so many people behind the prison bars, and that is why we oppose this grant which asks for excess expenditure under the jails administration.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan** (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural), (Urdu): Sir, I rise to oppose this cut motion. My honourable friend has read out a letter from a relative of his in which, according to him, a "shocking picture" of the treatment accorded to the detenus has been given. In this letter reference has been made about the detenus of Mianwali jail, who are said to be undergoing mental and physical tortures. So far as the detenus in Mianwali jail are concerned, I say it boldly and with all the emphasis at my command that the allegation made in the said letter is incorrect and without any foundation. I have visited the jail as a non-official visitor and I saw my friends detained there. They were quite happy and were rather growing fat. As a matter of fact they were jumping like the mountain goats.

Now it is crystal clear from this that the contents of the letter are absolutely incorrect. It is really unbecoming on the part of my honourable friend to say that Government has done nothing to improve the condition of the detenus and so on and so forth. If my friends over there doubt the correctness of my statement, let them appoint a commission which should visit Mianwali jail and find out the truth.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: Did you visit Mianwali Jail in the capacity of a non-official visitor?

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan**: Yes.

**Sardar Santokh Singh**: May I ask a question? If what Captain Muzaffar Khan says is correct, may I know why the Honourable Premier feels shy of replying to the questions as to the weight of the prisoners?

[B. Santokh Singh]

He might please enlighten us as to what their health really is and not keep the information to himself leaving it for the people to draw all sorts of inferences from the silence of the Government.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan :** Sir, so far as reply to these questions is concerned, it is for the Honourable Premier to see whether he can supply any information to honourable members or not. But so far as I am concerned I have already submitted whatever I saw with my own eyes. If what I have stated is doubted, then I would request my honourable friend to visit the jail personally and satisfy himself.

**Premier (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat) :** The honourable the Leader of the Opposition said that I should give information in reply to questions. In reply to questions it has been said that if you want to get information particularly about any person for personal and private enlightenment that information can be ascertained and passed on. We do not want to give information which it is not in the public interest to give on the floor of the Assembly. You will remember that only the other day I answered a question about the health of some individuals, and I said that they were all in good health except those who were on parole about whose health we could not say anything with certainty.

**Shrimati Raghubir Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, Women), (Punjabi) :** Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma. Many of the honourable members have spoken in this connection and they have told us about the hardships that the political prisoners have to undergo in the prisons of our province. While giving his personal impressions of the conditions in our provincial jails which he visited, an honourable member from the other side of the House said that there were absolutely no hardships suffered by the political prisoners and that they were on the contrary growing fatter and putting on weight in the jails. I also want to say a few words in respect of the treatment meted out to our young men who have been thrown behind the bars for serving their Motherland. At the present moment, in spite of the fact that various nations are waging a war of extermination against each other, whenever soldiers of one nation fall into the hands of the other, they are treated with consideration and every care is taken for their health and comfort. It is not only their physical condition which is looked after, but their spiritual health is cared for as well. But here in the Punjab our nationalist young men who are in some cases graduates are treated like beasts. No case has been instituted against them despite the fact that courts are in existence, and it is meet and proper that their guilt should be proved and then they should be incarcerated, otherwise not. Here in the Punjab the Government has imprisoned some of our venerable old men and boys who have never made a speech in the whole of their lives. I do not think it behoves any Government, much less one which boasts of being a popular Government, to imprison innocent persons without even a semblance of a trial. The Punjab Government try to justify their claim of being a popular Government by explaining away this crop of wholesale and indiscriminate arrests as being in the interest of the public. May I ask if these venerable old men and youths that they have put in the jails do not belong to the public? Shrimati Puran Devi, for instance, has

been serving the country for many years now but she has never made any speech, still she has been jailed without any rhyme or reason. I have been in jail myself and I have been reading newspapers in which the arrests of Congressmen were reported but in no case was it mentioned that they had been arrested for delivering a speech in some meeting. They were invariably arrested while they were either going to see some of their relatives, as was done in the case of Ghulam Fatima, who is the only Muslim nationalist lady in the whole of the Punjab. She was proceeding to her home after seeing some of her relatives at Sangla when she was arrested in the train. Or else they were arrested while they were engaged in their ordinary avocations. Besides this the high-handedness exhibited in dealing with, or the treatment meted out to, the political prisoners in jails is such that no person with a feeling heart can remain unaffected by it. Young women are dragged and shut in the jail cells. They are given only a quarter seer of milk which is hardly ever rightly measured because I happen to know the size of the cup with which milk is measured. Again no charpoys are provided to these girls and they have to sleep on the floor. Here we are told that so much money is going to be spent in improving the conditions in the jails which in reality goes to pay the extra cost of police kept in such jails. In the Special Jail, Gujrat, where many sons of India have been detained, a very large police force is being maintained at the cost of jails. If that amount is spent on making improvements in the diet of these detenus it would have a good effect on their health. But how can we expect the Government to do this when we know they are bent upon crushing them? All sorts of atrocities are perpetrated against them in order to ruin their health. A person who spends five or six years in jail cannot be expected to come out with a sound mind and unimpaired health. This Government wants to crush the spirit of our nationalist young men by putting them in prisons.

We know what sort of vegetables are being supplied to the prisoners in jails. In summer pumpkin is given day in and day out. It was our impression that the Honourable Minister of Revenue, being a very sensible man, would do something for bringing about an improvement in the conditions prevailing in jails, but it is my personal experience that from 1930 onwards the jails have been turned into veritable torture houses. Here we are informed that our patriotic young men are growing fatter in jails. It is true that they feel happier, not because they are accorded better treatment, but because they realize that they are undergoing these hardships for the sake of their Motherland. They do not wince under the blows of the Government, as their hearts are full of zeal for the service of their country. This is what keeps them buoyant and in good health, otherwise there are no pedigree buffaloes kept for providing milk to them in jails. The unwholesome articles of diet like half cooked pulses and rotten carrots that they are given to eat cannot keep them healthy. It is the sense of duty for their country that helps to keep them physically fit. No one desires to be sent to jail leaving his loved ones pining behind. Chanan Singh's mother is suffering the pangs of her son's separation for the last nine years. The mother of Vasdev Singh longs to see her son's face again. It is only those who have children of their own that can feel how painful the separation from their loved children is. These worthy sons of India have been in prison for long and whenever a question is asked in the Assembly with

[Sh. Raghubir Kaur]

regard to them evasive replies are given to us. Sometimes they are called 'fifth columnists' and at other times some other bad name is given to them. If the Government considers them guilty of some crime, why does it not haul them up before a law court and get their guilt proved? Shrimati Shanno Devi is ill and Devi Satya Devi is suffering from tuberculosis, yet they are being kept behind the bars and are denied proper care and treatment. Does this kind of treatment towards its political opponents become a civilized Government? Again Comrade Ram Kishen and his wife are both in jail and their infant child was scalded with boiling water, but when their relatives applied for permission to see the baby it was refused. After great difficulty the child's grandmother was allowed to see her. Similarly Mrs. Autar Singh's two years' old daughter was seriously ill, but in spite of repeated representations permission has not so far been granted. Both Mr. and Mrs. Chhabil Das are in jail and there is no one to look after their children, but the Government has turned a deaf ear to all their requests on the children's behalf. Things of this nature do not become any Government. It should either try them in courts of law and prove their guilt or set them at liberty.

With these words I support the ent motion now before the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the item of Rs. 4,920 on account of Total Superintendence be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,05,990 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

*The motion was carried.*

#### EDUCATION

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,49,040 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education).

*The motion was carried.*

#### MEDICAL

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 96,930 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Medical.

*The motion was carried.*

#### AGRICULTURE

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,23,420 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Agriculture.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,23,420 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Agriculture.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyalpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : I want to oppose the demand. I would draw your attention to page 54 of the supplementary estimates. Item (2) is "investigation of the problem of 'New Bunt' a serious Mycological disease of wheat". The amount sanctioned for it is Rs. 2,930. From the remarks you will come to know that this disease, which appeared some fifteen years ago, has, off and on, been attacking the wheat crop and in certain areas it has seriously endangered production for which we are so keen now-a-days on account of War and the "grow more food" campaign. From the Note you will see that the Department of Agriculture has failed in finding out any remedy for this disease and it is stated that so far nothing is known how the attack takes place. Do you not feel that this is a serious problem which will affect the revenue and the welfare of the zamindars who grow wheat as a main crop for their consumption? The amount asked for is Rs. 2,930 only. I think this matter is being neglected by the Department and it must be taken to task for not having paid serious attention to find out the remedy thus saving the zamindars from this disease. The research is going to take place at Gurdaspur and Karnal and a meagre establishment is being allowed. People who may not be efficient for research are going to be appointed though under a senior person—the Professor of Botany. Serious attention should, therefore, be paid to this matter; otherwise we will find some day that our income from wheat will go down and it will become an unpopular crop which we cannot afford it to be. The Government should put in all their resources in trying to find out the best man throughout India or the world and get him here to do research and if research is carried on in all the districts, the disease might be within control sooner than otherwise.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,23,420 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Agriculture.

*The motion was carried.*

#### CIVIL WORKS

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 40,68,510 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Civil Works.

*The motion was carried.*

#### STATIONERY AND PRINTING

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,52,940 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

*The motion was carried.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 77,62,350 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

*The motion was carried.*

## ADVANCES REPAYABLE

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,85,450 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Advances Repayable.

*The motion was carried.*

## LOANS AND ADVANCES

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,95,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Loans to Municipalities and Advances to Cultivators, etc.

*The motion was carried.*

## IRRIGATION WORKS

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

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 1943, in respect of Construction of Irrigation Works.

*The motion was carried.*

## POLICE

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

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 1943, in respect of Police.

**Mr. Speaker :** The demand moved is—

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 1943, in respect of Police.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 11,150, on account of B- District Executive Force—(1) Reorganization of Amar Sidhu Police Station—Total Pay of of establishment, be reduced by Rs. 100.

Under this cut motion I want to criticise the working of the District Executive Force.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is the honourable member's motion in order?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I think it is.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's motion is to criticise the working of the District Executive Force. So, the motion is clearly out of order.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 27,660 on account of Total item No. 2—Creation of posts of Additional Superintendents for Rawalpindi and Amritsar Districts, etc., be reduced by Rs. 100,

to criticise the creation of the additional posts as unnecessary.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

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 1943, in respect of Police.

*The motion was carried.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

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 1943, in respect of Miscellaneous Departments.

*The motion was carried.*

#### VETERINARY

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

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 1943, in respect of Veterinary.

*The motion was carried.*

#### INDUSTRIES

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

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 1943, in respect of Industries.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved is—

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 1943, in respect of Industries.

*Control on Distribution of yarn.*

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural),  
(Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Some time ago Government issued an order to the effect that control would be imposed on the distribution of yarn. This order has adversely affected handloom weavers in our province. We all know that there are weavers in our villages who previous to the issuing of order used to get their supplies of yarn at their respective places which they turned into fabrics with a view to meet the local demands. Now the imposition of control over the distribution of yarn has created a harvest of difficulties in their way of getting their usual supply of yarn. My submission is that if the present exigency has necessitated the imposing of control over the



[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma]

distribution of yarn the Punjab Government should at least have devised such a scheme in order to ensure adequate supply of yarn to handloom weavers in the province. With these words I move my cut motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

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 1943, in respect of Industries.

*The motion was carried.*

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#### ELECTRICITY SCHEMES

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

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 1943, in respect of receipts from Electricity Schemes —*Deduct Working Expenses* (other than Establishment).

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

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 1943, in respect of Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account).

*The motion was carried.*

**Premier :** Sir, I am glad to say that the House has expeditiously dealt with the Demands placed before it ; Demands aggregating to about 2½ crores have been dealt with to-day, which, we had estimated, would take two days. As there will be no business on the agenda to-morrow, and under the rules no fresh business can be taken up, I would suggest that the House be now adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, the 11th March 1943.

*The Assembly accordingly adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 11th March 1943.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 11th March 1943

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the Clock.  
Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SARDAR TEHL SINGH KANG

**\*8475. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the date when Sardar Tehl Singh Kang, district Jullundur, was detained in Thana Nur Mahal in district Jullundur under the Defence of India Rules ;

(b) whether it is or it is not a fact that he is not allowed to come out of the cell in which he is confined even for the purpose of taking meals or for answering the call of nature ;

(c) whether he is suffering from piles ; and, if so, whether any arrangement has been made for providing him medical aid ;

(d) whether the Government has so far considered the question of releasing him or removing him to some jail ; if so, the result thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) 10th June 1942.

(b) No.

(c) *First part*—No. *Second part*—Does not arise.

(d) He is confined in the Central Jail, Montgomery.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Honourable Member sure that the information supplied by him with regard to part (b) of the question is correct ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My information is that the reply is correct.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Under what rule was he detained ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** There are two rules ; one is 129 and the other 126. Does my friend know that ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I claim to have studied law but as a member on behalf of Government I cannot give answers unless I am in possession of some information.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** For how many months was he kept under police lock-up ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for that.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was he beaten while under police custody ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of any such allegation.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was he medically examined ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I said that he is not suffering from piles.

— — — — —  
S. RAMA

**\*8476. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether S. Rama, political worker of Rawalpindi city, was arrested on Sunday, the 20th September, 1942, in Rawalpindi by Atma Singh, Sub-Inspector, Police, who was accompanied at that time by Raghu Nath Sharma (in charge Civic Guard) and taken to "D" Division of the City Police Station ;

(b) whether his mother Dropti Devi applied to Superintendent of Police, Rawalpindi, on 23rd September, 1942, for information as to where her son had been taken and where he had been detained ; if so, whether the Superintendent of Police supplied the necessary information, and if not, why not ;

(c) the place where S. Rama is now detained ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) S. Rama was never arrested but was taken to the Police Station for questioning in connection with a case under section 94/38 of the Defence of India Act.

(b) *First part*—Yes.

*Second part*—She was informed by the Superintendent of Police, Rawalpindi, that her son was not detained.

(c) Does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Where is he now ? Do the Government know that ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Has he disappeared from this earth ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** All I can say is that he was not detained.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** His mother went many times to ask about his whereabouts from the police but was not given any information.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that she was informed by the Superintendent of Police that her son was not detained.

SECURITY PRISONERS AND COMMUNIST PARTY

\*8477. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government has so far ascertained the number of anti-fascist security prisoners so far interned under orders of the Punjab Government in various jails of the Province, who owe allegiance to the Communist Party of India (recently legalised by the Government of India) and who believe that the present war is a people's war; if so, total number of such prisoners giving separately the number of such of them who have been released since 18th May, 1942;

(b) how many of such released prisoners have been interned in their villages or towns under Government orders; and why?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood)** : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Sir, may I point out to you that this Government is not willing to give us any information with regard to the persons who hold anti-fascist views although it professes to fight against the Fascists?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : The honourable member is aware that the Government has already released many communists about whom the Government was convinced that they were anti-fascists and could be depended upon. Surely, if some of them have not been released, it is not in the public interest to release them.

SECURITY PRISONERS

\*8492. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the security prisoners detained under the orders of the Government of India are sent to the Punjab for detention;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the Rules for the Security Prisoner in the Punjab, the security prisoners must be kept in a jail, but some of them are sent to the Lahore Fort and are detained there often for many months;

(c) why security prisoners are detained in the Lahore Fort and not sent to any regular jail;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Lahore Fort detention cells are not under the Jail Department and are wholly under the control of the C. I. D. Police, Punjab;

(e) why the Lahore Fort is not brought under the Jail Department;

(f) whether Government is aware of the feeling of the public against the detention and treatment of political workers in the Lahore Fort;

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(g) whether any jail visitor or magistrate is allowed to visit the detenus in the Lahore Fort, as is the case with the prisoners in other jails ; if not, why not ;

(h) whether any Minister has ever visited the detenus in the Lahore Fort ; if not, why not ;

(i) whether the Government has provided any safeguard against the ill-treatment by the police of the detenus confined in the Lahore Fort ;

(j) the names of the police and other officers in charge of the Lahore Fort during the last two years together with their experience in the jail Department ; if any ;

(k) under what law the police officer in charge of the Lahore Fort interrogated the detenus ;

(l) whether the police seek any permission from any judicial authority for the interrogation named in (k) ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Yes.

(b) The place of detention is that ordered in the order of detention. The Security Prisoners' Rules apply to those whose place of detention is a jail, but are followed as far as may be when prisoners are detained elsewhere.

(c) To facilitate police interrogations.

(d) Yes.

(e) It is not a jail and is used for other purposes besides the detention of prisoners.

(f) Government do not believe that responsible sections of the public entertain any objection to this procedure.

(g) *First part*,—No ; *Second part*—Interviews are allowed to prisoners in the Fort in accordance with the Security Prisoners Rules.

(h) No.

(i) Yes ; the detenus in the Lahore Fort are medically examined weekly by the Assistant to the Civil Surgeon, Lahore.

(j) Two police officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent and Inspector have been in charge of the C. I. D. cells in the Lahore Fort during the last two years ; the latter has had about 2 years' experience of the treatment of prisoners in jails ; it is not in the public interest to give names.

(k) The interrogation of detenus does not require the special sanction of law.

(l) *First part*—No ; *Second part*—No permission is necessary as detenus are arrested and detained under orders of Government and not under warrants issued by any judicial authority.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : How many places are there besides jails where security prisoners are detained ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I require notice for that.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** With reference to the reply to part (k) of the question, may I know what is the difficulty in the way of the police in carrying out their investigations outside the Fort? Why should they choose this particular place for this purpose?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not here to reply to the objections that my honourable friend may have in regard to any particular place of investigation so long as the treatment meted out to the prisoners there is in accordance with the rules.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is investigation carried out under the Defence of India Rules or the Criminal Procedure Code?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Both.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Does my honourable friend know what the word *investigation* means?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I will not enter into the intricacies of legal definitions here. If my honourable friend is desirous of discussing this question I would be delighted to do so privately for his academic enlightenment.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Investigation means the method to find out the truth.

**Premier :** The honourable member is expressing his legal opinion and giving information. Surely he is not asking a question.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The Parliamentary Secretary was evading answering the question. Therefore I drew his attention to the word "investigation" as defined in the Criminal Procedure Code.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Government aware that these people are put in the Lahore Fort simply in order to be subjected to inhuman treatment?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I strongly deprecate that insinuation. No person who is under detention or in charge of or under the supervision of the Punjab Government is in any way subjected to inhuman treatment.

#### ARMS LICENCES

**\*8496. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of licences of arms, community-wise, cancelled by the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal since he took charge of the district, showing the number of such licences, community-wise, as have so far been restored and the reasons for the cancellation of these licences?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** As the question savours of communalism, I have decided to treat it as unstarred. A written reply will be sent to the honourable member when the information has been collected.

## FORWARD BLOC

**\*8514. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) what unlawful activities were committed in the Punjab by the members of the organization known as "Forward Bloc" and how many of them were convicted of subversive activities by the Punjab courts prior to its declaration as an unlawful body ;

(b) how many meetings were held by the said Forward Bloc in the Punjab a year prior to its declaration as an unlawful body ;

(c) whether any prosecutions were ordered on the basis of those meetings by the Punjab Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Action against the Forward Bloc was taken by the Government of India on an all-India basis and attention is invited to notification No. 16/1/42-Political (1) issued on the 20th of June 1942 by the Home Department of the Government of India. It will, therefore, serve no useful purpose to attempt to collect the information asked for.

## MR. DWIJEN BOSE

**\*8515. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government has recently received any application containing certain complaints from Mr. Dwijen Bose, a nephew of Shriyut Sarat Chander Bose of Bengal, who is detained at present in the Lahore Fort ;

(b) whether he would be pleased to lay that application on the table for the information of the House ;

(c) what action the Government has taken on the aforesaid application ;

(d) whether it is a fact that during his detention in the Lahore Fort, Mr. Bose was not allowed the facilities of interview, correspondence, exercise, association, food and fan, etc., permitted under the Rules for Security Prisoners in the Punjab ;

(e) why the facilities mentioned in (d) were not allowed to the said Mr. Bose ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** This prisoner is detained under the orders of the Central Government, to whom all questions about him must be addressed.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Have any complaints been received by this Government with regard to his maltreatment ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the answer already given.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** That is no answer.

**Premier :** It is a very good answer. Questions on the subject have been asked and answered in the Central Assembly. We are not concerned with them.

## SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

**\*8517. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar was allowed during the first nine months of his detention to correspond with his people on business affairs but now he has been stopped from doing so ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Sardul Singh Caveeshar is detained under the orders of the Government of India, and questions about him cannot be raised on the floor of this House but should be addressed to the Central Government.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I know whether this gentleman is under the jurisdiction of the Punjab Government or of the Central Government with regard to correspondence ?

**Premier :** If the honourable member had followed the reply he would have known that this gentleman has been detained under the orders of the Central Government. All questions therefore including the question asked by my honourable friend should be asked in the Central Assembly.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is Sardar Sardul Singh being detained in a jail which is under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, as agents of the Central Government.

**Premier :** I have already said that the proper place for asking the questions is the Central Assembly. The honourable member must have noticed in the papers that quite a number of such questions have been asked and answered in the Central Assembly. The Government of India ask us and we supply them the information.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Does it mean that this Government is not responsible for the misdeeds of its officials ?

**Premier :** There have been no misdeeds.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Do I understand that a reply to this question is not being given in anticipation of an answer that might be given in the Central Assembly ? I also want to know whether Sardar Sardul Singh's correspondence has been stopped directly under the instructions of the Government of India or the Punjab Government.

**Premier :** It is not possible for us to enlighten you further on the subject.

## CONGRESS SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8528. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to give in the form of a statement the following information in relation to the Congress security prisoners named Pandit Mange Ram 'Vatas' of Rohtak, Thakur Hazara Singh of Kangra, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., Dewan Chaman Lal, M.L.A., Chaudhri Krishan Gopal Dutt, M.L.A. :—

- (a) weight of each of them at the time of admission ;
- (b) the present weight of each of them ;



[S. Hari Singh.]

(c) present state of health of each one of them ;

(d) the name of the jail in which each one of them is detained ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8529. Sardar Hari Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and the names of security prisoners (detained in New Sub-Jail, Gujrat), who have applied to the Punjab Government for release on parole since February, 1942 ;

(b) grounds on which permission for release on parole was sought in each case ;

(c) the cases in which permission was refused and the reasons for refusal in each case ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : The value of the information required will be incommensurate with the labour involved in collecting it. However, if the honourable member wishes for information about a particular case, enquiries will be made.

#### POLICE FORCE FOR NEW SUB-JAIL, GUJRAT

**\*8530. Sardar Hari Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the strength of police force posted at New Sub-Jail, Gujrat ;

(b) the amount of annual expenditure incurred on the said force ;

(c) reasons why it has been considered necessary to employ such a force specially for the Gujrat Jail and that too only since the last year ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### ARREST OF WOMEN STUDENTS

**\*8540. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether a number of women students were arrested on the 9th December, 1942, from Nila Gumbad Chank, Lahore ; if so, whether they were tried in a court of law and convicted ; and, if so, whether it is fact that the publication of this news with regard to their arrest was not permitted by the Special Press Adviser of the Punjab Government, and if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : *Part I*—  
Yes.

*Part II*—Yes, five of the girl students who refused to apologise were tried by a court of law, convicted and sentenced.

*Part III*—Yes, as the publication of the news was considered likely, directly or indirectly, to promote or assist the momentum of the present Congress movement.

**MOHALLA COMMITTEES TO COMBAT SHORTAGE OF FOOD-STUFFS**

\*8491. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state why Mohalla Committees or Food Front Committees as suggested by the Communist Party have not been established in Lahore to combat the shortage of food-stuffs and why the control in this matter has been given to the A. R. P. officers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : There are no Mohalla or Food Committees effectively working in Lahore. The Honorary Air Raid Precautions Officers have been entrusted with the work of distribution as they were considered the most suitable channel through which to put through work with the least delay and are considered reliable and subject to effective control by the district authorities.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : May I know whether the prices of food-stuffs have been increased ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : It does not arise out of this question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : My question was why Government did not adopt the very good suggestions made by the Communist Party in regard to the shortage of food. That part of the question remains unanswered.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Complete black-out. No answer.

**SUGAR STOCK**

\*8541. **Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** : Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the amount of sugar stock allowed to be imported in Lahore for public consumption each month from April 1942 to 15th January 1943 and also the manner in which this stock was arranged to be disposed of ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) The following supplies of sugar were made to Lahore :—

					Bags
April 1942	..	..	..	..	6,115
May 1942	..	..	..	..	1,956
June 1942	..	..	..	..	7,539
July 1942	..	..	..	..	16,157
August 1942	..	..	..	..	7,019
September 1942	..	..	..	..	5,611
October 1942	..	..	..	..	6,644
November 1942	..	..	..	..	9,551
December 1942	..	..	..	..	8,139
January 1943	..	..	..	..	10,691

[Ch. Tikka Ram.]

(b) Sugar was distributed by dealers except during September-October 1942 when the district authorities took distribution into their own hands as there was acute shortage.

**\*8493.** *Cancelled.*

#### LAND ACQUISITION BY IMPROVEMENT TRUST, LAHORE

**\*8494. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Improvement Trust, Lahore, served the poor agriculturists of Fatehgarh, Salamatpura, Kot Pir Abdur Rahman, Mohammadpura, Baghbanpura, Nabipura and Maskinpura, etc., with a notice, dated 30th October, 1942, to acquire their houses and landed property for the construction of certain factories in that area ;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the representations of the residents of these villages recently submitted to the authorities concerned against this acquisition ;

(c) the action that Government intends to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** (a) Yes. The scheme is for industrial development generally.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is at present at a very preliminary stage. Government will consider the villagers' objections when a formal scheme is submitted by the Trust.

#### RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8478. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons interned in their villages or towns under Government orders have recently written to the Government saying that they want to mobilise the people in defence of their Motherland against fascist aggression and, therefore, restrictions imposed on them be removed ;

(b) the number of such persons ;

(c) the decision Government has taken on their representation ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Yes.

(b) The exact number is not readily available. If the honourable member wishes to have information about any particular case, the facts will be ascertained.

(c) Cases of restrictees are periodically reviewed, and all the circumstances pertaining to them taken into consideration ; restriction orders are cancelled where such action is considered suitable.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** When were the cases of these prisoners last reviewed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that they are periodically reviewed. That is a continuing process. They continue to be reviewed from time to time.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the date on which they were last reviewed by the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not carry the date with me.

#### CHANAN SINGH AND WASUDEV SINGH

**\*8479. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) for how long the state prisoners Chanan Singh and Wasudev Singh have been detained ;

(b) whether they were detained originally because they were believed to be Communists who had been to the Soviet Russia ;

(c) whether Government has ascertained their views in regard to the present War ;

(d) on what ground Government continues to detain them ;

(e) when was their case reviewed last ;

(f) for how long more the Government intends to continue to detain them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the Honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether it is a fact that these persons have been detained for ten long years and nothing has been done so far in their case ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** When was their case last reviewed ?

**Premier :** May I state for the information of the honourable member that the matter is even now under the active consideration of the Government ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How long will it remain under the active consideration of the Government ?

**Premier :** I cannot fix any date.

#### COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CASES OF SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8480. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) when was the Committee meant to review the cases of security prisoners detained under Defence of India Rules appointed ;

(b) the number of security prisoners whose cases are under review by the said Committee ;

[S. Sohan Singh Josh.]

(c) the number of cases of such prisoners that have been reviewed so far ;

(d) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee ;

(e) whether any of the recommendations made by that Committee have been turned down ;

(f) the number of cases of these prisoners in which the Committee has recommended continuance of detention ;

(g) how long the Committee will take to review the cases yet pending before it ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) The Committee started its sittings in April, 1942.

(b) The Committee is not sitting at present.

(c) to (f) Of the persons whose cases came under the review of the Committee, 54 have been released. It is not in the public interest to give the other details asked for by the honourable member in these parts of the question.

(g) In view of answer to (b) does not arise.

#### INTERVIEW WITH SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

**\*8519. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Pandit Ram Roop Sharma, Director incharge of the People's Insurance Company, Ltd., and the New Hindustan Bank, Ltd., Lahore, applied for an interview with Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, a security prisoner in the Campbellpur Jail, in the middle of January 1943, and that his application has been rejected ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : Sardul Singh Caveeshar is detained under the orders of the Government of India, and questions about him cannot be raised on the floor of this House but should be addressed to the Central Government.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : May I enquire whether the interviews to the security prisoners detained in jails under the orders of the Government of India are allowed by this Government or by the Central Government ?

**Premier** : That question does not arise.

#### INTERVIEW WITH SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

**\*8520. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Security Prisoners Rules, Punjab, it is the duty of the Government to prepare a list of those who could not be allowed to interview Government of India's detenus under section 26 of the Defence of India Rules;

(b) whether it is a fact that though Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar has been detained under Government of India's order since 9th March 1942, yet no such list has yet been prepared ; if so, why has not such a list been prepared so far ;

(c) whether it is a fact that though Sardar Sahib's children and relatives who formerly had been allowed to interview him many times, were not allowed permission to do so on the 22nd January 1943, though application for interview was submitted to the Government ;

(d) whether it is a fact that under the Rules it is the duty of the Government to dispose of such applications within a week, why so much time was taken in dealing with the application in this particular case specially when the person who applied for interview had already been allowed to do so many times before ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Government has received any representation recently from Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar to transfer him to such a jurisdiction where his interviews and correspondence may not be under the direct control of an officer against whom Sardar Sahib has asked permission to sue the officer in the court of law ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Sardul Singh Caveeshar is detained under the orders of the Government of India, and questions about him cannot be raised on the floor of this House but should be addressed to the Central Government.

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**SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR**

**\*8521. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar has recently made a representation to His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab regarding treatment meted out to him during his detention in Lahore Fort from March to September 1942 ;

(b) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, the action taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Sardul Singh Caveeshar is detained under the orders of the Government of India, and questions about him cannot be raised on the floor of this House, but should be addressed to the Central Government.

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**SUPPLY OF NEWSPAPERS TO SECURITY PRISONERS IN GUJRAT JAIL**

**\*8531. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state —

(a) the period for which the newspapers entitled "Peoples War", "Qaumi-Jang" and "Jangi Azadi" continued to be supplied to the security prisoners in Gujrat Jail with the reasons for granting permission for the supply of these newspapers to them ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the supply of these newspapers to the security prisoners has now been discontinued ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SECURITY DEMANDED FROM JANGI AZADI

**\*8532. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state reasons for which security of Rs. 8,000 each was some time ago demanded from the weekly newspapers "Jangi Azadi" Urdu and Punjabi, Lahore ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : Securities of Rs. 1,000 each were demanded by the Punjab Government from the publishers of the Urdu and Gurmukhi editions of the *Jang-i-Azadi* (Lahore) as the issues dated the 26th October, 1942, contained words of the nature described in clauses (b), (bb) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, XXIII of 1931, read with section 16 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, XXIII of 1932 and subsection (3) of section 6 of the Defence of India Act, 1939. It is understood that an appeal has been lodged which is *sub-judice*.

#### BABA RUR SINGH

**\*8533. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) for how long has Baba Rur Singh, M.L.A., been under detention as a security prisoner ;

(b) whether Government has ascertained his views regarding the defence of the country against the threat of Fascist invasion ;

(c) whether his case has been reviewed by the Government ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Two years and 8 months.

(b) No, but an opportunity was given to him in February 1942 to show cause why he should not continue to be detained ;

(c) Yes ; it was decided to continue his detention.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** When was his case brought to the notice of the Committee mentioned earlier ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Last autumn.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the exact date ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid I do not carry the date with me.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was any opportunity given to the prisoner to prove his innocence and to prove that the suspicions against him were unfounded and baseless ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the answer already given. The Committee was appointed to go into the intricate and delicate case of security prisoners. It went into their cases and made their recommendations, as a result of which 54 prisoners have so far been released.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Does the answer imply that an opportunity was given to him to show cause why he should not be detained further and to produce evidence to show that the suspicions against him were unfounded and baseless ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I enquire whether an opportunity was given to him and whether he availed himself of that opportunity to write or say anything ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** In the interests of the prisoner himself, I do not wish to add anything to what I have already stated.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether he wrote that he held anti-fascist views and that he wanted to serve his Motherland ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What sort of facilities were afforded to him to show cause why he should not be detained any further ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The same facilities as were afforded to the 54 prisoners who were released.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are those facilities ? Will the honourable Parliamentary Secretary kindly state them or name one of them ?

SALE OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS OF *bona fide* AGRICULTURISTS IN  
AMBALA DIVISION

**\*8497. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total area of agricultural land owned by *bona fide* agriculturists sold for recoveries of arrears of land revenue and taccavi, in each district of the Ambala Division, excepting Simla in the years 1940-41, 1941-42 up-to-date ;

(b) the total area of agricultural land owned by the land-holders of the Ambala Division, excepting Simla, in execution of money decrees in 1940-41 and 1941-42, supplying this information for each district separately ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** Information is being collected and when received will be communicated to the honourable member.

DISPUTE BETWEEN PUNJAB AND SIND GOVERNMENTS REGARDING  
DISTRIBUTION OF WATER OF RIVER INDUS

**\*8498. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the dispute between the Punjab and Sind Governments regarding the distribution of the water of the river Indus has been settled ;



[K. S. Rh. Ghulam Samad]

if so, with what result and whether he would be pleased to place on the table of the House the papers containing the settlement arrived at by the two Provinces ;

(b) when the construction of the Bhakra Dam is likely to begin ;

(c) whether the Commission appointed by the Governor-General in this connection has completed its enquiry and made its report and whether the Governor-General has passed any orders on that report ; if so, whether the Government is in a position to lay these orders on the table of the House ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Not yet.

(b) The construction of the Bhakra Dam cannot start till the dispute with Sind Government is decided and the War is over, as the machinery and material required for construction work cannot be obtained during the War.

(c) The Commission appointed by the Governor-General has completed its inquiry and made its report. The Report is to be referred to His Majesty in Council who will then pass orders.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** : Is not this answer given by the late Parliamentary Secretary (*Laughter*)—an obsolete answer after the budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : The answer to part (a) of the question says that the dispute has not yet been settled, while the Honourable Finance Minister in his budget speech the other day said that the dispute was settled. May I know who is right ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Both are right. (*Laughter*).

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Both cannot be right. One of them must be wrong.

#### PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

\*8499. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government has set up any convention that a legal practitioner should not be appointed a Public Prosecutor in the District to which he belongs ;

(b) whether there are any instances in which the Government has departed from this policy ; if so, what are those instances ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal** : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** The Honourable Minister has replied part (a) of my question in the negative. I want to know whether it is in the public interest or not to appoint a person belonging to the same district as a Public Prosecutor in the same district.

**Minister of Finance :** In fact the opinion has been very strongly held that it might be advisable on the whole to appoint persons in their own districts, but the opinion has not always prevailed among others for practical considerations.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Supposing a person is appointed in his own district and complaints are received by the Government against his conduct, will it be in the public interest to keep him in the same district for a further period ?

**Minister :** This is a very hypothetical question.

#### MEANING OF "PERSONAL USE" IN THE ANSWERS TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Sir, I would like to ask for a clarification of the answer that has been given to certain questions. The Government has said that it is not in the public interest to answer certain questions, but that the Government is prepared to give information for the personal use of the members. What is meant by the term "personal use" ? I believe that such information is not meant for personal use, but is meant for official use.

**Premier :** Questions relating to detenus or security prisoners have usually been answered in that way. That has been the convention. We are not answering questions regarding civil disobedience prisoners. If the honourable member is particularly interested in somebody, he can come along and we will give him the information. It has long been the convention that such questions should not be answered on the floor of this House.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Can the information thus obtained be used officially in the Budget speech or on some other occasion in the House ?

**Premier :** That will depend on the nature of the question and the reply:

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### ADMISSION OF STUDENTS FROM AMBALA DIVISION INTO VETERINARY COLLEGE

**1605. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of students coming from the Ambala Division admitted into the Veterinary College, Lahore, in 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942, respectively ;

(b) if there has been a gradual fall in the admissions referred to in (a) above, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh : (a)—**

Year	Total number of students admitted into the Veterinary College, Lahore, from Punjab	Number of students belonging to the Ambala division admitted to the Punjab Veterinary College	Percentage
1939 ..	60	13	21.6
1940 ..	36	9	25.0
1941 ..	30	4	13.3
1942 ..	31	2	6.4

(b) In 1941 there were five applicants from Ambala division out of whom only four came for interview and all were admitted. In 1942 there were six applicants from that division out of whom two came for interview and both were admitted.

**PEASANT GRANTS IN NILI BAR AND GANJI BAR COLONIES**

**1606. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the total area distributed under the heads of the peasant grants in the Nili Bar and Ganji Bar Colonies ;

(b) the number of squares or rectangles given as peasant grants to the peasants coming from the Ambala, Karnal, Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon districts, respectively under the above-mentioned heads ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :**

(a) *Nili Bar Colony*—149,875 acres.

*Ganji Bar*—An area of 70,000 acres was reserved for peasant grants without horse breeding conditions.

(b) *Nili Bar Colony*—

	Rectangles
Ambala district .. .. .	15
Karnal district .. .. .	50

Since the grants were reserved for congested districts and sufferers from water-logging, diluvion, nala or cho action, allotments were not made to the other districts.

*Ganji Bar*—None. Allotment was made to grantees of the Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts.

## SPECIAL JAGIRS

**1607. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number and value of special jagirs granted since they were first instituted in 1919, up to date ;

(b) the number and value of the jagirs referred to in (a) above which have been granted to Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, respectively, in each of the five districts of the Ambala Division ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Three hundred and eighty-nine special jagirs of the aggregate value of Rs. 1,24,650 have been granted since the scheme of granting these jagirs was inaugurated in 1917, up to date.

(b) A list of recipients of jagirs in the Ambala division is attached. Government is not in a position to say how many of the non-Muslim gentlemen named in it are Sikhs and Hindus.

*Statement showing special jagirs granted in Ambala division*

Year of grant	Name of grantee	Amount of jagir
		Rs.
1917-18 ..	1. The Honourable Chaudhri Lal Chand of Rohtak	750
	2. Rao Bahadur Balbir Singh, Ahir, of Rampura, Gurgaon district.	750
	3. Chaudhri Ranpat Singh, Rajput, of Changwala, Hissar district	500
1918-19 ..	4. Rai Sahib Ram Gopal of Sirsa, Hissar district	500
	5. Chaudhri Ram Gopal, Ahir, of Kutabpur, Gurgaon district	250
	6. Chaudhri Boga, Bishnoi, of Fatehabad, Hissar district.	250
	7. Chaudhri Saif Khan, Musalman Rajput of Kalanaur, Rohtak district.	250
1919-20 ..	8. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram, Ambala ..	250
	9. Honorary Risaldar Pandit Dewat Ram, Gaur Brahman, of Baroda, Rohtak district.	250
1920-21 ..	10. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fateh Muhammad Khan of Kalnaur, Rohtak district	250
	11. Chaudhri Jagram of Sisai, Hissar district ..	250
	12. Lala Sheo Prashad, Sohna, Gurgaon district..	250

Year of grant	Name of grantee	Amount of jagir
		Rs.
1921-22	13. Mir Aman Ali of Sonapat .. ..	500
	14. Qazi Qutab-ud-Din of Kaithal, Karnal district.	250
	15. Seth Sri Chand, Khatri of Kaithal ..	250
	16. Chaudhri Farzand Ali, M.B.E. of Sohna, Gurgaon district.	250
1923-24	17. Chaudhri Elagvant Singh, of Meola Maharaipur, Gurgaon district	500
1924-25	18. Chaudhri Badam Singh of village Sili, Gurgaon district.	500
1926-27	19. Chaudhri Thani Ram, Jat, of village Jharil, Rohtak district.	500
	20. Honorary Captain Prem Singh, of Shahpur, Ambala district.	500
1927-28	21. Chaudhri Nasib Fiser, Rajput, of Cumthala Garhu, Karnal district.	500
	22. Rao Pohop Singh, Ahir, of village Garsora, Gurgaon district.	500
1928-29	23. Chaudhri Mahtab Khan, Meo, of Eichhore, Gurgaon district.	500
	24. Pandit Shri Datta, Caur Brahman, of village Tigrana, Hissar district.	500
1929-30	25. Khan Sahib Fuleman Khan, Rajput, of Sakta Khara, Hissar district.	500
	26. Subedar Shamthu Singh, Rajput of Bahora Kalan, Gurgaon district.	500
1930-31	27. Khan Sahib Mazharul Hasan of Sonapat, Rohtak district.	250
	28. Rao Farzand Ali Khan, Rajput, of village Bhurewal, Ambala district.	250
	29. Chaudhri Kanwar Khan, Meo, of village Bandhauri, Gurgaon district.	250
	30. Honorary Lieutenant Jia Ram Bahadar, Ahir, of village Lakhsaula, Gurgaon district.	250

Year of grant	Name of grantee	Amount of jagir
		Rs.
1931-32	31. Major Dost Muhammad Khan, Bahadur, Rajput, of Kalanaur, Rohtak district.	250
	32. Sardar Bahadur Honorary Captain Dalpat Singh, Jat, of Dighal, Rohtak district.	250
	33. Sardar Gurdial Singh, of Labhkari, Karnal district.	250
	34. Mian Mohammad Yusuf, Arain, of Ambala ..	250
1932-33	35. Khan Mehr Mohammad Khan of Tohana, Hissar district.	250
	36. Sayyad Hamid Ali of Ambala City ..	250
	37. Chaudhri Bhoop Singh, Ahir, of Badshahpur, Gurgaon district.	250
1933-34	38. Lala Lachhman Das, Pleader of Jagadhri, Ambala district.	250
	39. Chauthri Hatti Singh, Hindu Jat, of Singhpur Rohtak district.	250
	40. Chaudhri Ali Muhammad, Rajput, of Parkhotampur, Gurgaon district.	250
	41. Lala Maharaj Kishan, Mahajan Jain, of Hansi, Hissar district.	250
1934-35	42. Khan Sahib Jama'at Sayyad Jarrar Hussain, of Pundri, Karnal district.	250
	43. Chaudhri Lehri Singh, Jat, of village Gudah, Rohtak district.	250
	44. Chaudhri Madho Singh, Rajput, of Bhondsi, Gurgaon district.	250
	45. Mr. Baij Nath Budhwar, Bar.-at-law, Hissar..	250
1935-36	46. Chaudhri Bishan Singh, Jat, of Mittha Thal, Hissar district.	250
	47. Rao Bahadur Subedar Major Chaudhri Kehri Singh, Jat, of village Dighal, Rohtak district.	250
	48. Maulvi Fazal Qadeer, Sheikh of Kaithal, Karnal district.	250
	49. Sardar Sarwan Singh, Jat Sikh, of Singhpur, Ambala district.	250

Year of grant	Name of grantee	Amount of jagir
		Rs
1936-37	50. Subedar-Major Ram Lal Singh, Rajput, of Bhondsi, Gurgaon district.	250
	51. Sardar Sobha Singh, Jat Sikh, of village Sihon Majra, Ambala district.	250
	52. Chaudhri Tek Chand, Hindu Jat, of village Asan, Rohtak district.	250
	53. Pandit Dewat Ram, Aryan Brahman Gour, of village Narnaud, Hissar district.	250
1937-38	54. Chaudhri Sohan Singh, Ahluwalia Sikh, Ambala City.	250
	55. Rao Sahib Chaudhri Nawal Singh, Hindu Jat, of Rohtak.	250
	56. Chaudhri Abdul Hamid, Arain, of Dab Kheri, Karnal district.	250
	57. Chaudhri Sharf-ud-din, Jat, of village Durjanpur, Hissar district.	250
1948	58. Honorary Lieutenant Thakur Sukhpal Singh, I.D.S.M., Hindu Rajput, of village Bapora, Hissar district.	250
	59. Risaldar Fateh Muhammad Khan, Rajput (Chohan), of village Bhurtana, Hissar district.	250
	60. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Ghazi Ram, Jat, of village Ahulana, Rohtak district.	250
	61. Chaudhri Harke Ram, Jat, of village Singhpura, Rohtak district.	250
	62. Chaudhri Jan Muhammad Khan, Rajput, Rohtak.	250
	63. Chaudhri Sohan Lal, Jat, of village Jatsuli, Gurgaon district.	250
	64. Chaudhri Kale Khan, Meo, of village Biehhor, Gurgaon district.	250
	65. Chaudhri Mohar Singh, Ahir, of village Sidhraoli, Gurgaon district.	250
	66. Chaudhri Lehna Singh, Hindu Jat, of village Landhi, Karnal district.	250
	67. Chaudhri Naurang Singh, Ror, of village Ahar, Karnal district.	250
	68. Sardar Hazara Singh, Jat Sikh of village Landran, Ambala district.	250
	69. Chaudhri Ali Hassan, Arain, of village Mallana, Ambala district.	250
	Total value ..	21,500

TAHSILDARS, NAIB-TAHSILDARS AND KANUNGOS OF AMBALA DIVISION IN  
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

**1608. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the proportion of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs in the population of the Ambala Division ;

(b) the number and percentage of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars and Girdawar Kanungos, belonging to the Ambala Division and serving in the Revenue Department, Punjab ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram:** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG CLERKS IN DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES

**1609. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the proportion of the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs in the population of the Ambala Division ;

(b) the number and percentage of the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh clerks in each of the Commissioners' offices of Ambala, Jullundur, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan, and in each of the Deputy Commissioner's offices in the Punjab ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram:** (a) and (b) The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the information given in the "Census of India, 1941" and the annual consolidated statements showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government as it stood on the 1st January 1942.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG DEPUTY COLLECTORS AND ZILLADARS

**1610. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the proportion of the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs in the population of the Ambala Division and the number and percentage of the Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs of the Ambala Division serving as Deputy Collectors and Zilladars in the province ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram:** The information is given as follows :—

	Grand Total	MUSLIMS		HINDUS		SIKHS	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Population	4,695,462	1,318,136	28.1	2,090,483*	60.0	240,296	5.1
Deputy Collectors	2	1	50.0	..	..	1	50.0
Zilladars	21	5	23.8	12	57.1	4	19.1

\* N. B.—This figure includes 647,609 Scheduled Castes other than Ad-Dharmis.



## COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG PATWARIS

**1611. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of patwaris recruited to the Irrigation Branch since the 1st April 1937 to the end of 1940 ;

(b) the number and percentage of the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs among the patwaris referred to in (a) above ;

(c) the number of Hindu Jats among the patwaris referred to in (a) above ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) 657.

(b) The number and percentages are as below—

Year	Muslims	Hindus and Others	Sikhs
1937 ..	64	48	24
1938 ..	56	53	23
1939 and 1940 ..	185	130	74
Total ..	305	231	121
Percentage ..	46.4%	35.2%	18.4%

(c) Only one Hindu Jat was recruited during the years 1939 and 1940. No such information is available for the years 1937 and 1938, and its collection will be incommensurate with the labour involved.

## SETTLEMENTS

**1612. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the average percentage of the assets taken in land revenue at the last settlement in each of the districts of the Punjab ;

(b) the average percentage of net assets taken in each of the tehsils of the districts of Lahore, Amritsar, Jhelum and Gurgaon at the time of their latest settlements ;

(c) the percentage decrease or increase as compared with preceding settlements in each of the tehsils of Lahore, Amritsar, Jhelum and Gurgaon districts at their latest settlements ;

(d) the aggregate increase or decrease in each of the tehsils of Lahore, Amritsar, Jhelum and Gurgaon districts at the time of their latest settlements as compared with the preceding settlements ;

(e) the total arrears of land revenue remitted in each of the tehsils of Lahore, Amritsar, Jhelum and Gurgaon districts at their latest settlements ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** Two statements giving the information are laid on the table :—

Division	District	Percentage of net assets taken at the last settlement
Ambala ..	Hissar .. ..	28·5
	Rohtak .. ..	35
	Gurgaon (1906—10) ..	39·5
	Karnal .. ..	39·5
	Ambala .. ..	25
	Simla .. ..	26
Jullundur ..	Kangra .. ..	27
	Hoshiarpur .. ..	25·5
	Jullundur .. ..	21·5
	Ludhiana .. ..	26·5
	Ferozepore .. ..	20
Lahore ..	Lahore (1912—16) ..	22
	Amritsar (1910—14) ..	25·5
	Gurdaspur .. ..	34
	Sialkot .. ..	31·5
	Gujranwala .. ..	23
	Sheikhpura .. ..	20·75
Rawalpindi ..	Gujrat .. ..	{ 25 (Non-nahri 1912—16) 23·5 (Nahri area 1925—28)
	Shahpur .. ..	{ 23 (Non-colony portion) 25 (Colony portion)
	Jhelum (1895—1901) ..	33·5
	Rawalpindi .. ..	31
	Attock .. ..	22·75
	Mianwali .. ..	20·5

Division	District	Percentage of net assets taken at the last settlement
Multan	Montgomery ..	{ 31 (Pakpattan and Depalpur tahsils 1919—1923)
	Lyallpur ..	{ 24.25 (Okara and Montgomery tahsils, 1927—35)
	Jhang ..	24.9
	Multan ..	21.75
	Muzaffargarh ..	{ 36.5 (Main district, 1917—21)
	Dera Ghazi Khan ..	{ 22.75 (Khanewal tahsil, 1927—35)
		36.5
		27

District	Tahsil	Percentage of net assets absorbed by the latest sanctioned demand	INCREASE OR DECREASE ON THE PREVIOUS DEMAND		Arrears remitted
			Amount	Percentage	
Amritsar (excluding Urban areas).	Amritsar ..	15.3	Rs. +69,418	+11.1	Rs. ..
	Tarn Taran ..	14	+1,15,393	+21	..
	Ajnala ..	15.1	+44,093	+12.4	..
Lahore (excluding Urban areas)	Lahore ..	15	+1,02,678	+27	..
	Chunian ..	16	+1,37,776	+24	..
	Kasur ..	14	+1,15,860	+24	..
Jhelum ..	Jhelum ..	24	+12,072	+5.2	470
	Chakwal ..	21.7	+43,975	+15.6	28,946
	Pind Dadan Khan	23.3	+8,137	+3.5	28,769
Gurgaon ..	Rewari ..	24	-1,13,768	-41	7,00,285
	Nuh ..	23	-72,439	-26.3	4,14,301
	Ferozpur-Jhirka	22	-78,140	-31	3,67,411
	Gurgaon ..	23.8	-69,755	-31	3,59,753
	Ballabgarh ..	{ The new assessment has not been announced as yet.			
	Palwal ..				

The sliding scale applies in the Lahore district and will apply in the Amritsar district when the new assessment takes effect there. In Gurgaon and Jhelum, this system does not apply.

## RECEIPTS REALISED IN THE FORM OF LAND REVENUE

**1613. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state in respect of 1941 —

- (a) the total receipts realised in the form of land revenue in the Province inclusive of the amount credited to irrigation ;
- (b) the total amount of land revenue assigned in jagir and not shown in the budget as receipts in respect of the whole province ;
- (c) the total amount of local rate due on (a) and (b) above ;
- (d) the total amount of village officials' cess due on (a) and (b) above ;
- (e) the total amount of chowkidara dues ;
- (f) the total receipts of irrigation minus indirect receipts.

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** Figures for the calendar year 1941 are not readily available. The information available is as follows :—

(a) Rs. 4,68,31,295 for the financial year 1941-42.

(b) Rs. 86,26,874 for the year ending Rabi 1941.

(c) Rs. 62,44,771.

(d) The information cannot be supplied as the time and labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained. The honourable member can get a rough idea of the amount by taking 5 per cent of the revenue as lambardar's pachotra. The amount recovered for Ala Lambardars is now very small.

(e) The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

	Rs.
(f) Productive works .. .. .	4,66,18,027
Unproductive works .. .. .	6,77,178
Total ..	<u>4,72,90,205</u>

## WHEAT AND COTTON

**1614. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state —

(a) the cost of production per acre of wheat and cotton respectively in the districts of Jullundur, Gurdaspur and Lyallpur as ascertained by a special inquiry recently instituted by the Government of India ;

(b) the price at which wheat was sold at the time of the harvest at Lyallpur in the years 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940, respectively ;

(c) the maximum control price of wheat fixed for Lyallpur during the years 1939 and 1940 ;

(d) the average price of wheat at Lyallpur during the period from 1919 to 1929 ;

[R. S. Ch. Suraj Mal.]

(e) whether he is aware that the United States of America has passed a law that the control price of specified articles should not be less than their average price of 1919 to 1929?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Cost of production per acre of wheat and cotton (desi) in the Districts of Jullundur, Gurdaspur and Lyallpur as ascertained by a special inquiry recently instituted by the Government of India :—

		Lyallpur	Jullundur	Gurdaspur
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Wheat	{ (a) ..	43 1 4	67 11 3	34 0 0*
	{ (b) ..	43 2 1	66 4 0	30 6 2
Cotton (desi)	{ (a) ..	38 5 8	55 3 10	30 8 9
	{ (b) ..	38 12 0	57 1 4	31 10 3

NOTE (a)—Simple average.

(b)—Mean as calculated by Professor Mahalanobis.

\* For Gurdaspur the cost is wheat + gram.

(b) Harvest price of wheat per maund at Lyallpur.

Year	Price	Year	Price
	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.
1933 ..	2 14 0	1937 ..	2 15 0
1934 ..	2 2 0	1938 ..	2 1 0
1935 ..	2 3 0	1939 ..	2 3 0
1936 ..	2 6 0	1940 ..	2 7 0

(c) There was no control over the maximum price of wheat during the years 1939 and 1940.

(d) The average wholesale price of wheat at Lyallpur during the period from 1919 to 1929 was Rs. 5-4-6 per maund.

(e) Government have no information.

#### DESI AND AMERICAN KAPAS

**1615. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the price of desi and American "Kapas" in 1924-25, 1925-26, 1937-38, 1939-40, 1940-41, and 1941-42 at Lyallpur at the time usual for calculating the price of "Kapas";

(b) the price of cotton yarn in the years specified in (a) above;

(c) the rise in the price of ordinary coarse cloth since the outbreak of war;

(d) the rise which has taken place in the price of timber, iron, salt, sugar, leather and the rates of agricultural labour?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

ADMISSION INTO KING EDWARD MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE, MEDICAL SCHOOL, AMRITSAR, AND MONTMORENCY COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY, LAHORE

**1616. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of students admitted into the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, Medical School, Amritsar, and Montmorency College of Dentistry, Lahore, belonging to the district of Gurgaon during the last five years and also the number of the candidates who applied for admission to these institutions, respectively, from the Gurgaon District?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The information required by the honourable member is given in the attached statement.

*Statement showing the number of students belonging to the Gurgaon District who applied for admission and were actually admitted to the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, the Medical School, Amritsar, and the deMontmorency College of Dentistry, Lahore, during the last five years.*

Year				Number of students who applied for admission	Number of students admitted
<i>King Edward Medical College, Lahore</i>					
1938	..	..	..	1	..
1939	..	..	..	1	..
1940	..	..	..	2	1
1941	..	..	..	3	2
1942	..	..	..	3	1
<i>Medical School, Amritsar</i>					
1938	..	..	..	..	..
1939	..	..	..	3	2
1940	..	..	..	4	1
1941	..	..	..	2	..
1942	..	..	..	1	1
<i>deMontmorency College of Dentistry, Lahore</i>					
1938	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
1939	..	..	..		
1940	..	..	..		
1941	..	..	..		
1942	..	..	..		

## HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

**1617. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the officers belonging to the Hindu Statutory Agriculturist classes recruited to the gazetted posts in the Co-operative Department, from the Gurgaon district during the last five years ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative or the number of the officers referred to above be negligible, what action he intends to take in the matter to redress the long-standing grievances of the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Gurgaon district in this respect ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) None.

(b) The policy of Government is to maintain class and communal representations for the province as a whole, and not by districts.

## HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**1618. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of Hindu Statutory Agriculturist Clerks of the Ambala Division employed in the Education Department, gradewise, in the Head Office and other subordinate offices ; if the number is negligible, what steps Government intend to take to make up their deficiency in the number of clerks in the abovenamed offices ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The required information is given below :—

(i)	Rs. 75—5—100/5—125 grade	..	..	3
	Rs. 40—2—80/2—90			
(ii)	Rs. 35—1½—65/2—75 grade	..	..	6
	Rs. 30—1½—60/2—70 grade	..	..	1
(iii)	Rs. 25—1—35/1½—50/2—60 grade	..	..	3
(iv)				

The appointments are not made division-wise. The second part of the question does not arise.

## MINAS

**1619. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of the Minas (a criminal tribe of the Gurgaon district) involved in criminal cases during the last five years ; if their number is negligible, whether Government intends to remove the Minas from the list of criminal tribes ; if so, when ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** Two in 1938, one in 1939 and none during the years 1940—1942. There are at present only 31 registered and restricted members of the Minas, of whom 3 are proclaimed offenders. If the Minas continue to show steady improvement in their conduct, as they have done during recent years, the question of removing them from the list of criminal tribes will be taken up after the termination of the war.

## HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

**1620. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the officers belonging to the Hindu statutory agriculturist tribes recruited to subordinate and gazetted posts in the Industries Department, from the Gurgaon district during the last 5 years ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative or the number of the officers referred to above be negligible, what action he intends to take in the matter to remove the long-standing grievances of the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Gurgaon district ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** The question would require very elaborate examination. The information is not readily available and it would not serve any public interest to collect the information.

## HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT

**1621. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the officers belonging to the Hindu statutory agriculturist tribes recruited to the gazetted posts in the Revenue Department during the last five years, from the Gurgaon district ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative or the number of officers referred to above be negligible what action he intends to take in the matter to remove the long-standing grievances of the Hindu agriculturists of the Gurgaon district ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Nil.

(b) In the selection of tahsildars special representation is not given to districts but the communal and caste proportions are arranged on a provincial basis. The last batch of direct tahsildars was selected in August 1940 ; direct recruitment will not be resumed until after the war is over.

## HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT

**1622. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the officers belonging to the Hindu statutory agriculturist tribes recruited to the gazetted posts in the Forest Department during the last 5 years from the Gurgaon district ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative or the number of officers referred to above be negligible, what action he intends to take in the matter to remove the long-standing grievances of the Hindu statutory agriculturists of the Gurgaon district ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) None.

(b) Recruitment to the gazetted posts in the Forest Department is made in accordance with the accepted formula for communal proportions on a provincial basis and no distinction is drawn amongst candidates from different localities.



## HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

**1623. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the officers belonging to the Hindu statutory agriculturist tribes recruited to the gazetted posts in the Agriculture Department from the Gurgaon district during the last 5 years ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative or the number of the officers referred to above be negligible, what action he intends to take in the matter to redress the long-standing grievances of the Hindu statutory agriculturists of the Gurgaon district ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) None.

(b) Recruitment to gazetted posts in the Agriculture Department is not made by districts but on provincial basis.

## HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN POLICE DEPARTMENT

**1624. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of the officers belonging to the Hindu statutory agriculturist tribes recruited to the gazetted posts in the Police Department from the Gurgaon district during the last five years ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative or the number of the officers referred to above be negligible, what action he intends to take in the matter to redress the long-standing grievances of the Hindu statutory agriculturists of the Gurgaon district ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

## INSPECTORS OF SHOPS

**1625. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Inspectors of Shops employed under the Trade Employees Act from the Ambala Division, district and community-wise ;

(b) whether it is a fact that no person from the Gurgaon district has been selected for the above posts ; if so, the reason for ignoring the claims of the above-named district ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Number of Inspectors of Shops appointed from the Ambala Division .. 8

(i) *District-wise*—

Rohtak District	..	..	..	4
Ambala District	..	..	..	4

(ii) *Community-wise*—It is not usual to answer questions of this character.

(b) None of the Inspectors belongs to the Gurgaon district. Appointments are not made on any such basis.

## HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

**1626. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the officers belonging to the Hindu statutory agriculturist tribes recruited to the gazetted posts in the Veterinary Department from the Gurgaon district during the last five years ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative or the number of the officers referred to above be negligible what action he intends to take in the matter to remove the long-standing grievances of the Hindu statutory agriculturists ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) None.

(b) Recruitment is made under rules 4 and 6 of the Punjab Veterinary Service (Class I) and the Punjab Veterinary Service (Class II) Rules, respectively; which do not provide recruitment by districts.

## A. R. P. SCHEMES

**1627. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount spent so far on the A. R. P. schemes ;

(b) how many towns with a population of 10,000 people or above have benefited under the schemes referred to in (a) above ;

(c) how many places with a population of less than 10,000 people have benefited under the schemes referred to in (a) ;

(d) what steps, if any, have been taken so far to recover the amount referred to in (a), (b) and (c) from the inhabitants of the places who have benefited under the schemes mentioned above ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) Rs. 64,63,560 up to January 1948.

(b) 38.

(c) 6.

(d) The cost of A. R. P. measures is pooled between the Punjab Government and the Government of India on an agreed basis.

## STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AMONG PROSECUTING DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS, PROSECUTING INSPECTORS AND PROSECUTING SUB-INSPECTORS

**1628. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Prosecuting Deputy Superintendents, Prosecuting Inspectors and Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors, respectively, in the Province ;

(b) how many of the officers referred to in (a) above are Hindu, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians, respectively ;

[Rao Mohar Singh]

(c) how many of the officers referred to in (a) above belong to the statutory agriculturist tribes under each of the four communal categories?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** I am afraid that the information required is not easily available for the Prosecuting Branch separately and its collection would involve time and trouble out of all proportion to the result to be obtained. The honourable member will, however, find information regarding these ranks in the Police as a whole on page 17 of the Consolidated Statement showing the proportion of representation of various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government as it stood on the 1st January 1942.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG POLICE CONSTABLES

**1629. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the total recruitment of police constables made in 1941 and 1942, respectively, and how many of those recruited were Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, respectively?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** Certain information regarding the communal proportions in the ordinary police and the additional police can be obtained from the Consolidated Statement showing the proportions of various communities in the different departments of the Punjab Government, which is compiled every year. The collection of the further details asked by the honourable member would involve an amount of time and trouble out of all proportion to any possible benefit to be obtained. Every effort is made to ensure a fair distribution among communities.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN ADDITIONAL POLICE FORCE

**1630. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and constables, respectively, recruited in the additional police force in 1941 and 1942;

(b) how many of those referred to in (a) above were Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, respectively?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** Certain information regarding the communal proportions in the ordinary police and the additional police can be obtained from the Consolidated Statement showing the proportions of various communities in the different departments of the Punjab Government, which is compiled every year. The collection of the further details asked for by the honourable member would involve an amount of time and trouble out of all proportion to any possible benefit to be obtained. Every effort is made to ensure a fair distribution among communities.

## ADJOURNMENT AND PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

**Mr. Speaker :** I have received notice of the following motion from Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :—

“I want to raise a point of privilege on the question of refusal of the Government to allow the supply of Agenda of the Assembly meetings, Debates, proceedings and Punjab Gazette to seventeen members of the Assembly detained in the various jails in the Punjab”.

Will the honourable member please explain how it is a privilege motion ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** It concerns the privileges of the members of this House who are detained in different jails in the Province. I want to bring to your notice that the rules are not being complied with and I want to know whether they are being broken by the Government officials subordinate to this Government. Official correspondence is even withheld from them. They are not supplied with the papers which I have mentioned in the privilege motion. These papers are being supplied and facilities are being afforded to the members who are outside jails including the Honourable Ministers. I think the Government officials dare not suspect the orders of this Government so far as its own correspondence is concerned. Therefore, it is a question of privilege.

**Premier :** We are just now starting the general discussion on the Budget and all these things can very well be mentioned then.

**Mr. Speaker :** Besides, the motion does not relate to a matter of privilege. Our rules do not lay down that the Assembly papers shall reach or be delivered to the honourable members. All they say is that such papers shall be despatched to the members. So, the question of privilege, as stated by the honourable member, does not arise. However, I may suggest that no harm will be done if the honourable members, detained in jails, are allowed to receive the Assembly office papers, such as the Agenda, debates, etc.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Your considered opinion should weigh with the Government.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have made only a suggestion. The Government may consider it or not. I now come to the two adjournment motions. The first is—

To ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the decision of the Government to reduce the quantity of atta sold at Lahore depôts from 5½ seers per rupee to 4½ seers.

It is in the name of Sardar Sohan Singh Josh. The second is in the name of Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan and runs as follows :—

To ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the refusal of the Government to answer starred question No. 8537<sup>1</sup> regarding arrests in connection with the Civil Disobedience movement.

The first adjournment motion is in order, but as the general discussion of the budget is going to begin in a few minutes the question of *atta* in all its aspects, can be easily discussed in the course of that discussion. So I do not propose to allow the motion to be moved.

As regards the second adjournment motion, it is out of order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. I gave notice of two privilege motions with respect to Sardar Hari Singh, M.L.A., and Lala Duni Chand, M.L.A. These gentlemen are restrained in their own villages and they asked for the permission of the Government to come to this House. This permission was refused.

**Mr. Speaker :** When the honourable member's motion was about to be taken up the other day he was absent, and therefore—

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It never appeared on the agenda.

**Mr. Speaker :** As a rule notices of privilege motions are not entered in the list of business but are taken up as soon as possible after their receipt.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I submit that the notice of these motions was sent to the office on the 4th instant and it was never circulated to the members.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not necessary that copies of such a notice should be made available to members. However, when I called upon the member on 8th March after questions, he was not present.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On what date ?

**Mr. Speaker :** On 8th April, and I ruled the motion out of order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to know whether it ever appeared on the agenda. If it appeared on the agenda then I will plead guilty of absence. When I give notice of a particular matter and it never appears on the agenda, how can I be blamed for being absent at a particular moment ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member gave the notice, no doubt, but he was not present when I called him after the question hour.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It is a question affecting the fundamental rights of the members. I want to give the notice just now and want to raise this point. I move them now.

**Mr. Speaker :** No question of privilege was involved and therefore I ruled them out of order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** If a member is not allowed to come and join the Assembly Session and then if you are pleased to rule that this is not a privilege of the member, I bow to your ruling.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is misunderstanding the whole position. It is not a question of a member attending the session or not. It is a question of his being detained or imprisoned under the law in force. The honourable member is referred to section 135 (A) of the Civil Procedure Code which gives protection to members against processes issued by the civil courts. No privilege is provided regarding the detention of honourable members, except under the civil process.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Section 135 (a) deals with privileges of members irrespective of the fact whether they are members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly or any other Assembly. That is a matter of procedure incorporated in the Civil Procedure Code. That has nothing to do with the privileges of the Assembly members. That is only one privilege incorporated in a particular Act. This does not in any way affect the question of privileges.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I invite the honourable member's attention to section 71 of the Government of India Act?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That particular section only says that there shall be freedom of speech and no member shall be liable to any proceedings in any court.

**Mr. Speaker :** Does the honourable member contend that an M. L. A. who is detained or interned under any law, has a right to come to attend this House ? Can the honourable member quote a single instance of this privilege having been invoked even once during the past 22 years ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** But there are no privileges defined here.

**Mr. Speaker :** Honourable member is referred to section 71 of the Government of India Act which says that privileges of members shall be such as may from time to time be defined by an Act of the Provincial Legislature and until so defined, shall be such as were enjoyed by members of the old Legislative Council. The only privilege enjoyed by members of the old Legislative Council in the matter of protection against arrest or detention is that contained in section 185A of the Civil Procedure Code.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Can we not refer even to the House of Commons privileges and claim the same for us ?

**Mr. Speaker :** No. We do not enjoy the privileges of the House of Commons. Section 71 of the Government of India Act makes it clear.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M. L. As.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have received the following applications from certain members of the Assembly asking for permission of the Assembly to be absent from its meetings :—

(1) Sardar Kishen Singh writes :—

"In view of my paralytic condition my medical adviser does not permit me to attend the Assembly Session. I therefore seek permission of the Assembly to remain absent from its sittings. I am attaching herewith the doctor's letter.

(2) Chaudhri Kartar Singh writes :—

"I am detained in jail under the Defence of India Rules (for political reasons) and am, therefore, unable to attend the meetings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. I shall be grateful if leave under Rule 34 (2) of Rules of Procedure for the period of my detention (for one year) is kindly granted to me."

Question is—

That the permissions asked for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

#### BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, in offering my remarks on the budget for the year 1943-44 I will, simple businessman as I am, lay down certain simple acid tests by which to judge whether or

[S. Santokh Singh.]

not the Budget is a satisfactory and successful one. The wholesale denunciation of the Budget, opposition for the mere sake of opposition, to my mind, will not and cannot serve any useful purpose. I will therefore make no attempt at that. Equally out of place are the praises that it has become the fashion in certain quarters to bestow upon the Budget each time that it is presented before the House. If the admirers and friends of the Honourable the Finance Minister by showering those praises wanted to impress upon us the attainments of the Finance Minister himself, I will have nothing to say against that. I am one of those who are proud of the fact that we have amongst us a gentleman of the calibre of Sir Manohar Lal who has an all-India reputation as an economist and also as a scholar, but when my friends go further than that and say that because of the connection of Sir Manohar Lal with the Finance Department of the Government of the Punjab, everything done by that Government is absolutely true and correct, I am afraid I cannot subscribe to it. I have to judge the tree of this Unionist Party by its fruit, by its achievements. That is why I have said that I will lay down certain acid tests by which to judge the successful nature or otherwise of the Budget. Now, Sir, these 6 years of the regime of the Unionist Party, if I may be permitted to say, have been a regime of tyranny, tyranny by the majority over the minorities living in this province. You are all aware that legislation, one after another, in quick succession, was brought before this House and partly as a result of those measures the full effect of which is yet to be felt, the revenue of the province has increased from 11 crores and 68 lakhs to 15 crores and 19 lakhs, i.e., an increase of 3 crores and 51 lakhs. If most part of this excess revenue was spent on the beneficent departments I will not have perhaps much to say and much to grumble about; but as it is most part of it has been eaten up by the services with the result that the beneficent departments have been starved. We are all familiar with the speech which Sir Manohar Lal made some 7 years ago, not as the Finance Minister of this Government but as an economist and an expert on financial matters. I will just quote relevant extracts from that speech made by him seven years ago. He said then in this speech, which attracted countrywide attention—

“India could find her salvation only in rapid and thorough industrialisation. Events, are marching with such swiftness, the rest of the world with their alert Governments are making such rapid strides that if we are not up and doing, aware of the possible dangers ahead and determined on the one course of salvation, our doom might be irretrievably sealed”.

This is what this gentleman, Sir Manohar Lal, said seven years ago. To-day I will have something to say, rather a good deal to say, as to how he now translates his theory into action and how industrialisation, on which he laid so much emphasis seven years ago, has suffered at his own hands when he is not only the Minister for Finance but also the Minister for Industries. It will be of some interest to know what this gentleman has done for the industries since he took over this portfolio. I find that under the grant for industries there is an increase of about 1½ lakhs this year as compared with last year. The Budget Estimate in the industrial sphere last year was Rs. 26,95,100 and this year it is Rs. 28,09,400. The total expenditure of this Government on Industries on which our Finance Minister laid so much stress—and I say, laid that stress rightly—is 28 lakhs according to the Budget Estimates for the year 1948-49 out of

1 p. m.

a revenue of 15 crores, while we are spending rupees two crores and twelve lakhs on Police alone. I leave it to the sense of justice of the members of the ministerial benches alone, to think calmly and not in any party spirit and say as to how under the present circumstances it will be possible for this province to come into line with other advanced countries in the matter of Industries, in regard to which the Honourable the Finance Minister himself said that without it no improvement was possible, and unless that was done our fate was irretrievably sealed. I have already said that so far as his personal attainments are concerned we have no fault to find nor do I find fault with anything that his friends and admirers say with regard to his person. But unfortunately the position in this province is that in their anxiety to say good things about the Finance Minister these gentlemen—at least a section of them—go so far as to say that since he is connected with the Finance Department everything done by it is absolutely correct. May I remind my friends that all that glitters is not gold? We have to judge this gentleman not by his personal attainment but by his work and by the results of the labour that he puts forth, in the interests of this province. We the non-agriculturists who form 50 per cent of the population of this province as compared with the statutory agriculturists, looked to this gentleman and to him alone for taking up cudgels on our behalf in representing our view point before the Cabinet and depended on his strength to see that all our legitimate grievances were removed. But what do we find? The result has been most disappointing: we have been looking to him for help which he never gave. In fact he chose to serve us by his golden silence. Recently there was some change and reshuffling in the Cabinet and fortunately a young spirited gentleman with a broad heart and with sympathy for the poor—a gentleman who was by accident of birth an agriculturist but a businessman by profession—was appointed a minister. We looked up to him in conjunction with Sir Manohar Lal to take up our cause, and have justice done to us, but he too has proved, at any rate so far, to be equally hopeless. Even the pact that he entered into with Sir Sikander has been, so to say, buried alive.

**Mr. Speaker:** The honourable member is making personal remarks.

**Sardar Santokh Singh:** I am not making any personal remarks, Sir. I am referring to the policy of the Government. I do warn him that his community is getting restive over it and he should see in the interests of the province and of his community that what that pact—though it did not give much to the Sikh community—that whatever little that pact gave to his community, is given both in letter and spirit; otherwise his community's discontent which is growing every day, will be pretty hard to control. The Government should in its own interests and in order to retain the goodwill of the Sikh community, scrupulously observe the terms of this pact.

Further on, Sir, I will read to the honourable members what the 'Tribune' said in reference to the achievements of the Punjab so far as Industries are concerned.

"So far, indeed, as rapid and thorough industrialisation is concerned, the Punjab's record of achievement during the last six years has been as poor as that of any other provincial Government. It is still almost exclusively dependent on agriculture. In the matter of heavy industries, in particular, it has no achievement to its credit."



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This comes from an important paper like the 'Tribune' which has a very soft corner in its heart for the Honourable Minister for Finance and always has a good word to say about him. Even this paper has been compelled to concede that so far as heavy industries are concerned this Government has nothing to its credit. And what can they achieve with a paltry increase of 1½ lakhs that has been provided? The position will continue to be much the same as it has been during the last six years, unless of course there is a change in the policy of the Punjab Cabinet without which we shall not make any improvement for perhaps centuries to come. Just look at the sum of Rs. 28 lakhs that has been allotted to the all important Industries, as compared to Rs. 2 crores and 12 lakhs provided for the Police. How much excess expenditure there has been in this police department, I will come to it at a later stage; for the present I am confining my remarks to the Industries Department on which, the Honourable Minister for Finance said, the salvation of the province lies. He does not happen to be in his seat now or I would have asked him what he had done when opportunity came to him to translate his theory into practice. He has been in charge of this department for sometime now. This increase of 1½ lakhs of rupees is made simply for continuing some of the schemes that had been taken up during the past one or two years. The glue factory was to be set up this year, but as it could not be done the provision for it by means of new expenditure, is being re-provided in the next year. There is a department which is collecting statistics under the Director of Industries. They could not discontinue that and had to provide for it. What I mean to suggest is that there has been no will, no desire on the part of this Government to help the industrial advancement of this country. What is the good of providing funds if they are not to be utilised? We have got the Peasants Welfare Fund; we have the Special Development Fund. What is the use of all these funds if they are not to be utilised for the benefit of the province? I have chosen this beneficent department for attack on which the Honourable Finance Minister himself laid so much importance. Now, what is the position in respect to industries about which so much has been said by the Finance Minister? Is it now in any better position? Is it now in a position that we can be proud of? Out of a revenue of 15 crores of rupees this Government is spending upon industries only 28 lakhs and even out of these 28 lakhs a greater part goes towards salaries, superintendence and direction. No industry of any importance has been started by the Government notwithstanding the resolution of this House. Nothing whatsoever has been done by this Government to advance the industrial potentialities of the province. On this issue alone, I am sure if the Government would calmly consider the position, they would have to admit, that they have done nothing, and that they have been an absolute failure.

Coming now to the taxation, the present budget shows a surplus of 50 lakhs. For the last six years we have been witnessing one legislation after another coming in quick succession increasing the taxation of this province in one form or another. The burden of that taxation fell entirely upon one section of the population. The climax was reached, when it culminated in the unparalleled province-wide agitation amongst the traders and the sufferings to which they were subjected. This legislation is partly responsible for the increase

in the revenues of the Punjab Government although its full effect is yet to be borne. Under sales tax I find that the Government has made a provision of 15 lakhs of rupees as the likely revenue. I ask, since you have so much surplus after providing for the Special Development Fund and the Peasants Welfare Fund, is it still necessary that you should keep up the agitation of the traders for this paltry sum of 15 lakhs which you expect to get from this source during the next year? The traders have been demanding that if this tax cannot be remitted altogether, it may at least be postponed till after the war. The war is not likely to take more than a year. Victory is almost within sight. If the Government were only to accede to the wishes of the traders and postpone the collection of this tax till after the war, I do not think there will be anything to lose, at least not much to lose. The Government has already got plenty of money. It cannot therefore be for reasons of finance that this tax is levied.

In the opening part of my speech I talked of certain acid tests which I said I will lay down just to see whether the Budget is successful or not. I judge the successful nature or otherwise of the Budget from the following tests which I am laying down. My first test is whether there has been or there has not been any unwarranted increase in taxation. My second point is whether as a result of the taxation measures of the Government the people are happy and contented. That is another criterion of judging the Budget. The third test is whether Government has in any way succeeded in raising the standard of living of the people. My fourth test is whether the buying power of the people has in any way improved, and the fifth is whether the income per head of the population has in any way increased, and the last but not the least test is whether expenditure is kept well within bounds and due retrenchment where necessary, has been effected. These are my criteria for judging the Budget.

Coming now to the first, I do submit in all seriousness that there has been a great increase in the taxation of the people. The whole burden of this tax has fallen on one section of the people. They have been very much burdened by this taxation. They do not feel at all happy over it. It has already culminated in a province-wide *hartal*, and unparalleled sacrifices made by the traders. That is all recent history, and I need not recapitulate it. Judged by these criteria the only conclusion that I can come to is, that this Budget has been far from satisfactory. People are not at all happy and contented, at least an important section of them comprising as I just said about 50 per cent of the population of non-agriculturists of the province, as against the statutory agriculturists. My complaint further is that the name of the poor agriculturists is exploited for showering benefits on the rich few. In other words the poor are being exploited by this Government, to take power in its hands to please the richer few. When sometime back the question came up for reducing the land revenue of those who paid Rs. 5 per annum or less, what was the reply we got from the Government benches? The reply was and that from no other than Sir Chhotu Ram, that the zamindars have to be treated alike, and that they cannot make any distinction between rich and poor. It is on the rich zamindars that the Government depends and it dare not displease them and so far as the non-agriculturists are concerned the less said the better.

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A special fund has been created. We do not object to it. It has exceeded one crore of rupees. But I ask in all seriousness whether there are no poor people in urban localities. Who is going to look after their interests? There are the *tonga walas*, there are *chhabriwalas* and thousands of others, who after working hard from morning to night do not earn more than ten or twelve annas. Why should not these people be protected? They are people who belong to all communities. They are Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Sikhs. But the Government has done absolutely nothing for them. Government has taken it into its head and wrongly, that everybody in the city is rich and everybody living in the village is poor. That is not the real position. The Government must carefully consider the situation, as to what they have done so far for the poor urbanites, what they are doing at present and what they intend to do in the future. They should recast their policy in such a manner that they govern this province for the benefit not of any one section but of all communities and of all sections of the population. This is a request that I do make in all sincerity to the Honourable Premier, although he may be busy at the present moment in some other conversation.

Regarding the other tests that I have laid down, nobody can say that the standard of living of the people has in any way improved after this provincial autonomy was ushered in, that the buying power of the people has improved in any way and that the income per head of the population has risen. Judged by that criterion I can say that nothing tangible whatever has been done by this Government to improve the lot of the poor people who by destiny have come to be governed by them.

Coming to the last item, as I said, but not the least, that requires very serious consideration of the House. All of us know that there was a Retrenchment Committee presided over by no less a person than the Honourable the Finance Minister himself. It was a very laborious report that they had produced and according to that report an annual saving of 58½ lakhs of rupees could be effected if only the Government had the will to respect the findings of that Committee, a committee which was not presided over by any member of the Opposition, a committee which was not monopolised by the Opposition but one which had a monopoly of very important members of the Ministerial party thereon, and which was presided over by no other than the Finance Minister himself. It was such a Committee's report that recommended that a saving of 58½ lakhs of rupees could be effected. Now I ask the Government after having received such a clear and concise report what it has done to bring about the much desired retrenchment. Has it been able to reduce the expenditure even by Rs. 100 as a result of the recommendations of this Committee? This side of the House asked particular and specific questions on the matter during the last and the previous year, and the reply given to us was that the report was being considered. Out of the expected saving of 58½ lakhs of rupees, I may inform the Honourable Premier if he does not know it already, that 25½ lakhs represent the expenditure on special pays and special allowances. Is it not really disgraceful that these special pays and special allowances which were decided to be discontinued not only by this Committee but also by a previous committee appointed in 1931, whose recommendations were unanimously accepted by the later committee

presided over by the Honourable Finance Minister in 1939, still continue to exist? The Retrenchment Committee of 1931 made certain recommendations regarding compensatory allowances and special pays and they are reproduced by the later committee in the following language in 1939 :—

“The previous retrenchment committee of 1931 made certain recommendations in regard to the compensatory allowances and special pays, except fixed travelling and conveyance allowances drawn in the province. In the Government order on that Committee's report it was stated that a large number of allowances and special pays have been abolished or reduced. Notwithstanding the action taken on the previous Retrenchment Committee's Report, it was found that there is a very large number of allowances and special pays still in existence. We understand that the total expenditure on this account is about 25½ lakhs a year.

This expenditure has continued ever since and in 1939 a recommendation was again made by this Retrenchment Committee that a stop be put to it. But notwithstanding that, this Government has not thought it right, has not thought it prudent, to reduce the special pays and special allowances. May be that the I. C. S. people are too strong for this Government, may be that this Government is too weak to resist the demands of its subordinates, but we here are only concerned with the soundness or otherwise of the expenditure that is being incurred by this Government. Of what use are the special qualifications of the Finance Minister, if he is either unable or unwilling to set the matters right? He cannot be unwilling because he has himself produced this report and has put it in such clear and forceful a language that all this money could be saved. Therefore I can only arrive at this conclusion that notwithstanding his desire to help the province to the tune of 25½ lakhs of rupees, his colleagues have been too strong for him and have not allowed him to bring about this much-needed retrenchment in expenditure. Now we have a right to be told as to who is responsible for keeping on this extra expenditure which costs the province Rs. 25½ lakhs of unnecessary expenditure. We have a right to know this and I do hope that some reply from authoritative quarters will be forthcoming to allay our apprehensions, and in the absence of a satisfactory reply we shall be justified in holding that this money is being unnecessarily wasted for no purpose whatsoever.

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Now coming to the custody of the finances, in 1937-38 the expenditure under Police was Rs. 1,23,25,000. In a short space of six years, after this blessed provincial autonomy has come into existence, the expenditure on police for the year 1943-44 has risen to Rs. 2,12,40,000 an increase of 72 per cent in six years, and how does our Finance Minister try to explain this away? I shall quote exact words from his Budget speech. Just imagine that an item representing an increase of 72 per cent in the expenditure in the course of six years, our Finance Minister, for whom I repeat I have the highest respect, disposes of in six lines. This is what he says : “In the main this was found necessary for providing adequate strength particularly in the towns to meet the requirements of increased population and to devise a competent machinery on modern lines to restrict crime and face the forces of disorder.” So this increase in expenditure is attributed to the increase in population of the province as if every child who takes his birth in this blessed province is a criminal and requires to be looked after by the police to cause this Government an excess of 72 per cent in expenditure which was already too heavy, within the small period of six years. I dare

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say that even in the pre-autonomous days, in the days when diarchy was in existence in the province, when famine was a reserved subject, the Finance Member even in those days would not have dared to put up for the sanction of the House, this demand under police with an increase of 72 per cent in its expenditure. I should like to know if our Finance Minister had protested against this increase in the expenditure on the police. I am not supposed to know the Cabinet secrets nor do I claim to know them. But we have to judge our Ministers by the result of their actions, as they come before us. We do not know what they have or have not said. Sir Manohar Lal may have put in a good word for the traders during all that agrarian legislation, popularly known as the black Bills. But what was his attitude in this House? Instead of sponsoring those Bills himself in this House he quietly made room for others. Had he sponsored them, at least we could have had a touch of some human sympathy. I ask in all seriousness why he abdicated in favour of others. If he did not really like them, if in his heart of hearts he thought they were bad measures, he should have given us some inkling. Forty-five to 50 per cent of the population have a right to know from a gentleman whom we consider as our sole representative in the Cabinet, as to what he is or is not doing for us. We ought to know exactly where he stands. The other Ministers go about proclaiming from house tops and from village to village that they live for the zamindars, that theirs is a zamindara Government and so on. Why should not our representative do the same and say that either he did not want those Bills or he could justify them? He keeps everything to himself. He thinks he is too big for us, the traders and believes in golden silence. I am sorry I have to use this language, but I am doing it with all respect. I do use this language because I find it is very necessary. Some plain speaking must be indulged in this House for people to know whether there is any one in this Government to look after the interests of the non-agriculturists or not.

So far all our legitimate desires have been frustrated and our views have not been taken into consideration at all. Every possible effort has been made to subject us to one disability after the other. We have a right to know where we are drifting to and where all this will lead us. We do not know our position, but all the same even the humblest of the humble has certain rights in any civilised Government. Have we got those rights or are we going to be denied the elementary rights which the humblest subject is entitled to? I want this to be cleared. It is not a thing to be smiled at but it should be given very serious consideration by the authorities that be. It is for them to consider whether it is not in their own interest to discontinue this foolish policy which they have been carrying on all this time.

I have quoted figures to show that the beneficent departments, the topmost of which is the Industries, and on which our own Finance Minister laid so much stress, have been absolutely starved and it is now for the Government to say why they could not find more funds for the Industries Department. Instead of having Special Development Funds, merely for name's sake, for they are not being employed anywhere, this money should have been given straightaway to small zamindars who pay less than five rupees.

of revenue and their burden reduced. I remember that I once said that we on this side of the House shall have no objection if this money was utilised straightway in giving relief to the petty zamindars, without creating for the Government opportunities for patronage and winning favours. A committee was appointed but I do not know what it did. What I know is that the money is being added to, without any relief being given to the poor, whose name was exploited for raising it.

Another way of judging the budget is to see whether the debt position of the province has in any way improved. While the total debt on 31st March 1942 was Rs. 38,61,68,000, on 31st March 1944 it is expected to be 38 crores, thirty three lakhs and some thousands. So it is practically the same and the debt position has not improved. This Government has been selling indiscriminately its assets. They have been selling the lands all through the last six years. They feel proud that they got 5 crores and some lakhs from the sale-proceeds of land. Sir Manohar Lal who is a bania—I do not use the word contemptuously but I consider him a bania in the same sense in which I consider myself—should not have sold lands during this period. People part with land only when they go a little far from solvency. It is only as a last resort that they sell property and land, and only when they are drifting towards insolvency. This was not the position of this province. What would have been the price of this land if it had remained unsold for six years? What would have been its price today? The price would have been much more than what they have realised. They do not need to be told by me that the prices of land have increased in many cases by more than 4 to 5 hundred per cent. They sold land when they did not require money for any specific purpose. The money is still lying idle. I should, however, say, that the only relieving feature and for this I give credit to the Honourable Finance Minister, is that he has not used this money of extraordinary receipts in recurring expenditure. He has kept it in reserve for some eventuality, but since that is the position, am I not right in asking as to where was the necessity for making sales and parting with the assets of the people? Why part with them and go on parting with them when we do know for a fact that in some cases the prices of land have risen by 4 to 5 hundred per cent? Those who belong to Lahore, Amritsar and other big towns know by how much the prices have increased. I, therefore, question the wisdom of this Government in selling these lands at lower prices. As I, said they should have waited.

**Minister of Finance :** This land does not lie in Amritsar.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** The position regarding the price is the same everywhere.

**Premier :** Therefore, why not sell it now?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** You have been selling it for the last six years. You kept on selling even after the War and that was want of wisdom on your part which kept you making these sales. In spite of this you still take pride that your sales have increased to five crores. That shows want of sense of proportion.

**Premier :** I thought we would get credit. Do you want to wait for the slump period?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** You should sell, if at all, at the right moment. But what are you doing with this money ? The Honourable Premier was not here when I was speaking. If he had been here, he would have followed what I had said. If you had waited for these six years, you would have realised 25 crores instead of 5 crores. Can you controvert it ?

**Premier :** But we were not in Hitler's confidence.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Nor is the honourable member.

**Premier :** How could we know that War was coming ? Hitler never consulted us.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Even now you are going on selling. I now refer to taxation. Even the Minister of Finance had to admit that the limit of expansion of revenue has very nearly been reached. He had to concede that there has been so much of taxation that the limit to its further expansion has almost been reached. These are his words. So, my case is proved that Government has been levying taxation, I should say unwarranted and unwanted taxation, and raising more money than was necessary in recent years.

In passing I would like to say a word about the Hydro-Electric Department. There has again been a decline in revenue. The Minister of Finance said that the next year would be better. I ask why there should be decline in the income of the Hydro-Electric Department this year. The explanation he gave was that there was increase in expenditure and so on and so forth. The rise in expenditure has been noticed everywhere, it is not in the Hydro-Electric Branch alone. With all that I would request the Honourable Minister to have the figures closely examined to find out the reason for the decline in the income during the last year. It is a fit case for enquiry and I commend it to the consideration of the Minister of Finance that he should examine this problem closely to find out the real cause why the income was less.

When I was speaking on the Sales Tax Act the Honourable Premier was not in his seat. I request him again that he should consider the pros and cons of the situation and adopt such means as would bring lasting peace among the urbanites. He should postpone the operation of the Sales Tax Act, till after the War. I have here a copy of the representation with me that was made to him by the President of the Beopar Mandal. In that representation they have made two very sensible suggestions. One is that the taxable minimum should be raised to twenty thousand rupees. With the prices of all necessities of life gone up so much, twenty thousand of today is equal to about six thousand of yesterday. The Government, would, therefore, be well advised if they accept that suggestion and raise the exemption limit to twenty thousand. The second suggestion that they have made is that the people who do not pay income-tax should be exempted from payment of sales tax. This also is a very sensible suggestion. People whose income is 15 hundred a year or less are not assessed to income-tax. If this class of people are exempted from the payment of tax under the Sales Tax Act, there is very little that the Government will lose. The Government should therefore accept this sensible suggestion of the Punjab Beopar Mandal and thus bring about rapprochement once for all between the merchants and the Government.

I have also a word to say about the Marketing Act, and I hope the Honourable Premier will pay attention to it. I have already sent him a copy of the letter which was addressed to me by the late lamented Sir Sikander in replying to my letter to him on this subject. Here is an extract from his letter :—

“As you say, when Government introduced the Punjab Agricultural Produce Marketing Bill in the Legislature it had no intention of treating it as a fiscal measure; and subsequently during the course of a discussion I promised to consider the question of revising the rate of fee when information regarding the aggregate amount of fees was available for at least 12 months. That promise still holds good, and when the necessary information is available I will ask the Department concerned to prepare a statement for each marketing area to facilitate the examination of the question in the light of those figures

This is what Sir Sikander wrote to me. I sent a copy of this letter to the present Premier with an endorsement from me on the 15th February and even an acknowledgment has not been received by me as yet. I have got a complaint about that, because I may tell you that Sir Sikander—even when he was in camp—used to acknowledge all important communications straightaway from the camp and this letter was written by him from his camp. Then the Honourable Minister for Development was also careful enough, at least in sending an acknowledgment. But this time both the Premier and the Minister for Development are silent.

**Premier :** Unless I look up the files and consult my colleagues, how can I know what he had promised? It does not mean any disrespect to my honourable friend. I can assure him that in future I will give reply to all his communications like this that I have received the letter and the matter is being looked into. If he wants me to do that, I will do it; otherwise it would take time.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** What I do want to say is, that although more than 4 weeks have passed, yet I am not favoured even with an acknowledgment of my letter. However, that is beside the point. I have simply to say that we traders hold strong feelings over this matter. Great surpluses have been created at the market committees. It was never the intention of the Government to collect big unwanted sums by way of fees, which eventually come from the pockets of zamindars.

**Minister of Development :** Can you quote any instance?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** I know that some of the market committees have got huge surpluses of 30 thousand, 40 thousand, 20 thousand, etc.

**Minister of Development :** For instance?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Rohtak, Lyallpur, etc. and you can find out the rest for yourself. I can assure the Government that there is a huge surplus all round and I would ask them to take this fact into consideration and reduce the market fees in order to relieve the burden, not only from ourselves, but also from your zamindar friends, for whom you profess to have so much affection, at least on paper.

Now, I come to the Corporation of Lahore. It is really a matter of shame that there should be no Corporation in the capital town of the province and for so many years Lahore has been deprived of it. The Government was in a great hurry to pass the measure, and they would not accept even the motion for circulation, as they said that it would be a dilatory



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motion. Now, after the Act has been passed, and they have taken all the powers to their heart's content in nominating to the Corporation up to 25 per cent of their own men, even then they have not yet brought into existence the Corporation. Now that I have brought this fact to the notice of the Premier and other Ministers, I hope something effective will be done to usher in the Corporation and that without further loss of time. I have also to object to the grant of loan to the Administrator of Lahore. Why should loan be given to a body, which is one man's show? The loan should be given only when the Corporation has been brought into existence. Until then the loan question must wait. After all people of Lahore have a right to be represented by their own representatives on the Corporation. Whatever the other defects of this measure, and they are plenty—what is the Government afraid of? They will have 25 per cent of their own men on the Corporation. What then prevents them from bringing into being this Corporation? The matter has been brought to their notice and I hope they will make serious efforts not to deny any further to the citizens of the capital of the province, the right to have their Corporation.

I had something to say on the question of nomination to local bodies, but I will omit that, because you, Mr. Speaker, are getting impatient and you might abruptly ask me to wind up. There are, however, certain other points to which I must draw the attention of the Government. This Government wants to interfere in every little matter. You will be surprised to know that one of the members of the Amritsar Municipality was removed from membership for giving a wrong ruling according to this Government. He was removed not only from the Vice-Presidentship but also from the membership of the Committee and at a time when the present Honourable Premier was in charge of the Public Works Department. His sole fault was that of having given a wrong ruling with regard to the election being held that day. You have, Sir, yourself given wrong rulings at times and when that was brought to your notice, you were pleased to concede that it was a mistake. The instance that I am quoting relates to Lala Lachhmi Narain of Amritsar who was a Municipal Commissioner for over 30 years. He was removed from the Municipality, as I say, because he gave a wrong ruling and allowed the election to be held, which subsequently formed the subject matter of an election petition. If things are to go on like this, I do not know whether any one's position will be safe on these local bodies. To my mind he was removed from membership, because he was a political adversary and for no other fault.

Now, I want to say a few words about the political detenus and the treatment meted out to them. It is a very important matter that is agitating the public mind, and if I do not deal with it at length, the fault will not be mine but that of lack of time. I do want to say a good deal about it, in fact, there is a good deal that can be said about it. The other day the Honourable Premier told us that it was as a result of the general policy of the Government of India that they have arrested and detained so many gentlemen. I believe it was not incumbent upon him to follow blindly the general instructions laid down by the Central Government. We strongly hold the belief that there was no warrant for the arrest and detention of so many

gentlemen. Nothing has been alleged against them, much less proved. Their sole offence for which they have been put behind the bars appears to be that they are members of the Congress. Now they are proud of belonging to the Congress, and nothing can deter them from owning it. They make no requests for their release, but we do owe to ourselves the duty to voice here the public feelings and tell the authorities that be—whether our voice has any effect on them or not is absolutely immaterial—that their detention cannot be justified any further and that they should either bring them to an open trial or release them forthwith. There have been absolutely no riots and no acts of violence. In fact nothing untoward has happened in this province. I think the Government in its own interests should release these people forthwith in order to restore harmony, in order to restore goodwill in the province. I do not want to say much about the treatment that is being meted out to them. The disabilities under which they suffer, the needless harsh treatment to which they are subjected, were all pointed out in detail only the other day on the floor of this House.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

It is very necessary that at least human treatment should be meted out to them. They are respectable people and not felons. Even the Government of India is concerned more with their detention than with the treatment meted out to them. We have seen that in these matters some of the other governments have been very indulgent. They give all possible facilities to the political detenus and political convicts. I do not see why the situation in this province should be any the different. I do hope that now that this matter has been discussed threadbare on the floor of this House, the Premier will give all his attention and do what he possibly can to remove these reasonable grievances, which are so much agitating the public mind. May I hope that he will pour oil over troubled waters? Before I sit down, although I have to omit several things for want of time, I would like to say just a word to the Honourable Premier and I do say it in all honesty and seriousness. I want to warn him that a trap is being laid for him and that he should not fall into it. He must govern this province in the interests of all communities and not of any particular community. It has not been done in the past, it is not being done now, and it will not be allowed to happen in this province in future. I would request him to take stock of the whole situation very calmly and carefully lest he should fall into this trap which is being laid for him from outside.

**Minister of Finance :** Very mysteriously phrased.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May Almighty lead us all to the right path ! With these words I resume my seat. (Cheers).

**Shaikh Sadiq Hasan** (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, I offer my hearty congratulations to Sir Manohar Lal for introducing this year's commendable Budget. I think that India has produced very few financiers like him. Raja Todar Mal was a financier of great repute in the time of Akbar the Great and now we are proud to have Sir Manohar Lal amongst us as the master hand guiding the destinies of our provincial finances. My honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh, who preceded me, has observed that we should not congratulate the Finance Minister for introducing such

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a good Budget. But I tell him that I for my part would go to the length of congratulating him because he abstained from using any harsh words in the course of his speech. Last year when Lala Bhim Sen Sachhar made his speech on the Budget everybody praised him for his moderation and good style. We will certain call a spade a spade. If the Budget is good it is our duty to congratulate the Finance Minister on it. I ask Sardar Santokh Singh whether he would like that deficit budgets should be introduced in this province. I do not think that he or anybody else in the province would welcome deficit Budgets. I ask, does he dislike surplus budgets? It is a matter of common knowledge that if our budgets are surplus budgets everybody would welcome them and praise them as well. Anyway the most striking features of this year's Budget are that large sums of money have been made over to Special Development Fund and Peasants' Welfare Fund from the last year's surplus and we do hope that in the coming year too the Finance Minister would allot similar sums of money for the two funds respectively. My honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh has criticised the industrial policy of the Government as well. I will deal with his criticism later on when the industries demand is taken up. At present I will simply remind him of the fact that only a year has passed since Sir Manohar Lal took charge of the portfolio of Industries Department. Sardar Sahib should not be impatient. Let him wait and see as to what steps the Honourable Minister takes for the promotion of industries in the province. I may add that during the regime of the Unionist Government in the city of Amritsar alone the number of factories has increased from 10 to 100 which fact even my honourable friend will concede. If the Unionist Government wanted to suppress industries in the province, as alleged by him, the number of factories in Amritsar instead of mounting up to 100 should have gone down to one. As I have already submitted I will deal with this matter fully when the industries demand is taken up and would therefore reserve my remarks for that day. In the matter of education special attention has been paid to female education and the credit for it goes to Mian Abdul Haye. He has opened many girls' schools in rural areas and has given lavish grants-in-aids to girls' colleges in the cities. The practical proof which the Unionist Government have given of their sympathy for the poor agriculturists needs no commentry. They have remitted abiana to the tune of many lakhs of rupees. They have enacted wholesome and beneficent laws which have saved the zamindars from the jaws of the blood-sucking money-lenders. Though this Government have not done as much for the urban people as they could have done, still they have benefited the urbanites to some extent. For instance, not very long ago they passed the Shop Employees Act under the provisions of which a weekly holiday has been allowed to shop assistants and other employees in the cities. Then they enacted Rent Restrictions Act by which they have prohibited the landlords in the cities from raising the rents of their houses without any rhyme or reason. These are in short some of the good things which this Government has done for the amelioration of the condition of urbanites and ruralites. But they should not stop at these only. I want to impress upon them that the condition of the poor people now has become pitiable and day by day it is worsening still further. We all know that the value of the rupee is falling.

and the prices of food stuffs are soaring up. I know that it is not within the scope of this Government to prevent the value of the rupee from falling down, but this much I would venture to submit that at least it is its duty to make arrangements for the supply of food stuffs for the poor people. The question of supply of flour and wheat to the poor people is very important but it is very much regretted that the policy of the Government of India in regard to it has been a policy of drift. In the beginning the Government of India imposed control on wheat but when it was found necessary that they should strengthen it still further they decontrolled the price of wheat the benefit of which went not to the agriculturists but to the middlemen. The poor people had been hard hit as a result. Previously atta could be had at the rate of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  seers per rupee and now a rupee cannot fetch more than  $8\frac{1}{2}$  seers. This, in my opinion, is entirely due to the policy of drift followed by the Government of India. Now even the Punjab Government has closed the depots. I would like to offer one suggestion to Government in this connection in my capacity as a representative of the public and if they act upon it I am sure they would be doing a great favour to the public. That suggestion is this. When the wheat harvest is ready, Government should purchase large quantities of wheat and build up huge stocks. (*Interruptions*). I do not suggest that they should make their purchases at control rates but at prices prevailing in the market. I am sure my honourable friend Malik Muzaffar Khan will have no grouse if the Government buy wheat at market rate. The object in view is that during the months of January, February and March, when the price of wheat soars very high and the poor people cannot afford to purchase this vitally necessary grain at such a prohibitive price, the Government should come to their rescue by releasing their stocks of wheat at a rate at which they originally bought it. It goes without saying that generally it is during these months that the big dealers and stock holders of food grains indulge in improper profiteering. As a result of abnormal prices, the poor people are hit hard and a majority of them find themselves face to face with starvation. It is to tide over this contingency that I am making this suggestion. Strictly speaking, I consider it most undesirable, rather inhuman, that while the rich man's table should crack under the weight of cakes, the hearths of the poor remains cold for want of necessities of life even. I am of the opinion that the rich grain merchants and rich zamindars have no right to starve the poor people simply to satisfy their own lust for gold. I would urge upon the Government the desirability of curbing such nefarious activities of the dealers with a strong hand. I think that persons who are found guilty of profiteering, should be brought to book irrespective of the fact that they are big dealers or big zamindars. I am, therefore, of the opinion that if the Government accept my suggestion and translate it into action, it will not only redound to their credit but will also alleviate the distress of the poor people.

Then there is another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government. So far, the policy of the Government of India in regard to food problem and allied matters, has been that of drift only. So is the case with the Government of the Punjab. They have failed to tackle it in a planned manner. I think that with a view to coping with the present extraordinary circumstances, Government should create a separate portfolio

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and entrust it to the care of a Minister who should give his undivided attention to the problems of price control, equitable distribution of food grains in the country, economic welfare of the people, etc. So far such important problems have never been under the active consideration of any particular Minister. Only the problem of price control has been dealt with and that too, in a half-hearted manner. That is why the Government have failed to achieve any outstanding success in rigidly enforcing it. Although a price control Board, consisting of a large number of members, has been functioning for some time, yet it has not proved itself of much avail. I have the privilege of being a member of this Board but I make no secret of the fact that it has not done anything substantial. The members of the Board are mainly rich and affluent persons. They hold formal meetings, transact routine business and disperse. I think the Board should have members who truly represent the poor. (*An honourable member* : Why do you not resign then ?) I have no hesitation in doing so, provided a better and a more capable person is appointed in my place.

Then my honourable friend, Sardar Santokh Singh, complained of the sales tax and advocated its abolition. I am quite in accord with him to a certain extent. But may I enquire from him, what he has to say about the crores of rupees that have gone into the pockets of the traders as a result of enormous profits accrued to them owing to the conditions created by the war ? Take for instance the case of cloth and other necessities of life. There has been an abnormal rise in the price of this indispensable article. A person earning Rs. 10 per mensem equally stands in need of cloth as his brother who is making an income of Rs. 500. Then there are other social conditions under which one is compelled to make purchases of cloth even at prohibitive prices. For instance, the marriage of a daughter entails the purchase of cloth at any price. What I want to drive at is that the dealers in cloth at Amritsar, of whose grievances my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh has been giving vent to, have made huge profits. I think my honourable friend should have voiced the feelings of the poor urbanites also, who equally look to him for representing their case. He should have put forward some constructive suggestion by which those people who have amassed crores of rupees as a result of war conditions, should be taxed and the proceeds utilised for the amelioration of the poor. (*An honourable member* : They will pay in the form of income-tax.) Not all. Majority of them will evade its payment. I had a talk with some Income-tax Officers in regard to this matter. They told me that so many people were earning taxable incomes, that the machinery of the Income-tax Department had failed to locate them and consequently they had escaped income-tax. So it will be clear to my honourable friend that in spite of the machinery of the Income-tax Department, it will not be possible to get anything out of these persons, who have been enriched by the present conditions. I think Sardar Santokh Singh would have won the approbation of all, if, out of sympathy for the poor, he had suggested that a special committee should be appointed to chalk out a plan for levying tax on those persons who have earned enormous amounts of money on account of war conditions. He ought to have laid stress on the fact that the rich people should be made to part with some money to enable the Government to improve the lot of the poor. (*Hear, hear*).

Then, Sir, sometime ago the Government were pleased to hold out a promise to enact a Zakat Bill. I know it will affect the Muslims only, yet I feel that no time should be lost in bringing it on the legislative anvil. This measure will go a long way to afford help to the poor. I hope Government will fulfil their promise at an early date.

Besides, there is another important matter to which no attention appears to have been paid by the Ministry. It is the post-war problems which deserve the careful and active consideration of the Government. Post-war reconstruction is a very wide and vast subject. I may sound a note of warning to the Government that after the war a political upheaval is sure to take place in this country. If the Government fail to take precautionary measures far ahead of this contingency, they will rue the day when they took no notice of the timely warning given by a friend. Post-war reconstruction entails the solving of the problem of unemployment, old age pensions, health and unemployment insurance, etc. It is obvious that when persons engaged in war services or industries connected with the production of War material, are out of work after the victorious termination of the war, a great discontent will prevail among them and they would be instrumental in bringing about a cataclysm in the province. I would urge upon the Government to adopt measures well ahead lest they should be caught napping.

Next I have to make a submission in regard to the detenus and congress political prisoners. I know these people have gone astray and are treading a wrong path, yet I feel that after all they are our own kith and kin. Government would be well advised to remove their legitimate grievances and accord them a befitting treatment. By doing so Government will create this wholesome impression on the people that they bear no ill-will against the prisoners. They are only doing their duty. I may also point out that the police should be meticulously careful not to apprehend innocent people and thus unnecessarily besmear its fair name and antagonise the public. The other day the police did not act wisely in arresting Mr. Bali of the *Tribune* because they had to release him after a short period when they realised their mistake. (*Hear, hear*).

Then my honourable friend, Sardar Santokh Singh, made a slashing criticism of the police during the course of his speech. He charged the police of corruption and criticised the Government for having failed to wipe out this evil from the police. He also took exception to the action of the Government in increasing the strength of the police. As regards the enhancement of police force, I think the Government are justified in taking this step. The present circumstances demand the strengthening of the police force. The Government do not want to give any opportunity to the mischief-mongers to disturb the peace and tranquillity of the province. My honourable friend will remember the strong rumours current in Amritsar, as a result of which every community was suspicious of murder, arson and looting on the part of the other communities. If the police arrangements had not been strengthened, Punjab would have been plunged into chaos. Hence Government have acted rightly in enhancing the strength of the police force and the amount budgeted for that purpose is not at all a waste of money. Peace and harmony is the primary need of the hour and any money spent to achieve that end, is rightly spent.

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So far as corruption in the police is concerned, I concede that the sooner this evil is rooted out lock, stock and barrel, the better. But we must devise ways and means to overcome this difficulty. Strictly speaking the members of the Police are not being paid a handsome remuneration. Take for instance the case of an Assistant Sub-Inspector. He draws only Rs. 45. But he is expected to maintain his position as an officer and keep a horse as well for which he gets Rs. 15 per mensem. Now how can he make two ends meet? Naturally he will try to augment his income by dishonest means. The only way to curb this evil of corruption is to enhance the emoluments of police constables and lower grade officers.

**Mr Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad** (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural), (Urdu) : Sir, before I proceed with my speech I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister on the well-balanced and surplus Budget that he has presented this year. It has been a convention in this House that speeches are always made in support of the Budget from the ministerial benches. But, as certain facts occurring outside do not come within the knowledge of the Government, I think it necessary that the honourable members of this House should be asked to submit their suggestions relating to their respective constituencies at the time when the budget is to be prepared so that the Government may take them into consideration before the budget is finally prepared. Although this is a popular Government, that is to say, a Government of the people for the people and by the people, still it has some blots owing to the fact that no change has taken place as yet in the system of the Government at the centre. The provincial autonomy here, therefore, cannot be considered to be on the same level with other independent countries of the world. In this connection it can also be said that even after provincial autonomy the administration is being run on the same old lines and the old methods of administration have not changed. What I want to point out is that they are working in accordance with the old rules drawn up by their predecessors. For instance, in order to collect information the Government has no other alternative but to ask the officials to supply it. So my suggestion is that the Government should give an opportunity to the members of the Assembly to lay before them the grievances of their constituencies and the ways to remove them, before the Budget is prepared. (*Hear, hear*). I am sure if the suggestions made by the representatives of various constituencies are kept in view at the time of the preparation of the budget, no complaint would arise to the effect that such and such constituency has been ignored.

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair*).

Now, Sir, with regard to my ilaqa I would like to point out certain facts to you which deserve immediate attention of the Government. First of all I would say a word about malaria which was so prevalent in our ilaqa this year that thousands of villagers fell ill. You will be surprised to know that the rate of death was 10 per cent in the neighbourhood of my village. (*Interruptions*). I would not say that it was due to the mismanagement of the Health Department. However, it was their duty to go on tour in

rural areas and visit the cases themselves, with a view to bring the epidemic under control.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The Honourable Minister may be sent for so that he may hear the criticism of the honourable member.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** The Honourable Minister has just gone out and he has asked me to take notes on his behalf.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad :** Sir, I was submitting that the officers of the Health Department should have visited the infected area and found out some treatment for the disease. But it is a pity that quinine was very short in my ilaqa at the time malaria broke out and even afterwards when the quinine could be sent in large quantity to our ilaqa, the Health Department did not send it at all. On this account things became worse and the malaria patients started catching pneumonia due to their lack of energy and weak health. Consequently the death rate went up and even now it has not come down. Let me also point out that my ilaqa is a very big recruiting centre. But most of the youngmen cannot pass their medical examination because of their weak health and enlarged spleen as a result of prolonged malaria. I would, therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps in this respect and see that the general health of the people of this recruiting centre is improved.

Another point to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is this. The Honourable Minister for Revenue knows it full well as he was kind enough to visit my village that most of the area of five villages has become uncultivable through water-logging. These five villages are Gakhra, Khanwari, Gakhra Chhota, Chek Wassul and Jambola. They are situated just near my village and the level of the sub-soil water has gone up so high that if you dig up earth by one foot the water will come out, so much so that people do not find places to bury their dead. As soon as they dig up the earth, water rises. I am well aware of the fact that those people have been submitting representations regarding this state of affairs to the Government since long, but the Government have not done anything in this respect so far. May be the representation has not been placed before the Minister-in-charge by now. The people are in a fix as to what to do. Previously a drainage was built by the Irrigation Department for the removal of this trouble. But it proved useless and did no good to the people. It requires further remedy and I, therefore, submit that either another drainage may be constructed or the inhabitants of the ilaqa may have their lands exchanged with colony lands as has been done in the districts of Gujranwala and Sialkot.

Let me also point out that the condition of roads round about my village is not satisfactory. My village is a very old one and is situated at a distance of 13 miles from Gujrat. In good old times it was a big business town. But now, as it has no pucca road its condition has deteriorated. I would, therefore, submit that it is very necessary to construct a pucca road at least between Bharia and Gujrat. This fact has already been brought to the notice of the Government many a time. But for lack of funds or for some other reasons best known to the Government, this road has not been made pucca as yet. Since it is a surplus budget I think it is time for the



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Government to earn the gratitude of the people of the ilaqa by building a small portion of the road if not the whole, for nine miles of the road is already pucca. I submit if the Government agree to build at least five miles pucca road every year the inhabitants of the ilaqa will be satisfied.

Now Sir, I come to the police department. So far as this department is concerned I want to point out that there is a good deal of complaint against the subordinate staff. Some time back I had an opportunity of seeing the Inspector-General of Police and I was so much impressed by his courteous manner that now I am of the opinion that if his subordinate staff follows his example even to a small extent the complaint against it will be considerably removed.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** About whom are you speaking? Is it about the Sub-Inspector of Police?

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad :** No I am speaking about the Inspector-General of Police. I am not referring to any sub-inspector. Another thing that I want to bring to the notice of the Government in regard to the department is that something should be done to improve the hard lot of chaukidars. They are paid a meagre salary of Rs. 6 per mensem. Poor fellows experience great inconvenience in making both ends meet. Their duties are very hard. They have to carry the registers of deaths and births to the police stations where they are detained the whole day and are worked as coolies. In this connection I want to make a suggestion and that is that this work of registering entries of deaths and births may be transferred to patwaris so that chaukidars may not have any need to go to thanas. As things are at present, people are very unwilling to work as chaukidars. These are my submissions and I hope that Government will consider them sympathetically.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I have risen to make a few submissions. So far as mastery over the language and learning of the Honourable Minister for Finance is concerned I have nothing to say against him. But so far as the Budget is concerned I want to point out that it is replete with defects. It has been presented in a clever manner so that its defects may not come to the notice of the honourable members.

To begin with I will deal with the Special Enquiry Agency. It has been pointed out by Government that this agency has been working efficiently and properly for the last three years and that it was on the testimony of this efficient work that its staff had been increased. But in spite of the fact that Government have increased its staff, the number of crimes continue to increase. We regret very much that we do not find our late Premier Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan on the Treasury benches. Had he been alive he would have tried his best to redress our grievances. In fact during his Premiership Government was forced to accept the allegations made against this Agency. You will be surprised to learn, Sir, that this agency challenged certain corrupt officers, but it failed to bring the suspected persons to book because of the vehement opposition of the executive, so much so that no punishment was awarded to any one of them. I say it on the floor of this House that this Special Enquiry Agency is not working properly

It has been claimed that the head of this department deputed those officers, whom he deems fit to investigate cases of corrupt officers. But it is not so. In fact my honourable friend over there has tied the hands of the Special enquiry officers and the staff and they depute such officers about whom they feel sure that they would dance to the tune of the heads of the departments. My honourable friend Khan Sahib Pir Muhammad said that the police of this province is working efficiently and promptly. It is a pity that he saw the Inspector-General of Police only who tours the villages once in a year. I asked him if he had seen the sub-inspector and he replied in the negative. It seems that my learned friend has come here merely to pay encomiums to the Finance Minister. But I may tell him that the Honourable Minister for Finance does not stand in need of his appreciation. His work is appreciated even outside the House. I request my honourable friend to see for himself whether police is working efficiently and properly. In my opinion the working of the police is most unsatisfactory. It ill behoves my honourable friend to say that Police is working efficiently. If I remember right, some time back my honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood said that we make these allegations with a view to grinding our own axe. My reply to him is that he defends Government officers for some personal motives. Last time in the year 1987 or 1988 when I criticised the police administration, my honourable friends over there took exception to certain words of mine and they asked me to withdraw those words, which in their opinion were unparliamentary. I say it again on the floor of this House that if there is any police officer who is dishonest and corrupt in Ludhiana district, it is the City Inspector of Police.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not be personal. That is defamatory language. I cannot allow it. It is unparliamentary.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Which particular word is unparliamentary ?

**Mr. Speaker :** All that the honourable member has said about a certain inspector is unparliamentary.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** All right, Sir, I will not say anything about him. My object in quoting this instance is to urge upon the Government to make full enquiries in such cases and award punishments accordingly. We all know that in spite of the fact that there are many dishonest officers in this department still they are being promoted to higher ranks. My intention in making these submissions is this that Government may consider this matter carefully. But my honourable friend in charge of this department does not take any action in regard to this department. It is a fact that my submissions sound like a proverbial tale of " tota-maina ".

So far as the price control over the food stuffs in Ludhiana is concerned, I want to point out that banias are allowed to have a profit of five annas per maund of wheat. In fact the Deputy Commissioner and the Revenue Assistant have allowed banias to have a profit of 5 annas per maund of wheat on depot contract basis. The result is that the poor zamindars have to pay more than is required to purchase wheat from banias. Is this the sympathy that is being shown to poor zamindars ? The Government claims to be the protectors of kisans. But I ask, is this the protection they are affording to the poor zamindars ?

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Can any agriculturist or non-agriculturist consider the bania justified in making a profit of five annas per maund on maize, bajra or other cereals which serve as the poor man's food grains? Why do the Government permit the bania to make this profit? This is nothing short of an act of treachery against the poor for whom the Government professes so much sympathy. In my opinion they should neither make any profit themselves nor allow the bania to fleece the poor while providing food grains to them. This practice must be stopped. I would request the Honourable Minister of Development, who is evidently in charge of these arrangements, to make an inquiry into the affairs of the Government depots in Ludhiana. The very object of starting such depots and instituting price control has been negatived by their having been placed under two of Mian Abdul Haye's minions. It is a very unpleasant fact indeed and I am afraid Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram will not like it, but I have perforce to do my duty however unpleasant it may be. Anyhow I have brought it to his notice and I hope that he would try to set the matter right as best as he can.

Then I come to the increase in the number of Police Ranges from three to five, the additions being the Jullundur Police Range and the Multan Range. One sees that these ranges have been created for a closer supervision and detection of crime. But according to the Administration Report we find that the number of dacoities, etc., has been increased. The state of affairs in the Moga tahsil of the Ferozepore district which is adjacent to my own tahsil Jagraon, is so bad on account of the number of dacoities and other acts of lawlessness that it surprises me why the three or four honourable members who come from that ilaqa do not try to bring the matter to the notice of the Government. The Deputy Inspector-General, Jullundur Range, visited that ilaqa and remained there for at least eight days but nothing came out of this visit. The fact is that the police is incompetent and is incapable of eradicating crime. All the praises showered on the Police Department in the Budget speech are wholly undeserved and contrary to facts.

Again the work of the Health Department in rural areas is not praiseworthy. There have been innumerable deaths in the villages due to malaria. Malaria has assumed epidemic form in the Punjab this year, and the insufficiency of quinine stocks and the inadequacy of the staff maintained to cope with it have added to the severity of the epidemic.

Then the Co-operative Department, which should have risen to the occasion and helped the poor in this time of stress by purchasing stocks of wheat and selling them at cheap rates, not for making profits but for allaying the miseries of those who are dying of starvation, has done nothing to merit praise. These things must be carefully considered by the Honourable Premier, who is unfortunately not in his seat. The Government does not take any action when law courts pass strictures on the police in their judgments. Recently Mr. Justice Din Muhammad remarked in the course of a judgment that as an investigating agency the police should command the confidence of the public, otherwise it cannot be relied upon. The Parliamentary Secretary who is taking down notes, is a learned lawyer and I do not think he is unaware of these remarks. The object of investigation

is to find out the truth but if an investigating agency is such that its word cannot be relied upon there is the danger that it would do harm instead of any good. Moreover, the scope for corruption and dishonesty will also be increased.

Talking of corruption and dishonesty I am again reminded of the Government depots. (*An honourable member*: You have not told us who is *tota* and who is *maina*?) I am afraid my honourable friend did not understand me when I clarified the point. Or else he is trying to deny their existence. Take a careful look round and you will understand. (*Laughter*). The *tota* is the bania and *maina* is the revenue assistant. Well Sir, I was going to say that the depots in Ludhiana were in the hands of two of Mian Sahibs' minions, both of whom are municipal commissioners and brothers, and the way they have managed to fill their own pockets is a clear proof of how a careless attitude in such matters aids corruption and dishonesty.

I beg to submit that it is an undeniable fact that defects do exist in the administration and if you consider them dispassionately you will find that the allegations made by the members of the Opposition are based on fact. Not a single day goes by without some magistrate making damning remarks against an inspector or some other police official. Five or six months back a Delhi magistrate had, in the course of his findings, made certain remarks against an Inspector, who now holds the charge of the Ludhiana City. Again a notice was issued in Sardar Mohinder Singh's case to a Gujranwala police officer to show cause why he should not be prosecuted for making a false statement before the court. Such things must be inquired into and cognizance must be taken of them by the Government irrespective of the fact whether the officer in question is a favourite of some minister or not. Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram should know these things better. The Panchayat Officer at Ludhiana is another favourite whose activities are well known to Sir Chhotu Ram.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): I will again invite your attention to the fact that the honourable member is not in order in making attacks against individual officers who are not in a position to defend themselves here, though we are delighted to receive his constructive suggestions for the improvement of the administration.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: My honourable friend has not appreciated what I was saying. I am only saying that the courts have passed certain remarks against the officers. I am not making any attacks. If that is irrelevant you can stop me. I request you to save me from the onslaught of my friend without rhyme or reason. The instances that I have just cited are all referred to in the findings of the magistrates and it is meet and proper that the Government should take judicial action against these officers in the interest of the better working of the administrative machinery.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man** (Central Punjab Land-holders): Sir, I rise to pay my tribute to the Honourable Minister of Finance for presenting a sound and well balanced Budget in spite of the fact that our province has remained famine stricken for the last four years which cost the exchequer a sum of rupees three crores. A surplus Budget in spite of War conditions is a great achievement on which I highly congratulate the Minister of Finance.

[S. Jagjit Singh Man]

(Hear, hear). He has drawn the attention of the House to the fact that the revenue under various heads has risen to the maximum. As a matter of fact this rise has been due to War because the prices have gone up very high. This increase under various heads is, therefore, to be considered as a windfall. It is not a sound policy to base the expenditure for the next year on this surplus and the Finance Minister has very rightly not touched this surplus at all. The taxation of rural crops has reached the peak for the last several years. Since this Ministry came into office, it has done its level best to give relief to the agriculturists in the form of liberal remission and also by the introduction of the sliding scale system but nothing has been done so far to lower their burden permanently. On the other hand the industry and business is flourishing to a great extent. I quite agree that it is rather difficult to touch the class which is so well organised and has got the backing of the press behind it, but I think that the canon of equality demands that there should be equal distribution of taxation. The point which worries me is this, that when the prices go down, the agriculturist class should have a fairplay and the man behind the plough should not starve while paying the land revenue and water rate. I hope that the Government will bear this point in view. I further venture to suggest that a committee be formed to adjust the taxation between the rural and urban classes because after the War this plan will have matured and there will be no difficulty in putting it into execution. The Government of India was not justified in imposing control on wheat and in spite of so many protests on behalf of the Provincial Government and various organisations, the Government did not lift the control but later, all of a sudden, this very control was lifted. It was lifted at a time when the whole stock had passed into the hands of the middlemen or town dwellers and the real benefit accrued to those persons. The agriculturists or the rural classes did not derive any benefit. I hear that there is a proposal to re-impose the control. I would very strongly urge upon the Provincial Government to see that this control is not again put on wheat. I may add here that the actual cost per maund is not less than Rs. 6 and to fix the price at Rs. 6 is high handedness to which I very strongly take exception.

There is another thing about the control of sugar. I see that the rural classes are not at all being served as they ought to have been served. People go to get sugar but they are maltreated and they are sometimes insulted with the remark that they are not meant to take sugar and they should go and have gur and shakkar as if they are not human beings. Is it fair that a class of people which is shedding blood in the various theatres of War, a class of people which is contributing so liberally to the Government at this critical juncture, should be treated in this manner? I would request the Government to issue instructions to the various heads of departments in the districts to see that equality is maintained and that the rural classes are treated as human beings. It is a very good scheme of the Government to purchase grain through its agencies. I hear that wheat has been purchased by the Co-operative Department. It would be still better if more wheat is purchased by them to be used at the time of emergency. In this way the zamindars or the rural class people will also benefit and the Government will also have more opportunities of being in contact with the rural

areas. I hear that a move of this type is already under the consideration of the Government and I feel sure that the Government will try to materialise it on the basis of the Madras plan.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** How do you know it?

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man :** I know it. It is a very good idea of the the Government to give as much support as possible to the girls' education and it has provided in the Budget about five lakhs of rupees more than during the previous year. It is very essential to pay attention to the education of girls because the girls of today have to become the mothers of tomorrow and they have to produce leaders to guide the destinies of our province. It is very good idea also to increase the number of vernacular middle schools. Some are going to be started in the next year. I would request the Minister of Education to start one school at Mananwala because this is a place which comprises of five thousand souls. Besides, it is a flourishing town and the need of such a school for the education of girls is very much felt by the residents of that town. With these words I conclude my speech. (*Cheers*).

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup** (Bohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Urdu*) :

3 p. m.

Sir, so far as the keeping of accounts is concerned, the Honourable Minister of Finance deserves to be congratulated. But when we study the Budget from the standpoint of zamindars, we feel disappointed. Surely the financial policy of the Government is not conducive to the welfare of the agriculturists. I do not mean to say that the Unionist Government have done nothing to ameliorate the condition of the poor agriculturists of the Punjab. In fact they have tried to scale down the debt of the zamindars and have also endeavoured to help them in some other ways. But all that has been done in this direction amounts only to a drop in the ocean. Previously the main excuse of the Government used to be this that there were no funds to help the zamindars. That is why land revenue was not reduced. But now we see that ours is a surplus Budget. There is an estimated saving of no less than Rs. 50 lakhs this year. What, then, prevents the Government from reducing the land revenue and the water rate? Instead of reducing the land revenue, the Government have actually recovered more from the zamindars this year. Even the ordinary remissions have not been granted on the usual scale. The Honourable Minister of Finance has said in his Budget speech: "Of the other items of increase, the largest increase is under Land Revenue—an increase of Rs. 68 lakhs. This represents a big rise even on the record figure of the previous year. Suspensions and remissions of land revenue have been on a much reduced scale." I may point out that this is not due to crops being good and the absence of 'kharaba'. The real cause is this. The people have been told that the Unionist government is a Zamindars government and the zamindars have begun to think that now they are the rulers. Previously they used to approach officials, and the patwari could prove useful. But now circumstances have changed. The zamindars have ceased to win the favour of the patwari. That is the real reason why the Government have granted less remissions in land revenue this year than they granted previously.

[Ch. Ram Sarup]

In the beginning the Honourable Minister of Revenue used to say, let the Government tax the urban people first and the land revenue would be reduced afterwards. But now several taxes have been imposed and the Budget has increased, still no reduction in land revenue has been granted. Similarly, there has been an increase of Rs. 17 lakhs in the water rate as well. This shows that the burden of the zamindars has been increased rather than decreased under the Unionist Government. The most effective method of helping the zamindars is to reduce the Government demands of land revenue as well as the water rate. Unless and until this is done, the Unionist Government cannot boast of its real sympathy with the poverty-stricken agriculturists. One naturally asks, what has become of the oft-repeated sympathy of the Honourable Minister of Revenue? I am confident that he is still very kind to the zamindars and wants to help them to the greatest possible extent. But the pity is that his hands are so tied by rules and procedure, that he cannot really translate his sympathy into action. In spite of his being the Revenue Minister, he does not possess even as much powers as a patwari. (*Laughter*). Now he is to depend on files and red-tapism. If he is approached, he has to send for the files which start with the reports of the patwaris. Then he has perforce to agree with the reports which originate with the patwaris. Thus he cannot help the zamindars although he very much wishes to help them. The poor zamindars have to seek the pleasure of the patwari and offer him the usual *faslana*. The time has come to free the Ministers from the shackles of red-tapism.

I will now turn to the question of debts of the peasants of the Punjab. Granted that the Unionist Government have done much to deliver the zamindars from the clutches of the sahu-kars, they have done nothing so far to save them from the Co-operative Department which is sucking their blood. The zamindars are heavily in debt and most of their debts are due to this department. Now one thing which is absolutely unbearable is, this that the debt of one person can be recovered from any other person who has the necessary amount of money in his possession under the rules of the Co-operative Department. Every member of a Co-operative Society has unlimited liability and under this unlimited liability, the debts of Tom can be recovered from Dick if the former is destitute and the latter is capable of payment. That is a rule of the jungle and sheer barbarity. The Secretary and the President of any Co-operative Society being influential persons might draw any amount of money for purchasing land and afterwards may say "We are unable to pay back our debts." The Department can recover from any other member of the Society who can afford to pay. This is sheer injustice and resembles the procedure of a Pathan money-lender. It cannot be tolerated in the modern days of enlightenment and civilisation. The Government is requested to help the zamindars against this cruel rule of the Co-operative Department.

In this way the kisans are being subjected to untold hardships. The Co-operative Banks are in no way benefiting them. On the contrary they are harming their best interests.

Now I come to Debt Conciliation Boards. Originally these boards were established with a view to benefit the zamindars but now they are

proving a source of trouble to them. I will explain how. Now the applications for settlement of debts are submitted solely by the creditors. At present debtors do not submit any applications at all. On the contrary it is the creditors who are doing so because for submitting such applications before the Conciliation Boards they have not to spend much by way of stamp duties as they would have to do in case they filed suits in civil courts. What they do is that they write any application and put a court fee stamp of one rupee on it and submit it before the Conciliation Boards knowing full well that they would at least get Rs. 5, 10, or 20 from their debtors. I am strongly of the opinion that these boards should be abolished. (*Hear, hear from the Opposition Benches.*)

Then Sir, there is another matter which I would like to bring to the notice of the House. As a result of our strong protest, Government brought in the Colourisation of Banaspati Ghee and enacted it into a law. But it was not enforced at all. When we asked as to why it had not been enforced we were told that as a suitable and harmless colour was not available the matter had been dropped for the moment. It was also stated on behalf of the Government that the colour which had been tried for this purpose had been found to be harmful by doctors. When we pressed this matter further the Minister-in-charge informed the House that a suitable colour had been discovered and that the Act would be speedily enforced. But so far it has not been enforced at all and the matter at present stands where it stood four or five years ago. I may tell the Honourable Minister that at least there should be some time limit for doing things. It is no use putting us off with vague promises. If the Act could not be enforced he should have plainly told us so. Why should we be kept in the dark? I hope he will throw some light on the matter.

The Honourable Minister for Education has sanctioned dearness allowance for the teachers working in the district board schools in the province. But other servants of the district boards have not been given any dearness allowance at all. I ask why this step-motherly treatment is being meted out to them. In my opinion dearness allowance should be given to all low paid servants of the district boards. Besides grants-in-aid have been made to different municipalities but the district boards have been ignored. The Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government, who at present is not in his seat, has made grants for Lyallpur and Lahore Municipal Committees but he has ignored the district boards. In fact not a pie has been given to them. I ask, how long will this policy of pampering the urban people be pursued by Government? There should be some end to it. It is a matter of great regret that our Government is following in the footsteps of their predecessors. If they are so enamoured of the urban people let them at least not ignore the interests of districts boards, that is, the rural people. With these words I resume my seat.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, for clarity of thought, diction and marshalling of figures the Budget speech of my honourable friend the Finance Minister, like all his Budget speeches, bears the stamp of a great economist and a scholar that he is. But in the Budget the figures reflect the bureaucratic-cum-



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Unionist policy of an unimaginative and unplanned economy. Nature has been generous in providing bumper crops; and with increasing irrigation and high prices, we have been able to increase our income to the tune of nearly three crores. For the last two or three years we have been seeing surplus budgets, but may I ask the Government, with all these surpluses where is the necessity of increasing taxation? During the six years of provincial autonomy no province in India has placed on the statute book so many taxation measures as this Government has done. I have no objection to the increase of income: I welcome it, but without planned economy and without planning regarding expenditure it only leads to extravagance. The honourable the Leader of the Opposition referred to some of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee's report and said that Government did not act even on a single recommendation. It is not only that: of the two committees that recommended certain retrenchments one of the recommendations was that the Commissioners in various divisions should be reduced to 3, because the argument given in that case was that in the Police Department there were 8 ranges. Now the Government very wisely instead of reducing the number of Commissioners raised the number of Deputy Inspector-General's, i.e., the number of police ranges to 5. In this type of expenditure the Government believes in levelling up and not in levelling down.

With all this income the proportion spent on the beneficent departments is smaller as compared with the total expenditure to-day than it was in 1937-38. Expenditure on Law and Order has increased from 2,40 lakhs in 1941-42 to 3,12 lakhs in this year, that is, an increase of 30 per cent. On the beneficent departments however it has gone up from 3,42 lakhs to 3,77 lakhs, that is an increase of 10 per cent only. Take the figures for 1937-38. The expenditure on the beneficent departments was 3,09 lakhs out of a total expenditure of 11,36 lakhs, that is a percentage of 27.2. What do we find in 1943-44? After six years of regime the expenditure is 3,77 lakhs out of a total expenditure of 14,69 lakhs, that is a percentage of 25.6. Thus we see that there has been a falling off proportionately in the expenditure on the beneficent departments since 1937-38 rather than an increase of which the Government boasts. Take the Education Department. In 1929-30 expenditure on education alone stood at a figure of 1,72 lakhs which represented 15.5 per cent of the total expenditure. Now after 13 years this figure has been reached but with what comparison? In 1937-38 the total expenditure on education was 1,60 lakhs out of a total of 11,36 lakhs, a percentage of 14, while to-day we spend 1,76 lakhs out of a total expenditure of 14,69 lakhs, that is 12 per cent of the total expenditure. It is thus clear that even on education there has been a falling off since 1937-38 to the tune of 2 per cent and 3.5 per cent since 1929-30. Sir, removal of illiteracy among the masses is the primary duty of a civilised government. What has the Government done in that direction? The Compulsory Primary Education Act which was a half hearted and halting measure, was amended by the Ministry, but it shoved on the responsibility of spreading education and removing illiteracy to the local bodies. These local bodies have no funds and the Government sits quiet and comfortable with the idea that it is not their responsibility but that of the local bodies. Take

the case of Punjabi and Hindi. A sum of Rs. 10,000 only has been provided in the budget for the encouragement of these languages. This is a huge joke. May I ask the Honourable Minister whether this paltry sum of ten thousand rupees is going to serve the purpose? If he is really serious about it and if he is not jking, does he think that by providing such a miserable sum he is going to promote the cause of Punjabi and Hindi? In his speech at Montgomery, the Honourable the Education Minister said that Government was encouraging the learning of Hindi, Arabic and Punjabi, but that did not affect the question of medium of instruction. According to him, therefore, Punjabi language in the Punjab stands on the same footing as Arabic. Punjabi has thus been reduced to the level of a dead foreign language.

I do not deny that the maintenance of law and order is the first duty of a Government but its duty does not end there. The success of a Government depends upon the increasing prosperity of the people; upon the measures that it adopts to save people from want, poverty and hunger; upon the spread of knowledge and upon seeing that everybody gets at least two square meals a day. Agriculture alone cannot lead to the prosperity of a country. It is an admitted fact that unless industries are developed a country cannot prosper, individual income cannot be increased and the purchasing power of the people cannot be enhanced. Now, what has this Government done in this direction? If to-day we find some industrial activity in the country it is due directly to the impetus of the War and not to any action of this Government. Due to the exigencies of the War some of our industries have developed and it is the duty of the Government to see that all these industries that have been established do not die out after the War. After the War many problems will confront us and the most important problem will be to find employment for those who are risking their lives for their country and for those who are at present employed in industrial undertakings. Like the previous War, after this war also there will be many problems which this country will have to face; there may be economic depression of an unparalleled nature and unless we think ahead, I am afraid we might find ourselves in such a state of affairs from which it will be difficult for us to recover. Many nations have set themselves seriously on this task of post-war reconstruction and I would request the Government to set up a committee to study the conditions in this province and devise ways and means so that our soldiers when they come back from the battlefields and those who are at present engaged in industries do not suffer in any way. The Government should have their plans ready so that there may not be misery in this province. If this War is being fought for any principle I am sure the social order is going to change and the Government will have to find two square meals a day for everybody.

I admit that the Agriculture Department has done very useful work. It has a splendid record of service by providing improved seeds for producing fine varieties of cotton and improved varieties of wheat. But when the time came for reaping the rich harvest, the Government came forward to control the price. I do not want to say much on this subject. I will only say this much that this control system was so illogical, impracticable, ill-conceived and ill-planned that it has defeated its own object. It

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has benefited neither the cultivator nor the consumer. If the Government is serious about control it should not go half way; either it should control the price of each and every article or there should be no control at all.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the policy of Government in regard to recruitment to services. The constant intervention of the Ministry in so far as the recruitment to services is concerned has given cause for grievance. The formula which the Government has adopted is not being faithfully acted upon. I have got instances which I do not wish to quote on the floor of the House. I will only say that in certain cases the candidates of the community which was not represented at all in certain cadre of departments were asked not to appear for interview as those posts were reserved for some other community. It is in the interests of the Government itself that it should have nothing to do with the recruitment. The Public Service Commission has been set up and the Government should entirely leave this matter to the Commission. Why should it be necessary for the Government to ask the Commission to recommend the names of three or four candidates for one post? Why should not the Commission appoint a man straightway?

I do not agree with Sardar Santokh Singh that the Government should not sell lands. In my opinion this is the most opportune time when it should do so. In this connection I would urge upon the Government the desirability of keeping a share of the sale proceeds of the sites in new colony towns for their development and sanitation. In the new colony abadis the Government has not paid a single pie out of these sales in recent years with the result that we find stagnant pools in those towns.

I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Premier to a matter which concerns his district of Sargodha. It was in July, 1941, that the entire population of Chak 35-B—Hindus and Sikhs—were obliged to leave the village. Their shops and houses were looted and many of them demolished. The residents represented to the local authorities and to the police for intervention and it is about two years from now and nothing has been so far done in this direction. I am a well-wisher of the Premier and I would request him to look to the grievances of poor people and he should by his action give proof of the fact that he is the Premier of the whole Province and of all communities. I wish him all success. He bears a strong and sound head on his young shoulders and I do hope that he will do justice to all communities alike.

The last point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Premier is the treatment to the detenus. They are men who are not criminals; they are men who at one time are expected to occupy the Treasury Benches; they were leading comfortable lives and some of them living in palaces like the Premier. Now they have been thrown in jails not because they committed any crimes but because of their political convictions. They have been detained in spite of the fact that they were not charged for violence. Treat them decently and humanely and if you do that, I am sure you will earn a name for yourselves.

**Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan** (Gujar Khan, Muhammadan, Rural), (Punjabi): Sir, before I proceed with my speech I would like to

point out certain well known and interesting facts. Probably you are aware that a certain part of the province has been quite in darkness and unfortunately the Punjab Government have not paid much heed to that ilaqa. I would, therefore, say that the Assembly stands still if the people living in darkness are allowed to live in darkness for ever. In this connection let me tell you as to what has been done by each and every department of the province for the welfare and betterment of the ilaqa which I am representing here. As regards the present Budget I would not hesitate to say that it has been prepared with outstanding ability and therefore it deserves congratulation from both sides of the House. It goes without saying that most of the revenue comes from the pockets of the zamindars and then the whole of the revenue is disbursed amongst the various departments working under various Ministers and the money defrayed for the charges of that department is spent on beneficent works, for instance, maintenance of law and order, welfare schemes and so on and so forth. This is, in a nut shell, how the Budget is prepared and how it works. Now if the revenue is not properly disbursed amongst the departments the Budget is considered to be a bad one. It cannot be denied that most of the money is realised from the zamindars who earn it by the sweat of their brow. But it is surprising all the more that the comforts of the urbanites are looked after and most of this money is spent on them while the ruralites, as a matter of fact, are not even given their due share out of it. They are not given their proper share in Government services. Preference is given to urbanites on account of their good education. But I do not think that ruralites are to blame for that. Imagine for yourself, every facility is made available for urbanites for getting education, but less facility, practically no facility, I would say, has been provided for the rural people. Furthermore, urbanites are extravagant and, as my honourable sister is sitting here I cannot say what I wanted to say in this respect. However you might have seen quacks selling such and such medicine prepared by them as useful for such and such disease resulting from irregular life. So my point is that these people spend more and save very little. Let me, therefore, submit that the Government should not be oblivious of the fact that their income does not depend on the rich, but it mainly depends on the poor on whose earning the Budget is prepared. As the Honourable Minister for Revenue is an old friend of the zamindars I feel confident that he would take care of them.

Now I come to the Department of Justice. It is a pity that innocent people are sentenced to death on account of inefficiency of lawyers. I ask, is it justice? The fact is this. Lawyers prepare the file without knowing the facts of the case. They do not take pains to study the case because they care more for their fees than for seeing that justice is done to their clients.

Now take the Police Department. It is going on in accordance with the old methods. Absolutely no change has taken place in the working of this department. As there were kotwals in old times, so we find them even to-day. But in this connection what I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that no reward is given to the most honest and efficient officers.

[Raja Farman Ali Khan]

As regards the Education Department, I would like to say although the Minister in charge is not present in his seat, that comparatively more heed has been paid to female education during the last year. But so far as the district of Rawalpindi is concerned it pains me to say that nothing has been done to spread education in that part of the province. A demand was made by us to the effect that a school for the children of soldiers should be opened. But our demand has not been attended to by the Minister in charge. As no district can ever improve without education and our district stands in need of it you can imagine for yourself whether it is possible for it to achieve a good position in the eyes of the Government who do not care to give an ear to our demands. I fail to understand why, while enormous amount of money is being spent for the comforts of the urban people, even quinine is not made available to the rural people. Why this differential treatment? In rural areas quinine is given to those people only who possess a slip costing one anna. I, therefore, request the Minister in charge that medicinem ay kindly be distributed free of charge at least amongst the relatives of those soldiers who are fighting for us out of India.

One word with regard to the Agriculture Department and I have done. First of all I would submit that a worm known as *katra* is found in our ilaqa which spoils the kharif crop. I told the Director of Agriculture that the crops of no less than three villages had been spoilt by this worm last year. But I am sorry to say that nothing has been done so far to redress this complaint. Now another difficulty has cropped up. The locust swarms have come. You will be surprised to know that for thirty days the locust has been flying and laying eggs in tehsil Gujar Khan. In spite of the best efforts of the inhabitants it did not go out of the district. It will amaze you, Sir, that a zaildar collected 18 maunds of eggs and while weighing them we found that three hundred eggs weighed one tola. It means that 18 maunds of eggs can easily produce three crores of locusts. Well that zaildar carried 18 maunds of eggs on camels in order to show them to the Deputy Commissioner who was expected at Gujar Khan. As a cattle market was held there at that time, he thought that he would be able to show them to the people as well. But the Deputy Commissioner did not turn up at Gujar Khan. So he left 18 maunds of eggs at the disposal of the Revenue Officer and the Agriculture Assistant. But they cared a fig for them. Even hire was not paid to the people who carried the 18 maunds of eggs on their camels. After all I took pity on them and paid one rupee to each of them for their food. Only yesterday I have received another letter saying that worms have come out of the eggs. Now if they enter into the wheat crop it would be very harmful for the crop and then it will be very difficult to kill them. Hence I submit that the Government should pay immediate attention to this difficulty and try to find out some ways and means to remove it. With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural), (Urdu): Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister on his presenting a surplus Budget this year. I agree with every word of my honourable friend Chaudhri Ram Sarup from Rohtak. The Honourable Minister for

Revenue being a jat is very stiff in collecting land revenue. It is well said in rural areas.

بنیا حکم بہن شاہ جت محمل غضب خدا

According to this a Jat appointed as a collector is not good and hence this portfolio should be given to some other Minister. The kharaba rules are very defective and as long as these exist, no relief can be given to the zamindars. I also made a reference to this in my last year's Budget speech. It is the bounden duty of the Honourable Minister, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, who claims to be the well wisher of the zamindars, to amend the rules with a view to affording relief to the zamindars. There is the question of settlement operations in the Gurgaon district. The first settlement operations were worked out in 1907-08. In that settlement the total amount of assessment was between 15 and 16 lakhs and the district was assessed at 43 per cent of the net assets. This was the most heavily assessed district in the Punjab as no other district was assessed at such a high percentage of the net assets. If the figures are examined for the ten years preceding the year 1937 it will be clear beyond doubt that the district was very heavily assessed. The average collection of revenue was never less than 12 lakhs in any year. The district was assessed by about five lakhs more than it ought to have been in the last settlement. In my opinion the present settlement is based on the average revenue collection of ten years preceding 1937. The relief given is about five lakhs, that is, the difference between the amount at which the district was assessed in 1907-08 and the actual collection of the district. At present the Government is charging 25 per cent of the net assets instead of 50 per cent which used to be the rate of land revenue previously. Thus no concession has been allowed to the zamindars under the present policy. I would therefore request the Minister of Revenue to show some justice to that district by granting other concessions to them. I hope he will do something in this respect to relieve the misery of the poor zamindars of that district. In Gurgaon the rates of abiana are very high as compared with the rest of the Punjab. It will be only fair if no land revenue is assessed on the ground of the land being chahi. In view of the fact that the canal in the Gurgaon district is under the management of the United Provinces Government and the water rates there are higher than in the U. P. or the rest of the Punjab, the fact that the land is chahi should be ignored in assessing the land revenue of that district. The assessment should be as for barani land. I request the Honourable Minister to do justice to this district in this respect.

Now, I come to dearness allowance. Dearness allowance has been granted to all Government servants drawing salary up to Rs. 100, but no such allowance has been granted to the staff of district boards even though they are low paid as compared to Government servants. I submit that the resources of the district boards are very limited and it is not possible for these bodies to grant dearness allowance to their servants unless the Government come to their help by giving special grants. In the circumstances I request the Honourable Premier to place sufficient funds at the disposal of each board to pay dearness allowance to its low paid employees who are not paid even as much as the Government servants who are better paid.

[Ch. Sumer Singh]

Government has shown a surplus of 50 lakhs. It is only fair that out of this sum a lakh of rupees per district be placed at the disposal of each district board to enable it to give dearness allowance to its low paid employees. In fact the employees of district boards do not draw any fat salaries to justify dearness allowance being denied to them.

Before 1930-31 Government gave cent per cent grant in aid to district boards for the construction of school buildings, but now they do not pay even a single penny for the construction of new buildings for district board schools. The existing buildings are very old and are in a dilapidated condition. In view of the resources of the district boards being limited, I would suggest that considerable amounts be given to them for the construction of new school buildings. Moreover the grant which a district board can earn for carrying out repairs to its schools buildings is fixed. No district board can have more than Rs. 5,000 for repairs; and it is very difficult for the board to carry out all the necessary repairs within this small amount. Consequently, there is the danger of the school buildings collapsing after some time.

The district board schools are not properly equipped. The grants that are made to them are not sufficient to carry out repairs to the furniture and other equipments. The maximum grant that a district board can have for this purpose is Rs. 3,000 per annum and this is hardly sufficient. It is, therefore, highly necessary that this amount should be increased. In order to make education more effective it is necessary that the district boards should be enabled to award scholarships to deserving poor students. The Government can help the district boards in this respect by treating the expenditure on scholarships as approved expenditure for the purpose of grant in aid.

It has been the policy of the Government to open at least one high school in each tahsil. No doubt there are many tahsils where we find more than one high school. But I submit that the Government should open at least one high school at the headquarters of each tahsil where there is no high school at present. For instance, in the Gurgaon district there is no high school in Ballabgarh and Ferozepore-Jhirka tahsils. I suggest that a high school be opened in each of these tahsils.

Gurgaon district has done good recruitment work during the present war. There are some privately managed schools of martial communities and a large number of students studying in these schools are related to those who are on active service fighting for the honour of India. Government has issued a circular allowing fee concessions to the relatives of all such soldiers who are studying in Government schools. I submit that this concession should be extended to students studying in privately managed schools also, Government recouping the loss of fee income of such schools. Otherwise these schools will suffer by the extension of the fee concessions to such boys who are very large in number.

Lastly I want to make a few remarks in respect of communal harmony. It is every day dinned in our ears that communal harmony is the first essential for the maintenance of peace and order in the Province, and for this purpose a sum of one lakh of rupees is provided in the Budget. But even

if this amount is raised to Rs. 10 lakhs we cannot succeed in bringing about communal harmony unless the ministers do not divest themselves of their communalism. It is highly deplorable that the Hindu, Muslim or Sikh ministers should bestow favours on their own co-religionists and try to have Personal Assistants and Chaprasis of their co-religion. Not until the ministers are purged of the evil of communalism can we hope to eradicate it from among the masses. Again the grants given to the newspapers with the object of furthering communal harmony are in effect being utilized for preaching communalism instead and are for communal papers. Communal harmony can only be achieved by a thorough change of the heart on the part of ministers, i.e., by freeing ourselves of the communal canker, and not merely by spending—or should I say by misspending—large sums of money in this way.

Then I would like to refer to the fact that most of our questions remain unanswered on the ground that it is not in the public interest to answer those questions. In spite of our repeated requests for the elucidation of the phrase "public interest" we are given no reply. Again with regard to our complaints that the claims of our district are neglected in the matter of appointments we are told that appointments are not made on a territorial basis. Even the proportion formula has not been applied in the case of Hindu Statutory agriculturist in any department whatsoever. The Honourable Minister of Revenue was pleased to remark in reply to a question that appointments are not made districtwise; but may I respectfully ask if there are any orders to the effect that appointments should go only to those districts which have already had a lion's share of them and whether it has been laid down that all appointments should go to the Districts of Amritsar, Lahore, Sialkot, Sargodha and Rohtak as these are the only districts represented in services and the rest have been neglected? All the appointments are given to the districts to which a minister belongs. Appointments should in my opinion be made on a territorial basis and it should be the policy of the Government to give the backward and scantily represented districts a share in the administration.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** (Kangra North, General, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I have carefully gone through the Budget and I am surprised to find that the underlying policy remains unchanged. The Honourable Minister of Finance is undoubtedly a very learned and capable man, but in so far as the question of budgeting is concerned I am afraid he has not formed the estimates correctly. During the past six years he has been over-estimating the expenditure and under-estimating the provincial revenues. In 1941-42, for instance, he had envisaged a surplus of Rs. 4½ lakhs, but actually the surplus at the end of the year stood at Rs. 1.24 lakhs. Again in 1942-43, we were given to understand that the province would find itself in a deficit to the tune of Rs. 10 lakhs, but the reckoning before the year was out showed that instead of a deficit we were to have a surplus of Rs. 86 lakhs. Now is this budgeting? The disparities between the estimates and the actual receipts are very wide. It is the business of the Honourable Minister of Finance to see that the estimates are properly prepared and if it is not done then surely it is a deliberate attempt at hoodwinking us. This year the Honourable Minister of Finance has told us in a very flowery Budget speech that all is well with the Punjab and that the province is passing



[R. B. L. Gopal Das]

through a very prosperous period. May be it is his experience of the Ministerial benches that has made him see prosperity where it does not exist. If he were to meet a zamindar or a poor urban worker and ask him whether he was prosperous or whether indeed he was getting the bare necessities of life or even a square meal, he would find that his statement is not true.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to another matter. We are told that the Government is trying its level best to eradicate corruption. But in actual practice we find that the Government is affording opportunities to its officials to become more corrupt. Under the head "Miscellaneous" we find that a sum of Rs. 55,430 has been allotted to the Publicity Board but along with it another sum of Rs. 2,37,000 is sanctioned for War Publicity. This is how this Government aids corruption. We find the following details of expenditure given :—

	Rs.
Subscription of Special Weekly War Editions ..	60,000
Publication and free distribution of "Weekly Jang"	60,000

Now this last named item is interesting. The "Weekly Jang" is a paper started by the National War Front, which, at its meeting held on the 4th December, resolved to recommend the discontinuance of this journal. But, in spite of this recommendation by the board, a sum of Rs. 60,000 has been provided by the Government. Another interesting item is the sum of Rs. 10,000 which has been "Reserved for the entertainment of Journalist guests of the Punjab Government". Now who are these journalist friends who will grace our province with their presence? Who is going to be responsible for this expenditure? Has this expenditure been approved by the legislature? (*Interruption*). Or is it a گیت دان (Gupat Dan) as my honourable friend over there suggests. This is a wholly uncalled for and objectionable item of expenditure and is a waste of public money.

Next, I take up the beneficent departments. The provisions here are also disappointing. In 1935-36, the amount spent on these departments was 27.5 per cent of the total expenditure, but now what is the position? In this Budget the percentage of expenditure is 26.2. It is clear that all the high sounding claims of the Government—that they have greatly increased the expenditure on the beneficent departments—fall flat. Actually they are spending a smaller percentage than in previous years.

Then, I wish to say something with regard to the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. A saving of about Rs. 50 lakhs can be effected by implementing the Committee's recommendations. The Government have not so far acted even in the least upon any of the recommendations for retrenchment made by that Committee. They are spending very lavishly. No attempt has been made to cut down the huge cost of administration. Public money is being wasted. Unrest is spreading among the masses, as no substantial relief has been provided for them. There is great discontent and anger against the Government. The Government instead of bringing peace and tranquillity to the province has in fact increased the unrest by following a misguided and discriminatory policy.

A word regarding the sum of Rs. 10,000 which the Government has allotted for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi. I ask the Government in all seriousness as to how many teachers can be maintained for teaching Hindi and Gurmukhi to the students with this paltry sum? The grant is utterly inadequate and is just an eyewash. Long-standing grievances of Hindus and Sikhs are not being redressed. It is evident that this Government has no intention of providing full facilities for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi, which continue to receive a step-motherly treatment.

I venture to ask the Government the object of allotting 90 lakhs of rupees for the Peasants' Welfare Fund. What is the real purpose of this step? May I ask how this sum is going to be spent? Will some I.C.S. people be appointed on a committee to control and regulate the proposed expenditure or will there be a non-official body for the purpose? Many doubts have arisen in our minds on this account. We are entirely in the dark regarding this question. I would urge the Government to throw some light on this matter.

I wish to bring to the notice of the Government an important grievance with regard to the assessment of the Urban Immovable Property Tax. The Government stated last year that there will be no tax on the places of worship such as temples, dharamsalas, mosques, etc., but the fact is that excluding the four walls of the places of worship, the rooms, the courtyards and the property attached to those places are being taxed. Does the Government know that many of these institutions do not have enough funds and are hardly self-supporting? Whatever income they get from their attached property is utilised for the upkeep of these places. But the Government insists upon taxing the income from the property attached to such places of worship. Probably the Government is unaware of the miserable plight of these places. I greatly regret this state of affairs. I ask the Government whether it knows that the Government of India has set apart a huge sum for the Ecclesiastical Department. But our Government—the so called “benovolent Government”, does not seem to care for the religion of the people of their own country.

Sir, yet another instance of the callousness of this Government and its indifference to the insistent demands of the people is provided by the continued supersession of the old Lahore municipality and the new Corporation. The Lahore Corporation Act was passed long ago, but when will it be enforced? The people of Lahore are seething with anger against the Government and are clamouring for the rights of self-Government. The Ministry is showing utter disregard of public opinion. This sorry state of affairs in the capital of the Punjab must be ended as soon as possible and the Lahore Corporation should be established without delay.

In conclusion, I venture to assert that this surplus Budget is not a source of pleasure. It is merely an eyewash. It is a sheer dodge for the public. What has been done for cattle-breeding in the Kangra District? What have the Government done for the spinning centre? Can any industry ever flourish in such a state of affairs? Things are deteriorating day by day, yet the Government is indifferent. The resources and the industries of the Kangra Valley have not been developed. I bring to the

[R. B. L. Gopal Das]

notice of the Government the woeful neglect by the authorities towards hospitals, roads, and schools in the Kangra District. They are utterly insufficient in number. They cannot meet the requirements of the inhabitants of the district. What a callous disregard to the clamouring masses of the Kangra District! The Government ought to bear in mind that a large number of people of that district have gone to participate in the War that is being fought for democracy. And now it is the duty of the Government to look after their families. I submit that the Government's excuse that they cannot have fresh elections owing to the War does not hold good. Is it not a fact that bye-elections to the Provincial and the Central legislatures are arranged off and on? Even in the U. S. A. presidential elections which involve the whole country, are not postponed during the war. And yet the Government has persistently refused to order elections to constitute the Lahore Corporation, which is a local affair. The pretext of the War is used to annihilate our rights and privileges.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural), (*Urdu*) : Sir, as is usual the honourable members have praised that the Budget is commendable. I do not deny it. I do congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister for presenting such a laudable Budget. So far as this Budget is concerned, I submit that it is the sixth Budget of the present Government. Every year we have been hoping that something substantial will be done for the betterment of the zamindars, some novel change will be introduced for the welfare of the zamindars, and some new steps will be taken for lifting the zamindars from the mire of drudgery and misery. But alas! all our hopes happen to be in vain when we look at this Budget. Taxes after taxes are imposed over them in some form or another. There is no change in this respect. It is true that some minor taxes are levied on the urban masses, but are they enough to counterbalance the weight of the zamindars? The urban masses have revolted against the Government and so their taxes are reduced and thus their burden is mitigated. Can the simple-minded zamindars likewise revolt or show discontent against their taxes? They are too simple, far less courageous and far more law-abiding than the urban masses. They do not know any device by which they can relieve themselves from these taxes.

The zamindars believe in co-operation and obedience. They cannot think of non-co-operation and civil disobedience. In fact they are confirmed co-operators and supporters of the Government. But it is a thousand pities that the Government does not appreciate the spirit in which this co-operation is offered to it. As the zamindars do not protest loudly against the heavy burden of taxation, the Government is not moved to take any action to alleviate their burden. Even if a zamindar earns Rs. 5 per annum, he has to pay about Rs. 1½ to the Government. But as compared with it, the traders may earn thousands and yet are not required to pay a single penny to the Government unless their income reaches a certain fixed limit. Our Honourable Ministers used to say that they would reduce the land revenue and abiana after they have imposed taxes on the urbanites. But now even when that taxation has been imposed, no steps are taken to alleviate the burden of the zamindars who are groaning under the heavy load

of Government dues. That is absolutely unfair on the part of the Government. The time has come when the Government should take immediate steps to reduce the land revenue and abiana and earn the gratitude of this backward and poor community.

Again, I would like to invite the attention of the Honourable Ministers to a very important matter which touches the very foundations of democracy. With the inauguration of provincial autonomy it was hoped that Government servants would realise their true position with regard to the people and no longer try to lord over them. We expected that the Government officials would understand that they were not the masters of the people but were their servants only. But no change has come about in the mentality of the Government servants. They still behave as if they are the masters of the people.

Another important suggestion that I want to make is that in order to uproot communalism from the Punjab, stern action should be taken against all those officers who prove to be communal. No mercy should be shown to such black sheep. Communalism is intolerable in a public servant. His duty is to hold the balance even amongst the various contending communities. Dismissal from service should be the only punishment of a public servant who shows communal bias or prejudice in the discharge of his duties. (*Pir Akbar Ali*: What should be the punishment of an honourable member who is a communalist himself?)

Now I come to the question of price control. I am afraid the imposition of price control has proved detrimental to the interests of the zamindars. When all other people are making huge profits, why should the zamindars in particular be subjected to the rigors of price control? The same cloth which you bought at the rate of 4 annas per yard yesterday is selling to-day at the rate of one rupee. To-morrow it may sell for Rs. 1½ or Rs. 2. There is no check. In some cases the prices have gone up ten times and even more than that. But the poor agriculturists have been singled out for the system of price control. That is not fair. Again, the price control has been removed at a time when no grains are left in the hands of the zamindars. All the harvest has passed into the stores of the traders. The removal of control of prices at present will favour only the traders. But when the wheat was in possession of the zamindars, control of price had been introduced to the detriment of the poor cultivators. Such a thing should not be repeated.

A word about the subsidised dispensaries is also called for. Under this system the poor villagers are required to contribute money if they want to get medicine for their patients. That is doubly pinching. In the first place the disease distresses them. In the second place they are not given medicine unless they pay for it. Then the stipend of doctors who work in the subsidised dispensaries is very small. A sum of Rs. 50 can hardly suffice. Their salaries should be made attractive.

There is another matter which requires the urgent attention of Government. The kerosene oil which is badly wanted by the zamindars, as they have no electricity, is not being supplied to them. Village *baniyas* go to towns and purchase some kerosene oil from the kerosene oil depôts and carry it away to their villages and subsequently sell it at double the price

[Cap. Sodhi Harnam Singh]

and that too to their approved customers. The Government should give at least 75 per cent of the supply of kerosene oil for the rural population and depôts should be opened for its distribution. Besides sugar has not been made available to the rural people to the extent it was required to meet their demand. When they ask for sugar they are told to content themselves with shakar and gur. My submission is that nearly 80,000 maunds of sugar has been sanctioned for the Ferozepore district alone. But out of this only 500 maunds of sugar has been made available for the rural people; the rest would be made over to the urbanites. This is sheer injustice. It amounts to making no arrangements for the supply of sugar to the ruralites especially when their demand is much greater. I request the Government to issue special instructions that the rural people should get sugar in the same proportion at which it is supplied to the urbanites.

In conclusion, my submission is that sometime ago Government enunciated a formula for recruitment of Government servants. It was decided that in the matter of fresh recruitment Sikhs would get 20 per cent of the entire services. But I regret to state that this ratio is not being adhered to in the case of Sikhs. I do not want that Sikhs should get more than their due share. But what I want is that the formula which has been evolved should be given effect to. According to the said formula services were reserved in the proportion of 50 : 30 : 20 : for Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, respectively. But it is regretted that my community is not getting its due share. Let every community have its due so that there should be no wrangling and communal bickerings. In this connection I would like to put forward one suggestion. That is that it should be made the duty of a particular minister to check facts and figures relating to fresh recruitment in all the departments of Government with a view to see whether the formula referred to above is being adhered to or not. If that is done it will go a long way in satisfying all the communities. Besides the honourable members would also be in a position to bring to the notice of that Minister if any departure is made from this formula in any department. The system that is at present being followed is not satisfactory. The Ministers have not sufficient time to look to these matters and the result naturally is that subordinate officers infringe this formula whenever they find an opportunity to do so. This matter requires careful consideration as to why the said formula is not being given effect to. I have in my possession facts and figures relating to fresh recruitment done in previous years and on the basis of it I can say that Sikhs have not got their due share in the matter of even fresh recruitment. I do admit that in the case of superior posts Sikhs have obtained their share of 20 per cent but that is not the case in regard to subordinate posts.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** May I put a question to the honourable member? Does he mean to say that even in the matter of fresh recruitment Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs are not getting 50, 30 and 20 per cent, respectively or does he mean to say that the deficiency existing in the representation of different communities in services has not been made up?

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** I may tell my friend that even in the matter of fresh recruitment Sikhs are not getting 20 per cent, the share fixed in the formula referred to by me. (*An honourable member :* Yes, this is a fact). I am prepared to prove this by quoting relevant facts and figures. There are some officers who deliberately contravene this formula. In my opinion this matter should be carefully considered so that no community should have any cause for complaint. With these words I resume my seat.

**Begum Rashdia Latif Baji** (Inner Lahore, Muslim Women, Urban) (*Urdu :* Sir, I have carefully listened to the speeches made on both sides. No one has levelled any definite criticism against the Budget which is undoubtedly a well prepared document. I do think that the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal deserves congratulations. We have to bear another fact in mind and that is this. The Honourable Premier is new to his job and we should give him time to feel his ground. We should give him every encouragement and not create troubles for him. But it is our duty also to apprise him of the difficulties of our constituents. I have, therefore, a few observations to make in this respect. Borrowing from modern parlance, I would begin with butter first and talk of guns later. Ever since the declaration of the war the prices of foodstuffs have shown a gradual and marked upward trend. There was a stage when the Government of India was obliged to resort to the policy of price control with respect to wheat. Although many looked askance at this policy the majority however heaved a sigh of relief at the prospect of getting wheat flour, etc., at prices within their means. But some weeks back the Government of India lifted the control on wheat, the result being that the price of wheat has shot up like anything. Another result was that whereas not a grain of wheat was to be seen in the markets previously now bags and bags are coming out. Heaven alone knows where all this wheat was hiding during the control period. The Government, however made one welcome arrangement and that was the opening of depôts to help the needy. The depôts sold atta at 6 seers a rupee and later at five and half seers. Through the efforts of the District Magistrate and the City Magistrate, because they were fully aware of the miserable plight of the poor people of Lahore, 83 depôts were opened in all parts of the city. Two thousand maunds of atta were sold to the poor daily through these depôts. At the time of the distribution of atta the people, among whom women were also included, had to suffer pushes, blows and even the batons of the police. Yet they tolerated all these things merely for the sake of getting some atta. It is in view of such cases in which women have also to tolerate all sorts of hardships that we have formed a defence society for women and I am the President of that Society. Consequently I went to the District Magistrate and persuaded him to open seven depôts for women and on these depôts we appointed our own volunteers. We did so because there was one depôt for women outside Delhi Gate where at the time of distribution of atta female police used to come and create disturbance and they even insulted the women who came to purchase atta. But when we appointed our own volunteers at the depôts this trouble was also removed. But, Sir, five days ago all the 83 depôts were closed. What is the reason? Here is Sir Chhotu Ram sitting. I ask him, where has his sympathy for the poor gone now? Why has he now begun to side with the *kanidandi wala*s? Why is he taking the side of *bacias*? Sir, at present there are

[Begum Rashdia Latif Baji]

three kinds of banias in the province. In the first place, there are the real banias. Secondly, there are capitalists, that is, big landholders who have begun to trade in foodstuffs. Thirdly, the Government has also become a bania. Just see—Government purchased wheat at the rate of Rs. 5 a maund and they have ample stock of foodstuffs, yet they are not selling it. I have inquired of more than one officer and they have told me that there was no dearth of wheat but that they wanted to earn profits. I ask the Government whether they have no sympathy for the poor labourers. (*Interruptions by Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram.*) At present I am in possession of the House. The Honourable Minister may take notes of my speech and when his turn comes he can refute my points. Just see that these depôts have been closed for the last so many days and atta is not being supplied to the public at all. On inquiry I was told that the Government had taken that action with a view to earn more profits. The fact of the matter is that capitalists are siding with the capitalists and nobody cares for the poor. The honourable members are aware of the fact that the rich have plenty of foodgrains and it is the poor who are being hard pressed. When the depôts were functioning the people did not purchase any atta from the shops because they got atta from the depôts at cheaper rates. But when the Government saw that the people preferred to purchase from the depôts rather than from the shops they increased the price of atta. They increased the rate of a bag of atta from Rs. 14-10-0 to Rs. 18-12-0.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 3-30 p.m. on Friday, 12th March 1943.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 12th March 1948

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 8.30 p.m. of the Clock.  
Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### SECURITY PRISONERS AND COMMUNIST PARTY

**\*8481. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) total number of persons detained as security prisoners since 9th August 1942 ;

(b) whether some of the anti-fascist persons, who were busy mobilising the people in defence of their country in accordance with the lines of the Communist Party of India have also been arrested ; if so, their number and the reasons for their arrest ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Pandit Manga Ram ' Vatas ' of District Rohtak who is an assured anti-fascist and who before his arrest issued a statement to the press exhorting his countrymen to intensify the anti-fascist war effort, has also been arrested in the same round up ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Not more than 30, some of whom have since been released.

(b) No person has been arrested for carrying on anti-fascist propaganda.

(c) It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### TIME LIMIT FOR AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO REMAIN IN A DISTRICT

**\*8500. Khan Sabib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the ordinary time limit fixed by the Government for an Executive Officer of the position of an Extra Assistant Commissioner to remain posted in a district ;

(b) the reasons for which the Extra Assistant Commissioners or the Additional District Magistrate can remain posted in a district beyond the time limit fixed by the Government ;



[K.S. Kh. Ghulam Samad.]

(c) for how many years the present Additional District Magistrate has been in Rohtak ;

(d) the reasons for keeping the present Additional District Magistrate at Rohtak for such a long period ;

(e) whether the Government have ever called for the report of present District Magistrate, Rohtak, about the transfer or non-transfer of the aforesaid Additional District Magistrate ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) There is no fixed limit.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Additional District Magistrate has only just arrived.

(e) No such report was needed.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : The Parliamentary Secretary has said that the Additional District Magistrate has just arrived. I want a reply to my question which was sent some time ago. I want a reply about the Additional District Magistrate who was there when this question was sent.

**Premier** : The purport of the honourable member's question must be that the gentleman has been there for a long time. He has been transferred.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : I want a reply to my question. For how many years was that gentleman there at Rohtak ?

**Premier** : What useful purpose will be served ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : It will be served. Why did he continue there for such a long time ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I have already stated that there is no fixed limit for the postings of these officers in various districts. It will not make any difference if the honourable member is informed the period for which this officer was located there.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : My purpose will be served if I get a proper reply to my question.

**Premier** : Do you want a re-transfer ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : No. Not at all.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

\*8535. **Sardar Hari Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of security prisoners in New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, whose weight is sub-normal ;

(b) number of such prisoners in the above-mentioned jail whose weight is less than what it was at the time of arrest and first admission ;

(c) number of such prisoners in the above-mentioned jail as are suffering from various chronic diseases ;

(d) whether any additional diet is allowed to prisoners in the jail in question of the above-mentioned categories; if so, the monthly expenditure on such diet in November, December 1942 and January 1943?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a), (b) and (c) Time and labour involved in this enquiry will not be commensurate with any results to be gained.

(d) They can supplement their diet at their own expense.

#### INTERNEES

**\*8544. Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of political workers interned in the various towns and villages in the Punjab under the Defence of India Rules;

(b) the number of such internees as have applied for internment in a different place from the one where they are interned at present for one reason or another; their names and the grounds for their applications;

(c) the decision of the authorities in the cases mentioned in (b)?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) 148.

(b) and (c) Applications for change of place of restriction are dealt with on their merits. If the honourable member requires information about any particular case, enquiries will be made.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8569. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that 1942 Civil Disobedience Detenus confined in jails in the Punjab are permitted to write and receive only one postcard in a month;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 1940 Security Prisoners are permitted to write and receive one letter every week;

(c) If so, the reasons for this discrimination, and whether it is intended to remove it?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (b) Yes.

(a) and (c) It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Why does not the Government eliminate this questions hour in order to put it to a better use, if the answers are going to be like these? Let us do some other business.

**Sardar Ajit Singh:** Is it a fact that the jail authorities have withheld the letter of Giani Gurmukh Singh Musaffar, which contained the news of the death of his father? Is it also a fact that the said news is still being withheld from Giani Gurmukh Singh?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I want notice for this question.

**REPRESENTATION BY LALA BHIM SEN SACHAR RELATING TO DEMANDS  
OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS**

**\*8570. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Government received any representation somewhere in January 1943 from Lala Bhim Sen Sachar, Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, and a detenu in Sialkot District Jail in January 1943, regarding demands of the 1942 Civil Disobedience Detenus ; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy if it on the table of the House and also state the action, if any, taken thereon ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCE FOR CLOTHING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS  
TO SECURITY PRISONERS**

**\*8571. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 1940 Security Prisoners are paid Rs. 17 per month for their clothing and other requirements and that the 1942 Civil Disobedience Detenus are not paid this allowance ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHER**

**\*8583. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh Caveesher was deprived of an electric fan and the option to supplement his diet at his own expense, allowed under the Security Prisoners Rules ; if so, why ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh Caveesher recently made a complaint to the Punjab Government that during his detention in the Lahore Fort he was physically and mentally tortured, not allowed to move out of his cell for more than two weeks for any exercise, nor was he supplied any newspapers allowed to him under the rules ; if so, with what result ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that he was not allowed to write to the Government of India and the Punjab Government about the treatment meted out to him in the Fort ; if so, why ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : Sardul Singh Caveesher is detained under the orders of the Government of India, and questions about him cannot be raised on the floor of this House, and should be addressed to the Central Government.

## SARDAR SOHAN SINGH JALAL SINGH

**\*8590. Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) when and under what law Sardar Sohan Singh Jalal Singh Jalalusma, President, Local Gurdawara Prabandhak Committee, Tarn Taran, was arrested and where he has been kept since his arrest ;

(b) whether it is intended to try the above-named detenu in an open court of law ; if so, when, and, if not, why not ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said Sardar Sohan Singh has been keeping very bad health since his detention ; if so, what medical aid is being provided to him and whether the Government intends to place a report regarding the state of his health on the table of the House ;

(d) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sohan Singh's brother, Sardar Nand Singh, s/o Sardar Jawahar Singh, recently sought an interview to enquire about his brother's health, but he was refused ; if so, on what grounds ;

(e) whether the Government intends to allow interviews to the relations of the said Sardar Sohan Singh in view of his bad state of health ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Sardar Sohan Singh Jalalusman was arrested on 7th November 1942 under rule 129, Defence of India Rules. He was kept in the Lahore Fort till 23rd February 1943 when he was transferred to the District Jail, Jhang, where he is at present detained under rule 26, Defence of India Rules.

(b) No. This is not required by the rules governing his detention.

(c) No. He is in a satisfactory state of health.

(d) Yes. The interview was sought on grounds of ill-health, but the detenu's health was satisfactory.

(e) Applications for interviews with the security prisoner will be considered on their merits.

**Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Is it a fact that he was mal-treated in the Fort ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have no such information.

**Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Are you prepared to get this information ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member supplies me some specific information, I shall be delighted to make enquiries into it.

**Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Was he medically examined ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There was no complaint about his being maltreated nor was there any need for his medical examination. Once a week the prisoners are examined and he must also have been examined ; and no complaint was sent to Government about him.

## SHAHPUR CAMP JAIL

**\*8591. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Honourable Finance Minister and the Honourable Development Minister visited the Camp Jail, Shahpur, in December 1942, where more than one thousand Civil Disobedience Detenus and convicts were confined ; if so, the purpose of their visit ;

(b) whether after the visit of the Honourable Minister in charge of Jails and the Honourable Minister for Development any action to redress the grievances of the detenus and convicts mentioned above was taken, if so, what action was taken ;

(c) whether the two Honourable Ministers acquainted the Honourable Premier with the state of affairs in the said camp jail and the disabilities under which the Civil Disobedience prisoners in the Shahpur Camp Jail were forced to live ; if so, with what effect ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## CENTRAL CAMP JAIL, HISSAR

**\*8592. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the date by which the Hissar Central Camp Jail is expected to be completed ;

(b) whether it is proposed to transfer all the Civil Disobedience Prisoners 1942, including detenus to that jail ; if so, the approximate date when they are likely to be transferred there ;

(c) whether the posts of Superintendent and of the Deputy Superintendent for this new jail at Hissar have been filled up ;

(d) how many prisoners the above-mentioned jail is designed to accommodate ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Probably by middle of April.

(b) and (c) No decision has yet been reached.

(d) About 1,000.

## REFUSAL TO CONVEY THE NEWS OF RELATIONS TO THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8593. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that even the news of the death of a relative of a Civil Disobedience Detenu convict is not conveyed to him in jail ; if so, why and the action intended to be taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not a fact, as far as Government is aware.

## DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS

**\*8501. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is intended to grant any dearness allowance to the Government pensioners drawing Rs. 100 or below, like Government officials who are in service; if not the reasons therefor;

(b) whether any such allowance was granted to the Government pensioners during the First Great War and thereafter till the prices became normal?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) The question is under consideration.

(b) Yes, it was granted to pensioners drawing small pensions not exceeding Rs. 45 per mensem.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINATION  
AND MIDDLE EXAMINATION FOR GIRLS

**\*8502. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of boys and girls who appeared in (i) the Vernacular Final Examination and (ii) the Middle Examination for girls in 1939-40 and 1941 with—

(i) Urdu as the medium of instruction,

(ii) Hindi as the medium of instruction,

(iii) Punjabi as the medium of instruction?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The information about the number of candidates who actually appeared is not readily available. A statement giving the required information in respect of the candidates from British Punjab who applied for permission to appear at the two examinations is, however, laid on the table.

*Statement showing (medium-wise) the number of candidates from British Punjab who applied for permission to appear at the Vernacular Final and Middle School Examination and the Middle Standard Examination for Indian Girls held in the years 1939 to 1941.*

Year.	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES					
	VERNACULAR FINAL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL EXAMINATION			MIDDLE STANDARD EX- AMINATION FOR INDIAN GIRLS.		
	Medium			Medium		
	Urdu	Hindi	Punjabi	Urdu	Hindi	Punjabi
1939 .. ..	13,695	170	3	1,286	1,852	698
1940 .. ..	13,048	612	92	1,676	2,403	828
1941 .. ..	13,164	606	79	1,836	2,616	1,001

## COLLECTION OF FEES IN GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS

**\*8535. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that in Government High Schools in the Punjab the work of collection of fees, charges of union funds and school property is generally entrusted to the junior vernacular staff of the said schools ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that during the last five or six years the Accountant-General, Punjab, has again and again brought this fact to the notice of the Punjab Education Department in the audit remarks that a clock of rupees forty was auctioned for Rs. 2 only after it had been used for only two years in the Government High School, Talagang ; if so, whether any departmental enquiry was held into the matter ; and if so, with what results ;

(c) whether he would be pleased to lay a copy of the report of the inquiry mentioned in (b) on the table of the House ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Government has made satisfactory arrangements for the collection of tuition fees and union fund subscriptions and for the proper custody of school property in Government educational institutions. Under the rules the heads of institutions are personally responsible for all the money, etc., received on behalf of Government.

(b) and (c) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply to Council Question No. 5074 (starred)<sup>1</sup> asked by Sardar Hari Singh in 1939. An informal enquiry into the matter was held, but from the information obtained it was not possible for the Department to fix responsibility for the incident on anybody. A circular memo. stressing on the heads of all Government educational institutions the necessity of exercising the utmost care in such matters was, however, issued.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Has any complaint been received to the effect that articles entrusted to the care of junior members of the staff are used by the senior members ?

**Minister :** No such complaint has come to the notice of Government.

## WHEAT

**\*8534. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the estimate, if any, prepared by Government of the total amount of wheat produce in the Punjab last year (Rabi, 1942) ;

(b) the amount of wheat that has so far been exported from the province and imported into it after the *rabi* crop (1942) was gathered ;

(c) the estimate of the daily consumption of wheat in the province ;

(d) the total wheat consumed so far in the province since May 1942 ;

(e) the quantity of visible wheat in the province ;

- (f) the estimate of wheat that has gone into hoards ;
- (g) the steps that are being taken to unearth the hoarded wheat ;
- (h) the estimate of the needs of the province in regard to wheat till the next harvest ;
- (i) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the supply and distribution of wheat in the province ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) (a) 3,830,000 tons.

(b) Exports during the ten months ending 15th February 1943, 918,948 tons.

Imports during the same period about 500 tons. (These figures are approximate and the Government of India estimates exports considerably lower than the Punjab Government).

(c) about 7,200 tons.

(d) 2,500,000 tons.

(e) and (f) about 450,000 tons. It is not possible to say how much of this stock is visible and how much has gone into the hoards.

(g) Requisitioning had to be resorted to on a limited scale to feed urban population. The decontrolling of the wheat price has also resulted in more stocks being brought to the market.

(h) the normal requirements of the Province during the next two months would be about 450,000 tons.

(i) In the more important towns wheat is now being sold through the depots, out of a reserve of about 40,000 tons built by the Provincial Government. With the control over the price of wheat having been lifted ; the supplies have become plentiful.

#### BLACKOUT SHADES

\*8584. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that street blackout shades in connection with the A. R. P. scheme have been provided in Lahore only for certain localities and not for the whole of the city ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : The street blackout shades have been provided in certain localities in Lahore for experimental purposes only.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

##### SOLE AGENCY FOR PURCHASING WHEAT BY A EUROPEAN FIRM

\*8683. **Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** : Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the sole agency for buying wheat for the Government throughout the Punjab is intended to be given to a European firm ; if so, what are the reasons for this step ; why is such a serious departure being made from the set policy



[R. B. L. Gopal Das]

of the Government to encourage indigenous trade and venture, what are the special reasons for overlooking the interests of the traders of this province and whether the Government has invited the views of the Punjab public bodies, including the Chamber of Commerce, on this question?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : Government has no intention of giving anything in the nature of a monopoly of purchasing on Government account. The arrangements contemplated by Government will allow existing trade agencies to function to the full extent of their capacity—the major portion of the commission will go to the existing trade agencies functioning in the Province. The arrangements being made are not designed in any way to interfere with existing trade channels.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** : What is the name of the chief agency?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : There is no chief agency.

**Sardar Lal Singh** : Which is the firm to whom major or any portion of the commission is to go? Has that been decided by the Government? We want to know whether this question of buying wheat has been decided or not. If so, who is to buy and through whom? Which is the major agency through whom this wheat is to be purchased by Government?

**Minister** : Nothing has been decided so far. When this question is finally decided the Indian agents will have their due share.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** : Will the Honourable Minister please state how many Indian agencies there are working at this time for the Government of India?

**Minister** : We have no definite information, but if my honourable friend wants definite names, we shall supply the information if he gives notice.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** : The Honourable Minister need not give definite names. Will he please state how many they are?

**Minister** : We have no knowledge.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** : May I ask if it is a fact known to the Honourable Minister that the Government of India decided to have five agencies in the Punjab for purchasing purposes?

**Minister** : I would like notice of that question.

**Sardar Lal Singh** : Is it not a fact that it was seriously rumoured that the main portion of this work was going to a European firm, and protests were received by this Government from Indian merchants?

**Minister** : I can say this much that nobody will be appointed as a sole agent. The Punjab Government may appoint brokers on behalf of the Government of India.

**Sardar Lal Singh** : Is it not a fact that the net result will be that the lion's share of the commission will go to a European firm, and the remainder will be divided into small portions between Indian firms?

**Minister :** I have already stated in my answer that the major portion of the commission will go to the existing trade agencies functioning in the province.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** But the major portion of the commission will go to one European firm.

**Minister :** Not as compared with the Indian firms.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Do I understand that in case Government were to distribute the commission, say, one third of it will go to the European firm, and the remaining two-thirds will be divided among the many Indian firms?

**Mian Abdul Rab :** Is the Honourable Minister prepared to state on behalf of Government that the Indian firms will be preferred to European firms, wherever possible?

**Premier :** There is a certain amount of misunderstanding. There are agencies functioning. These are agencies for the Government of India. Where the Punjab Government is concerned, preference will be given to Indian firms over European firms.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I know how many agencies are functioning for the Government of India in this province?

**Minister :** I have already said that I have no definite information. My honourable friend knows it much better. So far as I know, I think there are three or four.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I enquire how it has been stated that no change is contemplated when the Government itself does not know how many agents are working for the Government of India at present?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether it is not a fact that the Government of India has authorised the Punjab Government to appoint anybody they like as an agent in this province?

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** We have heard that certain directions were issued by the Government in this matter. What are those instructions issued by the Government of India to the Punjab Government?

**Premier :** It is not in the public interest to disclose what takes place between the Government of India and the Punjab Government. It has never been done and it will not be done now. But there are certain European firms and there are also certain Indian firms, all working in the Punjab and there will be no discrimination whatsoever against the Indian firms in this matter. My honourable colleague has made it quite clear that the Indian firms will get their due share and they will not be prejudicially affected. But we must realise that we have to give fair play to all the firms. We cannot discriminate between firm and firm. For instance, there are agents here working for the Government of India and how can we interfere with those military contracts?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** How many firms are there appointed by the Government of India or on contract with the Government of India in the Punjab and does "due share" mean that it will be reduced or it will remain as it is or increased?

**Premier :** If you want to know definite information about this, the Honourable Minister in charge will be glad to furnish it if you give due notice. We are acting in agreement with the Government of India on these matters.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** What is meant by "due share"?

**Premier :** "Due share" means proper share, the share to which they are entitled.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is it a fact that all the buying agents recently appointed by the Government of India are Indians?

**Minister :** I have no knowledge about it.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is the policy of the Government of India going to be reversed?

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** There are two separate questions. One the Honourable Premier has assured us that he will take into consideration the Indian firms also. On the other he has stated that it is not in the public interest to answer. But I have read myself in papers while in Delhi that certain directions were issued by the Government of India. I want to know what are those directions?

**Premier :** If they are published in the press and are within the honourable member's information, he might as well state them.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** If they are stated, probably this question will not arise.

**Premier :** Probably the honourable member was consulted by the Government of India in Delhi.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Is it a fact that at the present moment there are three Indian agencies and only one European agency working in the Punjab for the Government of India?

**Minister :** It may be a fact. We do not know anything.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Does the Honourable Minister know that there are agencies working in the Punjab?

**Premier :** It is a matter for the Government of India and the Minister is not officially connected with it.

**Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan :** Will zamindars be preferred?

**Premier :** Everything else being equal, they will get their due share.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Man :** Does this arrangement apply to *ata* only?

**Minister :** To foodgrains but not wheat products.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Man :** Is rice included?

**Minister :** I think rice will be included when we come to some definite arrangements.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Man :** Has not the Government arrived at any decision so far?

**Minister :** No.

**Mr. E. Few :** Is it a fact that the European firm referred to has many Indian shareholders?

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF LALA DUNI CHAND, M.L.A.

**Mr. Speaker :** Application of Lala Duni Chand of Ambala for leave of absence from the Assembly —

"I applied for permission to attend the last Autumn session and the present Budget session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, but the Government could not see their way to grant the permission. Under these circumstances I hereby beg the honourable House to grant me permission to absent myself from all meetings of the Chamber so long as the Government may choose to keep me restricted under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules."

The question is—

That the permission asked for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

## PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. Yesterday when I moved a privilege motion with respect to the restrictions placed on two honourable members of this Assembly, the Chair was pleased to rule that there were no privileges at present enjoyed by the members of this Assembly. As the fundamental rights of the members belonging to this House and representing their constituencies are negatived, I beg to put before you, Mr. Speaker, that you should consider the question of establishing some convention to safeguard the rights of the members who have constitutionally been elected to represent their constituencies.

**Mr. Speaker :** I never ruled that there are no privileges at present enjoyed by honourable members of this Assembly. The honourable member is referred to section 71 of the Government of India Act which relates to privileges etc. of members.

## BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly shall now proceed with the general discussion of the Budget.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji** (Inner Lahore, Muslim Women, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, I was speaking about the rise in prices of wheat the other day when Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was pleased to remark that if the price of flour has risen, the wages of the labourers have also increased. By this he implied that they cannot be affected adversely by this rise in the prices of foodstuffs. But I beg to submit that in the first place the labouring classes, viz., bricklayers, smiths, carpenters and other labourers do not have jobs for full thirty days in a month nor do they get more than a rupee a day even in these days of enhanced wages. Supposing that they are out of work for only five days in the month, their income cannot exceed Rs. 25 per mensem. Now besides himself, a labourer has to feed at least four other months, including a wife and three or four children. This is a very conservative estimate, because usually the poor people have very large families. Working this income on the basis of the ration of flour allowed to a soldier by the Government, i.e., 3 paos (1½ lbs.) per day or 22½ seers per month, we find that the mother has to bake 5 or 6 chapatis in addition to their meal time share for the children. She keeps them separate in a *changer* so that when the children come home after playing or roaming in the street they

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji]

again need something just as do our children biscuits or fruit. In this way at least  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers of flour are consumed daily. The rate at present current in the bazar is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers for a rupee. Thus his income, i.e., Rs. 25 is sufficient only for his board for 25 days and the remaining five days the whole family goes without any food. Besides this he has to pay at least 4 rupees as the rent for the room in which he lives and has also to buy fuel, salt, chillies, medicines and clothes. I have given these details in reply to the Honourable Minister's remark that their income has also increased. He should kindly take their expenses into consideration as well. Now I come to the dearness allowance granted by the Government to their own employees. The allowance has been fixed at the following rate :—

	Rs.
For salary up to 14 rupees	5
For salary up to 20 rupees	6
For salary up to 30 rupees	7
For salary up to 40 rupees	8
For salary up to 60 rupees	9
For salary up to 100 rupees	10

But no other arrangement has been made by the Government for supplying them with flour or other necessities of life which are not available in the bazar for the poorer classes. If the dearness allowance has increased the income of low paid Government servants, the fact that the expenses have increased tenfold should not be lost sight of. The Railway employees have been given Rs. 10½ as dearness allowance for salaries up to Rs. 100 and moreover the authorities have arranged for the supply of rations which are distributed from the Chief to the peon without any discrimination. The peons get rather more because they have larger families to support. Here the Government have given no thought to the provision of food rations for their employees.

The closing down of the depôts has added to the hardships of the poor people. They used to get  $6\frac{1}{2}$  seers of flour for a rupee from the depôts, but now they are given only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers by the *bania*. The co-operative societies which had bought wheat at the rate of Rs. 5 or  $4\frac{3}{4}$  a maund could, after paying the milling charges, etc., sell flour at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  seers for a rupee at profit. But the Government has adopted the tactics of the *bania*, and the poor are getting flour at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers. The daily consumption of wheat flour in Lahore is 6,000 maunds but owing to the rich and well-to-do people having stocked wheat for the whole year the sale of the commodity has come down to 2,000 maunds. The business of the *bania* has suffered and to save him from this loss the Government have closed their depôts, and are going to help the *bania* at the cost of the poor. This act of the Government cannot be justified. It was the duty of the Government to supply foodgrains at cheap rates to the poor and it was with this object that the wheat was purchased and stocked by them. I would urge the Government with all the emphasis that I can command that they should realize their duty towards the poorer sections of the population.

Now I turn to the situation created by a lack of cloth in the market. The stuff that used to be sold at four annas a yard in the market is not available even at Rs. 2 a yard. I would therefore request the Government to stock the Standard cloth and sell it to the people at a reasonable profit. It will not only mean a source of income to the Government, but will also benefit the poor. Similarly they should stock wheat at harvest time for being sold at cheap rates to the poor during the next year. They should also urge upon the municipalities and courts the necessity of making arrangements for providing foodstuffs to their low paid employees. The closing down of the depôts has caused a great hardship to the people and it is submitted that they may be reopened. Their number should be increased and depôts run by women should also be started. The labourers have to waste much of their time in awaiting their turn at the depôts but if the depôts are run by women, the womenfolk of the labouring classes can easily get their ration of flour from them and thus much of their time would be saved.

As the time at my disposal is very short, I would briefly deal with two or three other matters. The sum of Rs. 15,000 that has been allotted to adult education should also be shared with the women, in opening schools on a very small scale for the purpose of spreading literacy among them. After all they have also the right to derive benefit from this scheme. In this connection I would like to bring this fact to the notice of the Government that the teachers, whether male or female, have to keep up their position and this requires money. I therefore beg to submit that their allowance should be increased. The municipal and other local bodies should also be urged by the Government to do likewise in the case of the teachers in municipal and local board schools.

Sir, there are Teachers' Unions of male teachers and there are also Teachers' Unions of women teachers. May I bring this fact to your notice that in these Teachers' Unions, the teachers of Government schools do not participate, because they are afraid, lest their participation be against the rules, and some action should be taken against them? If at all they secretly participate in the Union, their number is very negligible. The Government is spending millions and millions of rupees for the achievement of communal harmony. The only object in view is to achieve communal harmony anyhow. If we can conceive a way of effecting communal harmony by establishing a Teacher's Union of different communal institutions, then I think we will do a lot in the achievement of our object. I, therefore, request the Government that they should not oppose these Teachers' Unions. It will be better if they are encouraged.

It is usually observed that in most of the villages where a particular community dominates over the other, the dominating community has its own denominational institution while the other insignificant community has no denominational institutions of its own. I think the Government should help the institutions of the predominant community which admit the sons of the other communities in their institutions. If the Government cares to adopt my suggestion, I am sure it will go a long way in bringing about communal harmony. Besides I suggest that the arrangement of teaching their sons be done according to their desire. They should be given the facilities in the matter of language which they desire. By this way, the cause of communal harmony will be strengthened, and the dissemination

[**Begum Rashida Latif Baji**]

of knowledge will be perfect. When the children grow old, they will not be isolated from each other. They will understand the feelings of each other, they will respect each other's sentiments, and thus communal harmony will be automatically achieved.

Now, I bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Public Works a fact of outstanding importance. By chance he is not in his seat at present, however I invite the attention of the young promising Minister with whom our hopes are closely knit, to the past deplorable incidents which happened a few years ago. He is not present in his seat, so I request the other Honourable Ministers that they may kindly take note of what I am going to say.

The Lahore Municipal Committee was dissolved a few years ago. With a view to replace it, a Corporation Act was passed, but alas! so far nothing has been done to enforce the Lahore Corporation Act, and no steps have been taken for reinstating the Committee.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable lady member's time is up.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji:** Sir, I only request for 5 minutes more. I have yet to say a lot regarding some important facts.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, please. The honourable lady member's time is up.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Sir, I am at present the only representative of Muslim women. Will any brother of mine give me only 5 minutes out of his time, so that I may say something that I want to say? I will be grateful to him who gives me 5 minutes.

Sir, I was saying that the people of Lahore have been silenced. The people have no voice in the administrative affairs of Lahore. Under the disguise of democracy, the dictatorship is working. The Administrator is all in all a self-willed man. If this is the will of the Government, then I would suggest that the Government may please form an advisory committee of respectable people of Lahore, upon whose consultations, the administration of Lahore be carried on, so that the sanitation and other affairs of Lahore may improve a little. What a pity it is that the poor, widowed and helpless women are not cared for even in the least. What a heart burning it creates that the Government is going on levying taxes after taxes, but the sanitation of Lahore is as bad as it was. Its condition cannot be depicted in words. The state of sanitation is most deplorable; the people are suffering terribly. The Government has squeezed out millions of rupees in the shape of taxes from the people living inside the city, but I regret very much to say that they have not spent a single pie for the improvement of sanitation. This is why I suggest to the Government to form an advisory committee as soon as possible.

Sir, my time is very short, and I have to say a lot of things hurriedly. In the time of the late Premier, I presented a Shariat Bill. The object of this Bill was to jettison all the restrictions and limitations of the social life. But alas! that Bill was merely introduced and then cast aside. Later on it never came on the agenda. No hope can now be entertained for its coming on the agenda. However, the rights which I claimed on behalf of the Muslim women were not my creation. I assert those are granted by God

and His Prophet. The social customs have annihilated them. It is the sacred duty of the honourable members of this House to support that Bill, so that the curse of social limitations and restrictions may be removed, and the commandments of Allah may be abided by. They should strive to get it passed in this session or in the next session.

I appeal to the Honourable Premier that he may very kindly accede to the request of the Muslim women of the Punjab and by granting them their usurped rights, he may get their prayers. God will surely bless him. If by his kind attention, this Bill is passed, I will consider that I have not wasted the six years of my life as an M.L.A.

Sir, at the end of my speech, I only request the Government that they should open Government depôts in the city at different places. Sir Chhotu Ram may kindly look to this burning need of the poverty-stricken people. Their lives will be rendered happy, if they can get *ata* at cheap rates.

With these remarks, I resume my seat.

**Sardar Lal Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjab*): Sir, when Major Khizar Hayat succeeded the late Premier Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan whose death we very much lament, it was hoped that the latter would prove a success. But I am sorry to hear from his lips that he does not propose to discriminate between Europeans and Indians. On the other hand, his intention is to continue favouring the Europeans as before.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood** : On a point of order. The honourable member has absolutely misunderstood the Honourable Premier. What the Honourable Premier said was that there will be no discrimination against Indians, that is, Indian firms will get preference on merits and there will be no discrimination.

**Sardar Lal Singh** : I quite appreciate what my honourable friend says, but I am afraid I cannot agree with his interpretation. What I stated was the correct meaning of the Premier's words. But even the words of my honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood do not carry him any far. He says that no discrimination will be shown against Indian firms. That is no favour. That is the least that can be expected. We want the autonomous Provincial Government to be positively pro-Indian and not merely not anti-Indian. When we are not even allowed to set foot in European countries, why should we continue showing favours to their traders? This country is already contributing men and money in this war of British Imperialism (and if this war is not a war of British Imperialism, let us say that we are helping the British against the Nazis). Need we also hand over our trade and commerce to the Europeans? In my opinion it is enough to help in the war by giving recruits and money. But it would be fatal to encourage European firms or even to maintain them in India at the cost of Indian firms, because Indian firms will suffer to the extent to which we allow European firms to remain and flourish in India.

I will now turn to the discussion of the Budget. It is really strange that whereas the expenditure was expected to be 13 crores last year, it has actually risen to 15 crores. Income and expenditure have both amounted to 15 crores, that is, 15 per cent more than the estimated amount in the last



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year's budget. I am at a loss to understand as to how the Government could not count two annas in every rupee which they were to spend and receive during the course of the year that has passed. In fact war has helped them because much more money is in circulation to day than in the pre-war days. So the war condition has helped the Finance Minister to balance his budget. Any way it is creditable indeed that he has been able to present a surplus budget.

The Honourable Minister of Finance has remarked in his speech that these are abnormal times which require extraordinary expense. But I beg to differ from him. In this province there have been no communal riots during this year and no extraordinary expenditure was required on that account. Furthermore, trade and commerce too have flourished. In short, everything was going on well. Why then has there been an abnormal rise in the expenditure of the Government? Times were not abnormal, but the brains of those who are holding the strings of the purse seem to be abnormal. The abnormality is not in the circumstances but is in the minds of the members of the Government. That is why a sum of Rs. 17,000 was proposed to be spent on Durbars of the Governor, another sum of 60,000 Rs. on war news and still another sum of Rs. 10,000 for entertaining journalists. Over against these expenditures, there is the expenditure of Rs. 10,000 for the teaching of Gurmukhi and Hindi in the schools. That is a very meagre grant for this purpose. But anyway it is gratifying to note that a beginning has been made in this direction.

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat) : Sir, I would like to intervene at this stage and just say a few words, because the debate will be reviewed as a whole by my honourable colleague the Finance Minister, and I would leave it to his eloquence to rebut the criticism made by my honourable friends opposite.

I would like to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition for the high level of debate and the tone of his speech. If he has not been able to discover any defect in the budget that is because it was cast iron. I think this is a budget in which nobody can easily pick any hole. After three years of famine and war there is a surplus budget, and there is a series of surplus budgets, this being the third one. Heavy expenditure has had to be faced for the war. What do we find? In spite of this, the expenditure on the beneficent departments has gone up from 287 lakhs to 377 lakhs, i.e., an increase of 90 lakhs. This is an achievement on which I must congratulate the Finance Minister. In him we have a real financial wizard. We have had difficulties, but somehow or other he managed to keep the Punjab finances sound. I have been in charge of very heavy spending departments, and have had to go to him with my claims. Well, he has never refused if the cause was good, and at the most, if the amount was heavy, his usual reply was : "Well, well, we must look to the provincial finances". But I always came back with the amount of money that I wanted. His being here was an act of great foresight and I think on this we have to congratulate ourselves. It is matter on which the whole of the province can well be thankful. His stewardship of the Punjab finances during the last six years has been really wonderful.

Then I would go on just to refer briefly to the criticism levelled against certain departments in my charge. Some criticism was made against the expenditure on the police. Well, I do not want to go into the details, but my honourable friends opposite must realize that times are abnormal when the war is on. There have been riots in India, but luckily in this province we have been happy and have got through comparatively speaking without any difficulty. This increase in the police expenditure is due to many factors. One of them is the increase in population, particularly in towns. The other important factor is war conditions. We have to look to the families of those who are fighting for us abroad. The political situation in the country is also responsible for this increase. Under these circumstances this expenditure is amply justified; it is, as a matter of fact, a premium to insure law and order and peace, and I am sure no law-abiding citizen should grudge it. I read in a paper that in another province there have been many cases of abduction and such other crimes, but thank God we have spent money and such lawlessness does not prevail in our province.

Then I come to the special funds that have been created—the Special Development Fund and the Peasants Welfare Fund. In one of these funds we now have 118 lakhs and in the other 90 lakhs. As regards the Peasants Welfare Fund, various schemes are under consideration. At present we have not got any definite scheme for spending this amount and I leave it to my colleague the Revenue Minister to look to it.

I will remind the House that we have given dearness allowance costing us Rs. 50 lakhs and another liberal dose is under consideration. With these results I once again congratulate the Finance Minister on his extraordinary achievement.

Then, Sir, I come to the question that was voiced at great length in this House—the question of repression or the so-called repression by the Government in this province. There are two categories of prisoners. First, I will take up the subject of security prisoners. Due to the War a police officer is empowered to detain a person up to 15 days at his own discretion. Subsequently in certain cases he can be detained for two months by a district magistrate and further detention is allowed after consultation with the Government. Honourable members asked why was it that A or B was arrested and we did not know. The reason is that powers have been delegated and we come to know only when a person has to be detained beyond two months unless we make enquiries. Wherever we found that the discretion had been wrongly used it was up to us to take suitable action. Now I will give some facts and figures about the security prisoners. Security prisoners are detained either under rule 26 or under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules. The total number of those detained under rule 129 on 1st March 1943 is only 49. (*Mian Abdul Aziz*: Only!) I repeat that our figure is much less than that of other provinces. On the 1st March 1943 there were 164 security prisoners under rule 27, of whom 13 are detained under the orders of the Government of India, leaving 151 detained by the Punjab Government. Releases go on from time to time as conditions change. On the 1st May 1942, 8 prominent Communists were released—among them were members of our Assembly—Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, Iqbal Singh Hundal, Fazal Ilahi Qurban and also Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar who was

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actually a State prisoner. Fifty-four persons were released as a result of the Abdul Qadir Committee's recommendations; and 22 were released since October 1942 for various reasons, such as more favourable attitude to Communists. There are other cases that are under consideration. Security prisoners vary enormously. They vary from harbourers of military deserters and dacoits to those suspected of subverting the loyalty of the army. Japanese contacts, terrorists and pseudo-Communists. There are at present two classes. The second class comprises the ordinary criminal type, mostly harbourers of dacoits, e.g., in the Kiratpur case. The higher class is exceptionally well treated. Such persons get according to the most recent orders Rs. 1 per diem as diet, Rs. 20 as clothing and sundries allowance and in certain exceptional cases family allowance. Most of these are detained in Gujrat Jail and their treatment is a legacy of the Deoli days.

Then I come to the Civil Disobedience Movement prisoners. It was asked here why was it that the treatment meted out this time is different compared with that of the last Civil Disobedience Movement. The reason is quite obvious. This time there was a danger of invasion and war. The movement itself started as a rebellion, the slogan being "Do or Die". Individual items were to include interference with communications including the stopping and sabotaging of railways, interference with troop movements, the cutting of telegraph and telephone wires, incitement to strikes and the fomentation of no-tax and no-rent campaigns and efforts to subvert the police, the military, and Government servants as a whole from their allegiance. Honourable members will agree that such a movement could not be treated lightly by the Government who are responsible for encouraging the people to fight and for carrying on war struggle. At present we have over 7 lakhs of soldiers fighting overseas. They are making supreme sacrifices; some have lost their limbs, while others have left widows and orphans. This House had a number of times carried resolutions for war effort, that fullest possible support should be given for this great cause for freedom and democracy. Under such circumstances any movement against the war effort could not be treated lightly by the Government as it is virtually a stab in the back if it had been allowed to succeed. As I said, Sir, this movement is an all-India movement and we have to deal with it on the lines laid down by the Government of India. The Punjab Government, the chosen representatives of the martial classes found themselves fully in agreement with the action necessary to prevent the movement from impeding our war effort in any way.

Sir, in all there are less than 500 persons who have been detained. Out of them a quarter have already been released. I am glad to say that our number is much less compared with the figures of most other provinces. (Mian Abdul Aziz: Send in some more). I do not want to send in more, I want them to be law-abiding. The action that the Government took against them has been of a preventive nature. No firing has been necessary; only one shot was fired which happily did not kill anybody. In other provinces firing had to be resorted to on several occasions.

Wherever there was any justification we have given concessions. We have allowed paroles and in this connection I may mention that Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, a member of this Assembly, has been released on parole.

The question of interviews was agitated here, and it was remarked that we do not allow interviews. The policy of not allowing interviews has been consistently followed by the Government of India in the case of high Congress leaders except for the interlude of Mahatma Gandhi's fast. The reason for this is obvious, interviews being an admirable method of communication for political purposes. According to information it is not true that most other provinces have allowed interviews. More than half are strongly against it, and those who have allowed have not had a happy experience as any relaxation in this respect resulted in jail escapes and jail mutinies. I quite agree that in special cases concessions should be given.

Then there is the classification of diet. In this connection I would like to point out that in the last Congress Civil Disobedience Movement strong demand was made by the Congress that nobody should be put in special class. It was at the request of the Congress that a new class was created. Naturally it had to be somewhere between the first and the third class, an intermediate class. However, as I had stated already the diet allowance of these civil disobedience prisoners has been greatly raised in accordance with the circumstances. I may say that it is now double of what it was in 1940. As I told you the other day an increase of 33 per cent has been given and if circumstances warrant it we will look into the question further.

Discomforts of these prisoners were referred to. Discomforts to some extent there must be, because the jail population was suddenly increased and the supply could not keep pace with the demand. One instance, the lack of charpoys at Shahpur, was mentioned. It has since been rectified and the discomfort given to the prisoners on this account is greatly regretted. It has been stated that these prisoners are experiencing some difficulty in the matter of clothing. But the point is that adequate clothing is not available and the prisoners have been allowed to wear their own clothing. So, that discomfort need not be very serious.

One honourable member asked whether we wanted to send any more to jail. No, I want, on the other hand, that these gentlemen should go back to their professions and serve the country. I know they are gentlemen with eminent service to the country and I do not want that they should remain incarcerated in any way. They can get out of the jails if they give an assurance that they will not pursue their rebellious movement; and if the circumstances are such that the assurances can be accepted, such cases will be considered by the Government on their merits. But if they choose to remain in jail and not help the war effort and are bent on taking part in the rebellious movement, they cannot blame anybody for their incarceration.

Next, it was said that the policy was inhumane. I can assure the House that it is our every effort to make the policy as humane as possible subject to one check, and that is that the jails cannot be allowed to be converted into political clubs. Short of this I am prepared to consider genuine grievances. Some have been dealt with already. If there are any other grievances that are brought to my notice, I shall certainly look into them from time to time and see what can be done to remove them.

One thing more about this movement. It may appear that nothing has occurred in the Punjab as a result of the movement and that therefore

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the movement is innocent. But I may say that it is only quite recently that we have come across a real underground movement which has been unearthed ; quite a large number of arms and sabotage materials have been recently discovered. Only this morning I am told that three revolvers were recovered from the compound of a lady.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is that lady connected with the Congress ?

**Premier :** My information is that there is an underground Congress movement. The Congress underground movement or what you might call the terrorist side of it is there.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Have you realized why it has gone underground ?

**Premier :** I am thankful to those honourable members who have referred to communal harmony and goodwill. I strongly reciprocate that feeling. It is only thus that we can progress in these difficult times and maintain peace and help war effort and raise ourselves thereby. Reference was made by an honourable member to post-war reconstruction. We have not been forgetful of it. A board is already in existence dealing with post-war problems.

This is all I have got to say, but my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand, has prompted me to say a word in regard to this movement. He has asked why this movement has gone underground. I cannot say why it has gone underground. However, we are obliged to help the war effort on the promise that after the war we will be given freedom. It is for that cause that the brave men of the Punjab, seven lakhs of them, have been fighting, and it is in that belief that we stand to-day. Any movement that makes foreign aggression easy or possible is unpatriotic and against the interests of the country and that is my view. Why particular people take to this, I cannot say. (*Cheers*).

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** If the Honourable Premier is not able to answer my question why the movement has gone underground, I shall give him the reason. The reason is obvious. There has been unwarranted persecution and excessive persecution.

**Mian Abdul Aziz:** (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, I had no mind to take part in the general discussion of the Budget but I was prompted to participate in it on account of the Honourable Premier's reference to and elucidation of a matter which was debated at length some days ago on the floor of this House. I have no intention to dilate upon that subject but may I respectfully enquire from him whether it is correct or not that the Government themselves admitted the fact that although this subversive movement existed in other parts of India, yet the Punjab was immune from its repercussions? In other words, the movement made no headway in the province.

**Premier :** Because of the precautions taken.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Does the Honourable Premier think that no precautions were taken in other provinces which have been the scene of deplorable and unhappy disturbances ? Is it the Punjab only that can boast of taking the fullest precautionary measures to meet the contingency ? I beg to

differ from the Honourable Premier's presumption. Everywhere in India complete precautions were taken and the Punjab is not an exception to that.

**Premier :** Besides, it is the commonsense of the Punjabi which dissuaded him from taking part in the tantrums of the Congress. I give credit to him for that.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** But the fact remains that in spite of the absolute precautions taken in other provinces by the respective governments, the people indulged in nefarious activities like the cutting of telegraph wires, committing of dacoities, sabotaging, etc., with a view to obstructing the war effort. I do not endorse or eulogise such unlawful activities, rather I deprecate them with all the emphasis at my command. But here in the Punjab no such thing has happened. Cases of looting and arson have been conspicuous by their absence. Nowhere have any fish plates been removed nor any telegraph wires cut or damaged in any part of the province. There has been no sabotage or obstruction of any sort offered by any body to thwart the prosecution of war. In view of these facts I fail to understand why numerous educated persons have been incarcerated by the Government since August last. I am not concerned with their political views or ideas nor do I subscribe to them. But from the humanitarian point of view and taking actual facts into consideration, I see no reason why Government should place these gentlemen behind the prison bars. This action on the part of the Government tantamounts to sheer injustice, rather unalloyed *zulum*. Now the Government have stated that if these persons give an undertaking that in future they would refrain from taking part in such movements, they can be set at liberty. But I ask, why is this assurance being demanded of them when the Government have not proved any charge against them in any court of law? This question does not arise at all. Government accuse them on the basis of general happenings in India taken as a whole and not on the ground of their having committed any particular offence. This is surely not fair-play. First the Government should frame specific charges against them and prove them and then demand an assurance of keeping clear of the movement. In the absence of any proven charge against them, I am of the opinion that the Government are wholly unjustified in keeping these gentlemen in jail for an indefinite period.

Sir, another point which I want to bring to the notice of Government is in regard to the treatment accorded to the Congress detenus. I admit that the Congress members have always been taking objection to differential treatment accorded by Government. It is also true that they always wanted indifferential treatment to be established in jails. However, it does not mean at all that the Congress M.L.As, who have neither been punished for any criminal offences nor have done anything against the law of the land, should be ill-treated by Government. I make bold to say that the Congressmen who have been put behind the bars for no obvious reason are the same who had the privilege to sit on these benches, who used to criticise Government in this House, who were sent here like my honourable friends sitting opposite as representatives of their constituencies and who are backed by a large number of people. I would like to say a word in this connection about those officials also who are now treating the Congress detenus in a most disgraceful manner when the General Administration will

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be discussed. At present I will try to confine my remarks and will not go into details regarding this matter. However I am constrained to say that by increasing food allowance to Re. 0-9-3 per diem instead of Re. 0-6-0 Government think that they have brought heavens on earth. Does it not seem ridiculous for a Government to grant Re. 0-9-3 per diem out of 16 crores of income? Is it worth feeling proud of? Sir, it has also been said from the Ministerial benches that the Congressmen have been put behind the bars as a precautionary measure. I beg to differ in this matter and would submit with all the emphasis at my command that it was not done as a precautionary measure at all. Sir, when there was no disturbance in the province and not a single incident of arson or looting was reported, neither any case of rioting took place nor was a political murder committed in the Punjab, then how can it be said that it was done as a precautionary measure? I may, therefore, point out that there is no justification in keeping them behind the iron bars, especially when there has been no subversive movement in the Punjab. May I ask Government as to why the expenditure in respect of Police and Jails is being unnecessarily increased when the province has remained completely immune from any painful incident? The Honourable Premier has just now revealed that Police has recently unearthed an underground subversive movement. This seems to be a new invention or it may be true for to-day. But what about the past, say a year ago when Government started this so-called precautionary measure? To me it seems that the political differences are the only reasons for this attitude of Government. To be brief, who associates himself with the doings and sayings of the Unionist party is safe, otherwise he would be spared no place to breathe but behind the prison walls.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** Do not be afraid because you are our supporter.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** God forbid! The late Premier left no stone unturned to imprison the Congress leaders.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** Well, you were sensible enough not to come in that category.

**Premier :** Why are you worried? If these men had been in any other country they would have been treated worse.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I wish you had tried it for yourself.

**Premier :** If I offend the law, I will be there.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I want you to go there just to have a taste of the life there. (*Laughter from the Opposition*) :

**Premier :** I am prepared to go with you.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** That is a sporting offer. I will come along with you.

Now, Sir, I take up the General Budget. It is a well known fact that in 1937 the income of the province was 11 crores and 98 lakhs and now it has increased by 4 crores of rupees and gone up to about 15 crores and 19 lakhs. It is really creditable for Government that in spite of meeting the expenses of the province satisfactorily, they have been able to increase their

income as well. It is also a well known fact that this achievement of Government is due to the Report of the Retrenchment and Resources Committee as they have got the ideas and suggestions for increasing their income from the recommendations made therein. The Finance Minister who was then the chairman of that committee has taken advantage of the recommendations of the committee. But it is very unsporting of Government to have carried out only those items of the Report which necessitated the imposition of taxation for enhancement of income, but ignored the rest. What I wanted to point out was that Government should also have curtailed the expenditure which could easily be curtailed according to that Report. (*Interruptions.*) This unfair game will cast reflection on Government for all times to come and, sir, it is a pity that the Report of the Retrenchment and Resources Committee which has reached the hands of almost every individual long ago, still lies in the dark and Government have never cared to throw light on it regarding the reduction of expenses. Our objections on this matter still stand unsatisfied. Sir, I am at a loss to understand the way in which the recommendations of the Committee have been carried out. As a matter of fact, they have considered only one side of the Report and ignored the other. Without considering the curtailment of unnecessary expenditure they have resorted to taxation measures. So to say, they have acted upon what suited them best while they discarded the rest. It is really hard for the people and it is not fair play to them.

My honourable friends over there assure us that they are doing all they

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can to promote communal harmony in the province. Had it been so, I would have been satisfied. But sir, facts speak otherwise. Instead of bringing about communal harmony in the province, my friends act in a manner which creates dissension and communal bickerings. Their discriminating treatment between urbanites and ruralites, Unionists and anti-unionists, agriculturists and non-agriculturists and so on is mainly responsible for sowing the seed of discord and hatred among different communities. By claiming that they are the real protectors of the interests of agriculturists, they divide this land of the Punjab of the Punjabis into communal fractions. In this way they are separating one community from the other. I want to enlighten my honourable friends over there that this policy is detrimental to the interests of the Punjab. We all know that some time ago, a committee was appointed for promoting communal harmony in the province, but it broke up after a few sittings. It achieved nothing substantial. I ask, was it possible for this committee to succeed when my honourable friends over there made invidious distinctions between urbanites and ruralites? Let me tell them that if they want to help the zamindars, by all means they should do so. But they should in no way cause any burden of the agriculturists to fall on the urbanites. There should be mutual co-operation between the urbanites and the ruralites, as the city people depend much upon the villagers and the villagers have to depend much upon the city people. The Government should see that ill-feelings do not crop up amongst them. I will now confine myself to one or two submissions, which, I think, are very important. Sir, we are passing through a time of stress. During the past few months on account of lack of essential food stuffs, the public had been put to a lot of trouble. The poor people suffered immensely in particular.



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But Government came to their rescue and opened depôts, where essential foodstuffs, i.e., *ata*, dal, sugar, salt and kerosine oil were sold to them. That arrangement continued for some time, but then suddenly the Government closed down *ata* depôts. Now *ata* is not forthcoming even at the rate of three and a half seers per rupee. Wheat is the staple food of the Punjabis and the Punjabis only live on wheat flour, but the poor people of Punjab in general and the citizens of Lahore in particular are experiencing great difficulty in getting *ata* from the market. The same is the case in regard to sugar and cloth. It was due to the efforts of my sister Baji Sahiba that a *ata* depôt was opened just near my house, where poor women managed to purchase sugar. But now the Government is not helping the poor people to get their essential foodstuffs. On the one hand, there is scarcity of foodstuffs in the market due to the lifting of control, while, on the other, we see that my friends have increased the publicity charges given on the pages 567 and 579 of the Budget.

Now I come to another very important point to which I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Public Works, who at present is not in his seat. He has recently joined the cabinet and he does not know all the facts which I am going to state for his information. I hope he will do all that lies in his power to remove the grievances of the public in regard to it. This matter relates to the municipality of Lahore. The Lahore Municipality was superseded by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang in 1936. Since then Government have not deemed it fit to revive it. The honourable members think that I am advocating its revival for getting a seat in it. Not at all. But I want you to rid us for God's sake of one—man rule. This very person has brought untold sufferings on the people of Lahore. He has discharged many poor clerks without any rhyme or reason.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) (*Urdu*): Mr. Speaker, I have been very carefully following the general discussion on the budget which has been going on since yesterday. The manner and the spirit in which both sides of the House have conducted the debate deserves the highest praise. At this stage I propose to confine my remarks to non-political issues only, because I believe that the general discussion of the budget is an occasion which calls for, and which the honourable members are entitled to, a discussion on matters of principle and policy.

Certain matters have been made the subject of discussion in the House and I feel that if certain misunderstandings have been created in this connection, I should try to remove them. But before I do so, I deem it my foremost duty to offer my felicitations as well as those of my honourable friends on this side of the House to the Honourable Minister of Finance—an unsophisticated Punjabi—on presenting to the House a consistently balanced Budget in its seventh year.

Sir, as my learned friend the Leader of the Opposition has remarked, there are certain principles in accordance with which one can judge the merits or demerits of a budget. The very first principle such an estimate of expenditure is judged by is as to how much money has been spent on the beneficent departments as compared with the expenditure in previous years. Now in this connection my honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal

Singh and Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das have quoted figures to show that the budget has provided less money to the beneficent departments this year than has been the case so far. This is contrary to facts and the misunderstanding in this case is, I believe, due probably to a hasty reading of the Budget owing to the preoccupation of my honourable friends in their business affairs. They have overlooked two things. One is an item of Rs. 1,63,00,000, the expenditure in connection with the war which should have been deducted from the extraordinary expenditure for previous years. The other consists of two sums of Rs. 60 lakhs and Rs. 20 lakhs which have been set apart for the Peasants' Welfare and the Special Development Funds, respectively. In the light of what I have stated just now, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the sum allotted to the beneficent departments this year is unsurpassed in the history of budgetting in the province. If the allotments made to the Peasants' Welfare and the Development Funds are included in the total expenditure on the beneficent departments, no province in India can equal the achievement of the Punjab Government. I have not much time at my disposal, otherwise I would have made a statistical comparison with the other provinces to show that—bearing in mind the revenue receipts of those provinces—proportionately nowhere has so much been spent on beneficent activities as has been done in the Punjab. Let me also make it clear for the benefit of my honourable friends opposite, who had asked as to what had been done in the way of beneficent activities, that this comparison does not hold good for this year alone. During the last seven years there has been an increase of Rs. 90 lakhs in the expenditure on beneficent activities. The Peasants' Welfare Fund received Rs. 90 lakhs and the Special Development Fund has been augmented to the tune of one crore rupees. Unfortunately I have no time to quote the figures of other provinces, but I can confidently aver that no other province, whether under the Congress or a non Congress Government, has spent even half of what we have done here. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Have you really spent so much or is it merely a calculation on paper?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** I would to God that He had blessed my honourable friend with a feeling heart as well along with his brains and wealth.

As I have submitted before, the first essential for judging a budget is the touchstone of the beneficent departments and what has been achieved in the Punjab in the present difficult times is something of which every patriotic Punjabi may well feel proud.

The second principle dealt with by my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh, for whom I have the greatest respect, was as to what had the Government done for ameliorating the condition of the zamindars. 'What had been done in the matter of a reduction in the land revenue and affording relief to them?', he asked. Fortunately the simple minded zamindar has learnt enough now to distinguish between his real friends and well wishers and those who only make a pretence of being such. He cannot be misled by lip professions. Anyhow I will try to enumerate the things that we have so far done for him. (*Interruption.*) My honourable friend should exercise a little patience, I am presently coming to that. The first is the

[**Mir Maqbool Mahmood.**]

expenditure on beneficent departments, ninety per cent of which is spent on rural areas. Then comes the huge sum of Rs. 298 lakhs, about three crores, spent on Famine Relief. This sum has been mainly expended on bringing relief and succour to the poor peasantry of the famine-stricken areas. The third is the limiting of land revenue to a maximum of 25 per cent of the nett assets of the zamindars. In the fourth place, comes another permanent relief measure which was opposed tooth and nail by my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh and other members of his party. I refer to the Debt Relief legislation passed by this Government. In this respect alone our achievement stands unique in the whole of India and is a matter of just pride. Lastly comes a matter of no less importance to which in particular I would draw the attention of my honourable friends. During the last seven years we have given Rs. 798 lakhs by way of remissions and suspensions of land revenue. I wish I had time to give the figures separately for each year but I have this consolation at least that this is a sum which cannot be efaced from the papers. I hope my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das now realizes that his objection was not based on facts.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Do I take it that this sum was wrongly realized in the first instance and was later refunded ?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** My honourable friend is a learned lawyer and I hold him in great esteem, but on the strength of the figures which I have just now quoted I am compelled to say that his assumption is utterly groundless.

That is not all. The House might recall that during the general discussion on the Budget last year my honoured leader of blessed memory, the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, said, I had promised that along with a reduction in land revenue I would do more for the zamindars and as the first token of my promise I have given a nucleus sum of 30 lakhs to the Peasants Welfare Fund. That sum stands at Rs. 90 lakhs to-day and I hope that if the professions of loyalty of his party are as honest as they sounded in his life time it is duty bound to make good that promise. The Honourable Premier and Sir Chhotu Ram have already promised to do everything in their power to see that promise fulfilled and the fund administered properly.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Did you say that in the special Development Fund you have got the largest amount, so far as this fund in other provinces is concerned. Did you say that ? Did I rightly understand you ?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** I had only stated that no other province had increased their expenditure on beneficent departments to the extent it had been done in the Punjab.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Did you say that you had the largest amount in the Special Development Fund ?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** No, sir, I had submitted that after the reforms what we have contributed to the beneficent departments including the Special Development Fund has not been done by anyone else.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Can you quote figures ?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** I wish I could, but the time at my disposal is very short. If my honourable friend cares to come to me, I will show him the figures which I have got here with me.

Before I proceed to other matters, I would like to make it clear to the House that so far as the poor zamindars are concerned, this Government is pledged to fulfil the promise held out by the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan in its entirety. The zamindars are too well aware that their interests are safer in the hands of Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram than they can ever be with Sardar Santokh Singh and his party.

Sir, now I revert to the remark that has been levelled against this Budget. It is said that there has been no retrenchment in the expenditure. With regard to this a peck of criticism I submit that retrenchment is as keenly desired by this Government as one can imagine. I think, however much is the retrenchment, it is insufficient, because there is ever greater need for a drastic retrenchment. Whosoever urges upon the Government for more retrenchment, I would have greater sympathy with him. Anyhow in response to the criticism of my learned friend sitting over there, I hereby mention the steps that this Government have taken with regard to retrenchment. Firstly, the present Government has reduced appreciably the number of new posts that will be filled in the near future. The effect of this step will be that the Budget will be affected by crores of rupees. Secondly, the number of existing posts has been reduced. You may observe that in the Budget of 1939-40, there was retrenchment in the leave salary and the contingent expenditure to the extent of 12½ lakhs, but now the lump sum of 5 lakhs has been reduced. To say that the present Government has done nothing substantial with regard to retrenchment is not a valid argument. One can estimate the truth of the statement by observing the facts and figures.

Sir, we are passing through the throes of War. In such high times, one should not weigh the 'little or the big' side of the expenditure. We are mainly concerned with the War and the Victory.

Sir, my learned friend Mian Abdul Aziz said that the Government is levying tax after tax. I submit that it affords no pleasure to the Government to levy taxes. Every one does feel the pangs of taxes. But the necessity of the day compels the adopting of this undesirable step. If one considers the relative position of taxes, and compares it with those of other provinces, perhaps it will afford a convincing proof to my learned friend that the taxes in the Punjab are far less than in other provinces. The amount of taxes that are levied in the Punjab are estimated to the extent of one crore and 63 lakhs. Perhaps he has overlooked this fact that 90 lakhs have been given to the beneficent department, and still further 90 lakhs have been allotted for the Peasants' welfare. Are these not commendable steps of the Government? I, for one, think that the Punjab Government and particularly the Honourable Minister of Finance should be heartily congratulated.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** What items are included in the beneficent departments?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** Time is very short, details are abundant. If the honourable member cares to come to me, I will show him all that he desires to see. However, after the commencement of this War, whatever taxes have been levied in other Provinces, a detailed list of all of them is with me at present. Still for his information I hereby state that Bengal, Madras and U. P. top the list in the matter of excessive taxes, though it is true that their population is far greater than that of our Province.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** But what is the ratio between their population and taxes ?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** Even then their taxes are excessive.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Anyhow tell us the ratio.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** Time is very short at my disposal. The facts and figures are with me. The honourable member can come to me and see them all. However, I am writing a detailed note about all of them. He will be able to see it shortly.

Sir, it is alleged that our Province has not progressed much in the sphere of beneficent department. I state that nothing can be more untrue than this statement. However, for the information of my friends sitting over there, I tell them that in the brief span of seven years the Punjab Government had given remission to the total of Rs. 7.98 crores and the money realised from various taxes was being spent on beneficent department.

Sir, it is said that our Province has not shown any progress in industries. It is my belief that however much is done for the improvement and promotion of industries is not sufficient for the needs of the day. We should strive our utmost to encourage and promote industries. However I tell them what our Province has done in this connection. According to the facts and figures that are available to me at present, I state that previously 14 lakhs were spent on industries, but now this Government is spending 28 lakhs. Is it not encouraging ? Do they still say that this Government is not doing anything for the industries ? I ask them to be candid now. If you care to compare these figures with other Provinces you will be convinced that our Province is no whit behind any other Province. Just for the sake of comparison, I tell them the relative position of other Provinces. To-day Bombay is spending 10 lakhs on industries, Orissa 3 lakhs, U. P. 19 lakhs, Madras 29 lakhs and Bengal is spending 26 lakhs. After perusing these figures I believe that no one can deny that their expenditure on industries was only a little less than that of Madras and Bengal which, they should bear in mind, are much bigger Provinces than the Punjab.

Sir, furthermore it is said that this Government has sold much land for 5 crores. I submit that this Government is not as fleeting as that of Bacha Saqqa, who had circulated the coins of leather. Our Government is based on substantial foundation and in accordance with the needs of the day, it has to weigh the pros and cons of every situation. The fact is that the conditions have changed so imperceptibly that we are now compelled to act as we have done. We had to sell the land. Every year the population increases by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Previously the rural population was 61 per cent but now it has increased to 72 per cent. If we had not sold the land, how

could there be more product, more prosperity and hence greater contentment everywhere? I submit it is the necessary concomitant of the present-day needs that we should sell lands, and we have sold lands for the betterment of peasants. If we have sold lands to the extent of 5 crores of rupees, our worthy opponents should be pleased, for they know that 8 crores of rupees have been spent on the irrigation projects, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  crores of rupees have been spent in connection with the War.

Sir, they say that the sum of Rs. 10,000 allotted for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi is insufficient. I submit that it is an auspicious omen for the present generation and for posterity. They ought to know that it was one of the clauses of Sikander-Baldev Pact that the present Government would provide some provision for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi. So in accordance with that clause of the above-mentioned pact, this Government will not shirk to abide by it. Money had been provided for scriptural education. They were pledged to carry out the promises held out by their late Leader of the House. This Government has also helped the teachers to an appreciable extent.

Sir, now I revert to the criticism of my honourable friend sitting over there. He was pleased to say, that war publicity should not be done through the Director of Public Information. I state that it is no argument. Everywhere in every province war publicity is being done through the Director of Public Information.

Sir, at the end of my speech, I only state this much, that this Government has done the utmost that it could do to help the poor and the rich alike. It would not be irrelevant to read out the last portion of the speech of my most worthy Leader the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. It runs as follows:—

All that I can say now therefore is that we may have made mistakes. Every human being is liable to err. We do not claim that we are not capable of mistake. But I can assure the House of one thing and that is, that if we have made mistakes they were not deliberately made. How far we have achieved that ideal I do not make any claim at present. Our work is there and if our friends to-day do not appreciate it we will leave it to the historian of the future and to the future generation to judge whether our work has been of any use to the Province or whether the claims which we have made as servants of the people, as friends of the poor are justified or not. It is not for me to make that claim, but I can assure you that after this period of five years, I have got a feeling that I can go up before my God with a clear conscience that so far we are concerned we have honestly tried our best to do our duty by the people of the Province.

**Shrimati Raghubir Kaur** (Anritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to narrate all that the Unionist Ministry has done since 1937 for the welfare of the public. The budget which has now been presented before this House does not reveal any scheme for ameliorating the condition of the people. Let us take first of all the question of developing industry in the country. Unless industry and agriculture are promoted, the condition of the people cannot be ameliorated. Masses can neither be fed nor clothed without the promotion of the industry in India. All that the people earn with their honest labour finds its way into the coffers of Government in the form of taxes. It behoves Government to accord equal treatment to the urban as well as rural population. It ill becomes the government to make any invidious distinction between the urbanites and ruralites. Government ought to make excellent arrangements for food and education of the masses. But it is a thousand pities that the big zamindars and the traders have

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locked up food-grains in their stores, while the poor people are starving, and their little children are crying for food. Government should break the locks of the profiteers and confiscate all the grain for distribution among the poor. Alas! there is famine in spite of the abundance of food-grains in the country. But the merciless shopkeepers have buried their surplus wheat. If this famine had spread due to the scarcity of wheat, we would have endured. Why should the poor people be allowed to starve when thousands and thousands of maunds of wheat are there in the stores of the zamindars and the shopkeepers, and wheat is being eaten and wasted away by worms? Those cruel persons who are withholding wheat for the purposes of profiteering and are thus compelling the people to starve, should be punished severely. It is no use scoffing like children at what the Congress Governments have done in other provinces. Let us mind our own business and see what our government is doing in this province. Let us clear our own position. We are not responsible for other provinces. The people of other provinces are responsible for them, and we are answerable for our own. Our Government ought to make the best arrangements for food, education and health of the people. Let us not scoff at others like children.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Shrimati Raghubir Kaur :** Sir, in obedience to your orders, I close my speech at this very stage without saying anything further.

**Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan** (Rawalpindi East, Muhammadan Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for his having presented a very successful budget. But it will not be out of place to mention here the true state of affairs of my own district of Rawalpindi. I want to invite the attention of Government to the manifold troubles and sufferings of the people of this district. The inhabitants of my district are steeped in misery and poverty, but the story of its war efforts deserves to be written in gold. During the last great war, it stood first not only in the Punjab but in the whole of India. (Cheers). The same is the case in this war. It is said that history repeats itself. Surely the history of the Rawalpindi district has repeated itself. It has provided as many as 70,000 soldiers to the Indian Army during the recent recruitment campaign. If the Indian Army were to be raised and recruited on provincial basis, that is, each province offering recruits according to its population, then it would be confidently claimed that the Rawalpindi district alone has contributed what the whole of the Punjab was required to offer in the recruitment. Mr. Speaker, it is well known to every body that the Punjab is called the sword arm of India. But I would say that if the Punjab is the sword arm of India, the Rawalpindi district is the sword arm of the Punjab. (Cheers). In view of the huge contributions of men and money from this district, it would not be asking for the moon if I say that the Rawalpindi district should be given lion's share from the provincial exchequer. It is high time indeed to think that the provincial revenues should be distributed according to the contributions of the various districts towards the successful prosecution of war. The measure of war efforts of each district should be the measure of its share in the Government grants. But it saddens me to think of the actual position.

The naked realities about the financial position of this unfortunate part of the province makes me very sad indeed. Instead of giving us lion's share, Government is not giving us even what it receives from us. What a pity it is to think of the step-motherly treatment which is being meted out to us. Government thrives at the cost of the people living in this district. Forests are developed here after depriving the local inhabitants of the benefits of those forests. As a member of the Forest Commission, I have come to know the actual position. It is argued by the Government officers that forests are maintained in order that the hill torrents may be checked and wood and fuel may be supplied. If they are not checked, the water would flow swiftly and destroy the local lands by carrying sands from the hills. But as a matter of fact huge revenues are raised from this industry of afforestation at the cost of the local inhabitants who are not allowed to graze their cattle or cut any branch of trees. It is a strange logic that all the income of forests should go to government, while no share of it should be given to the local inhabitants in order to compensate them for the loss they sustain. Hardly a day passes when the local inhabitants of the *ilaqa* are not challaned under one pretext or another. But all the income of the forests is handed over to Government for being spent as they like best. My humble suggestion in this connection is that grants of lands may be given to the poor people of Rawalpindi at whose cost the forests are flourishing, and whose bones, so to say, are being powdered and ground by the Forest authorities, as in the Montgomery and other colonies every person was awarded a grant of half a square land as a compensation for the hardships and troubles they had to endure in living in the jungles before the canals arrived. Similarly another suggestion which has come to my mind and which deserves the serious consideration of Government is that the benefit of the fresh impetus which has been given to trade and commerce by the war should go to those who are doing their utmost for the prosecution of this war by contributing men and money. After all it is acknowledged on all hands that this war has quickened the pace of commerce. Now those people who are making sacrifices in the war have a prior right to reap the advantages of this growing trade. But unfortunately this is not the case. I strongly request Government to see to it that most of the advantages of sudden rise in the development of trade due to war should go to the people who are making huge sacrifices. If the necessary powers lie with the Central Government, a strong representation should be made to it for doing the needful.

With these words, sir, I close my speech as my time is up.

**Minister for Revenue :** The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : Sir, I propose to confine myself only to four or five points which relate to my departments. But before I do this, there is just one word about the subject which was introduced by the Leader of the Opposition. He suggested that taxes that had already been imposed were, according to me already bringing in 2 to 8 crores of rupees a year. There must be a good deal of misapprehension as to the actual proceeds of taxes imposed so far. It is true that the two taxes which have been imposed are capable of bringing in about 2 crores a year, but the proceeds so far have not been more than 20 or 25 lakhs. The estimate for the year 1943-44 is only 38 lakhs. If the Leader of the Opposition is under such misapprehension as to the proceeds of these taxes, the general public can be excused if they form a wrong



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idea about these figures. Another point in relation to the taxes may also be cleared. In this House as well as from the public platform I have been suggesting that more taxes should be imposed bringing in about 4 crores of rupees a year. I want to make it quite clear, as I have done several times before, that these suggestions represent only my personal view; they have neither been formally considered nor adopted as a goal to be reached by the Cabinet as a whole. There should be no further misapprehension of any kind on this subject.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** What I said was that the full effect of the taxes is yet to be felt.

**Minister :** And I should also like to make it clear that the taxes according to my view should not be imposed on all non-agriculturists but on wealthier classes only. (*Mian Abdul Aziz :* God bless you !)

A number of member said that the Unionist Government in spite of its election pledges had done nothing to lessen the burden of taxes on land. I made a detailed reference to this subject last year and I repeat that the policy of the Unionist Party even before it came to office was to urge upon the Government to pass a law which had the effect of making reductions in land revenue. Accordingly a law was enacted under which the State's share was reduced from 50 per cent of the net assets to 25 per cent and as new settlements become due and are undertaken this new principle is being applied.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** May I ask a question from the Honourable Minister? Is it or is it not a fact that no previous Government in the province ever charged more than 20 per cent of the net assets?

**Minister for Revenue :** The suggestion is wide of the mark. The statutory share of the State was 50 per cent and although it is perfectly true that the Punjab Government never went up to 50 per cent, yet Malik Sahib is entirely wrong when he says that the Punjab Government never went beyond 20 per cent. I am going to quote figures to show that the Punjab Government went as high as 46 per cent in some districts. Here are figures which will give the House the relative percentages taken in old and recent settlements in some of the districts. In Gurgaon the percentage of net assets under the outgoing settlement varied between 40 to 46 per cent in various tahsils. Now it has come down to 23.2 per cent—very nearly one-half. In Jhelum district it was 33.5 per cent under the old settlement, while for the present settlement it has come down to a little over 23 per cent. In the case of Lahore during the former settlement the share of net assets taken was 22 per cent and now it has come down to 15 per cent in the tahsil of Lahore, 16 per cent in the tahsil of Chunian and only 14 per cent in the tahsil of Kasur. Now I come to Amritsar district. In the previous settlement the net assets taken amounted to 25.5 per cent; the State's share has now been reduced to 15.3 per cent in the Amritsar tahsil; 14 per cent in Tarn Taran tahsil and 15.1 per cent in the Ajnala tahsil.

I will now draw the attention of the honourable members to the remissions that have been given. In the Jhelum district a sum of Rs. 58,000—a little over that—was still outstanding at the latest settlement; the entire amount was remitted. In the Gurgaon district, which was very heavily

taxed, the amount remitted is over 18 lakhs of rupees. My honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh is not here; he had the audacity to suggest that a Jat *mohussil* (tax-collector) was a curse of God. But this very Jat *mohussil* has given a little over 18 lakhs of rupees to his district as a remission of arrears and Rs. 3,84,000 as permanent annual reduction in land revenue.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Was this done by the present Revenue Minister or by his predecessor ?

**Minister :** My predecessor also was a Jat . (*Laughter*). But so far as Gurgaon is concerned, the remission was given in my time.

I may say just a word with regard to sale of Crown lands. It was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition that Crown lands should not have been sold. It was made quite clear by the Honourable Premier that we could not guess that the War was coming and we were up against a very huge amount of capital expenditure on the Western Jumna Extensions and the Thal Project. Further, we had to meet a very heavy demand on account of an unprecedented famine.

In order to meet our financial obligations we had to make use of our Crown lands and get as much money out of them as possible. Yet, it was not during the first two or three years of the Unionist Ministry that lands were sold to any very large extent. It is only during the last two years that we have sold a much larger area than we used to sell before. But we have done this at a price that will startle anybody in this House. A single rectangle in the Multan district has fetched over Rs. 93,000. Even in chaks where more than two-thirds of the area had already been allotted the *bagaya* has brought on an average a price of over Rs. 20,000 per square in some cases. Does not the House then think that this is the proper time for us to make use of our land assets and get as much money as possible ? As soon as the war is over and we are able to import machinery and plant from outside India we shall be in a position to undertake the Thal project, the Bhakra Dam and so many other projects of irrigation.

The last item to which I will refer is the Peasants Welfare Fund. There is about ninety lakhs of rupees in this fund. The first deposit in this fund was made only last year about this time and a second deposit of sixty lakhs has been made this year. It is true that we have not so far been able to evolve a concrete scheme according to which this money is to be spent. But if honourable members of the House will remember, I invited them about this time last year to make suggestions, constructive suggestions, about the manner in which this money should be spent. I again repeat my invitation. If honourable members will kindly send up their suggestions of useful schemes which can be adopted for the good of smaller landowners, Government will be sincerely grateful. If they are unable to find time for this matter I propose after the budget session is over, to call a few members for discussion. After that I expect that by next autumn we shall be in possession of a scheme under which this money will be spent. But the governing principle under which this money will be spent will be that as much benefit of this fund as possible should go to those who are small land owners. There may be certain schemes under which incidentally

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the benefit of this fund may go even to other land owners, bigger land-owners; but our aim will be to give the benefit of the bulk of this fund to the smaller owner. Tentative schemes which have occurred to me so far are firstly, relief to small land owners in times of scarcity. Suppose there is a raid by locusts or extensive damage in large areas done by hailstorm or suppose crops fail on account of scarcity of rain or they are destroyed by floods. Then the income from this fund will come handy in order to grant relief to the people, particularly the smaller owner. At present the tendency of subordinate revenue officials is to under-estimate the damage which has been done to crops, because they are afraid of somebody higher up, that if the Government's treasury remains empty they will be taken to task. But when you have got money in a special fund you can make use of the proceeds of that fund for the purpose of giving relief in times of misfortune like these; and the subordinate revenue officials will cease to think that somebody higher up may possibly twist their tails if recoveries of land revenue are not made in fun.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** So the Government propose to spend money for the amelioration of peasants out of the income or the return from this fund?

**Minister for Revenue :** Not necessarily from the return. The income from this fund as also part of the fund itself, if necessary, will be utilised for the purpose.

The second object on which we desire to devote this fund is the provision of a reasonably cheap credit. As everybody will recognise, after the passing of debt legislation the ordinary sahuakar, if he is wise at all, will not advance money to agriculturists; and in order to meet the requirements of credit for the agriculturists this fund will be drawn upon to such extent as may be necessary.

The third object is the financing of co-operative marketing. The produce of the smaller land owner in particular does not fetch the price which it ought to. If there are co-operative commission shops or some other agency which will advance money to meet the requirements of zamindars in the beginning of the harvest and sell their produce at a time when better prices can be expected, it will be of immense good to them. Again their requirements can also be purchased on a co-operative basis. In many cases the poor man from the country side is unable to make his purchases at a reasonable price. For instance, take the case of iron. Implements made of iron are needed by every zamindar. If he has to pay now eight annas, under the co-operative arrangement he can buy his requirement for four annas. That is another of the objects on which this fund will be spent.

Then, again there are many districts, for instance, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Campbellpur, Hoshiarpur, Ambala and even Gurgaon where erosion has done immense damage to our soil. In order to reclaim the soil already eroded and to safeguard it against further erosion we can draw upon this fund.

The fifth object on which this fund can be spent is the encouragement of cottage and rural industries. Great emphasis is being laid everywhere

that in some way or other the income of an ordinary poor agriculturist should be increased. One of the best means of increasing his income is to provide cottage or rural industries by which he may be able to earn something more. At present even if he turns out anything at home he cannot take it to the market ; because he will have to spend more time and money on going to town and coming back than will be justified by what he will get for articles produced by him.

If some arrangement can be made by introducing cottage industries in the countryside and a system under which whatever is produced by the villagers is taken up by somebody and conveyed to the bazar for sale, then it will do a great deal of good to them.

The last item is that the proceeds of this fund may usefully be employed for creating a very large number of scholarships for those students who are quite intelligent but are unable to proceed to higher studies on account of their economic weakness. I know and have come across a large number of students who are exceptionally intelligent but are so poor that they cannot take advantage of University education. If a large number of scholarships is made available in every tahsil of every district of every division, you can easily imagine the good that will be done to the sons of poor agriculturists by means of this fund.

These are the six tentative objects which have occurred to me on which we can spend either the income from this fund or even part of the fund according to actual requirements. Sir, with these words I resume my seat.

**Finance Minister** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : I propose to confine myself to observations made generally on the budget itself, because my colleagues will take charge of the more detailed criticism directed against the departments for which they are responsible. And, one word, Sir, by way of expression of my appreciation of the trouble which the honourable Leader of the Opposition took in initiating the general discussion. He stressed particularly a number of questions at least to one or two out of these I must refer myself ; and he did so not only with his usual lucidity but also with all the emphasis which the importance of those facts which he pointed out deserved. In the forefront of his observations he said there must be something really wrong with the Budget when so little importance has been attached to industries as compared with what I said seven years ago on a particular solemn occasion. The views that I expressed seven years ago as President of the Indian Economic Association were not new views. They had been expressed by me time out of number before the year 1935 and I have, I am free to admit, no hesitation in doing so again. In fact hardly any three months pass when I do not solemnly and with all due emphasis do so. But one must consider the context. I was addressing in 1935 a body of economic thinkers in this country and I had in addition before my mind the industrialists of the land. I felt that the economists of the country must know how India must stand in the matter of industries and how rapidly must these industries be developed unless India was to be left behind in the industrial race for ever. I was conscious that the prosperity of this country could not possibly depend merely on agriculture. Agriculture and industry must go arm in arm if the country is to prosper. But when I said

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[Finance Minister.]

that, and I have given expression to similar ideas for years, I was not addressing a provincial Government, and I make bold to say that anybody who ventures to think that a provincial Government or for the matter of that the Government of India could take charge of rapid industrialisation of this country, does not exactly realise what he is saying. The powers of a provincial Government are exceedingly limited in this matter, though the powers of the Government of India are not so limited because they have a direct control over the monetary policy as well as the trade policy of the country. We are to-day in the fourth year of the war and as I read industrial history in this province, I notice that for the first two years the industrialists of this province—and it is they on whose shoulders industries can be built up—did practically nothing except interest themselves in small and tiny matters which could hardly be spoken of as industries and it is only during the last two years and, particularly more recently during the last year or even less that the industrialists have awakened suddenly to the idea of making profits quickly.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it).*

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, who I am sure has a wide view of the industries of the Punjab, cannot watch with composure and must have been considerably perturbed in his mind at the way in which a great deal of the industrial activity of this province is being run at the present time. I for myself do not feel happy about the situation at all. I am for a solid growth of industry, but every industry which is intended and directed very largely by the Central Government, and industry which concerns itself in small matters, is not the kind of industry I consider on which India or a province is going to build up lasting prosperity. I have a lesson to emphasize if I may make bold to say so. During the past several months the world has talked particularly of the problems of reconstruction after the war. Any student of Economics must have noticed that the world that is going to shape the destinies of the rest of the world is speaking already of after war. A very great living economist, I speak of Lord Keynes, said a short while ago that if you sum up in one word the secret of England's prosperity after the war that word is "exports". More recently one must have noticed the emphasis that has been placed both in the United States of America and in England on the export of heavy industries. Have we ever thought of how we shall be subjected to imports of heavy industries, from those countries, on which they are determined and for which we have made very little preparation? One might ask me, you are the Minister of Finance, what are you doing in your part of the country? Can we do very much for the building up of heavy industries in this province? Sardar Santokh Singh spoke out of the abundance of his knowledge, and we all listened to him with keen attention. Has he told us any specific direction in which the Punjab Government can usefully engage and build up industries for itself? May I put it in another way. Would Sardar Santokh Singh feel so happy if the Punjab Government were to say, look here, here are 10 or 20 or 30 or even 40 lakhs—you know our resources are limited—let the Punjab Government engage actually in industry to the extent of 30 or 40 lakhs? I have seen resolutions propounded by the members of this House.

But I for one am not convinced of the competence, at any rate of my competence—I may frankly admit—to engage as a Government in industries out of sheer speculation. No one has told me which are the industries—at any rate I am not clear in my mind—which we can usefully engage in in order to push the Punjab industrially forward. I have heard criticisms in this House of how a gigantic industry on which the Punjab Government entered not very many years ago is still failing to produce any kind of dividend. In fact it brings a definite amount of loss every year so far. Now, would honourable members, particularly from that part of the House who know what business is and who know how business can be pushed forward, advise me as to what industry the Punjab Government as a Government can engage in or what is the particular direction of usefulness which the Punjab Government can impart to any industrial activity in the province? I shall be most interested to hear about it. Therefore, when I was talking in the year 1935 as I have done since and as I had done before, I was talking of heavy industries, metallurgical industries for which we in the Punjab have no facilities whatsoever and I emphasise now that it is on the foundation of industries of that kind that the industrial prosperity of India must depend. So much about the industries.

Now, Sir, the other observations that were made were about the Budget itself. An honourable member assumed that humanity would say that the Budget was a document which enshrined in itself deception and possibly deliberate deception. A gentleman who chooses to express himself about the Punjab Government's Budget in those terms hardly deserves any notice. But I say this. There is not an iota of indication that he can lay hold on which would show that any manner of deception has been practised on the Budget, no not on any the frailest of intellect. In this regard let me pronounce one or two words. Honourable members do not realise that the budget of the Punjab Government, as indeed the Budget of any provincial Government is compiled somewhere at the very latest, about the middle of December. Quite a great deal happens between December and mid-February or early March and as I remarked two or three years ago, the great thing that does happen in the matter of budgets as in the matter of races is the last lap; it is this that tells and counts. It is those three months that turn the whole shape of our Budget. When I sit down with my honourable colleagues in the middle of December, I have only a certain amount of money available and I am not giving away any secret when I tell the House that if you take so much of the expenditure to which we are committed and the estimated revenue, we are left usually with only 70 or 80 lakhs, and here is the book of new expenditure which we have before us containing items of expenditure to the tune of a crore or 2 crores. I say I have only this much money for essential works, to carry on the services as they exist and beyond that I am usually prepared to finance to the extent of 20 or 30 lakhs, out of what?—out of deficit. I am prepared to stand the strain of a deficit to that extent. But we have been fortunate in this province, it is not because of any deception attempted on any one, but because of the straight forwardness and the sound manner in which our finance has been managed, and though our calculations have not always emerged as exactly correct, they have happily gone wrong in

[Finance Minister.]

the right direction, and it is not a small matter of gratification for honourable members of this House that of the many provinces of whose budgets you hear from day to day, your province stands out with a fortunate tale of surplus. Now a surplus is not necessarily a blessing, but I do venture to think that a surplus is generally better than a deficit and as I explained two or three years ago, a provincial budget is different from the budget of the central Government. The central Government, when all is said and done, raises no more revenue than is just enough to meet the fixed liabilities in the way of expenditure, and if they have a gap arising by the expenditure having gone up, as it has with the Government of India particularly this year, and the income has not gone up proportionately, the central Government or the Finance Member there has to find means of filling that gap. He cannot allow it to continue. The difference between a central budget and a provincial budget is this, that our fundamental principle is to develop our resources and to watch our expenditure very carefully. If you bear that principle in mind, it would appear to be something like the principle which any ordinary householder bears in mind with regard to private expenditure, because we have not got the power suddenly to develop our revenue or even of controlling the expenditure—it is always a painful operation to curtail expenditure. We cannot raise our revenues suddenly. The best thing for us is to watch carefully and not to allow our expenditure in such a way that it goes beyond our revenue. Perhaps it is here that it will be most appropriate if I refer to the charge that has been made—I think, the Leader of the Opposition put it very strongly and I was surprised that he should have put it so strongly—that we have gone ahead increasing the taxation in this province. If he kindly sees the very useful document which the Secretary has prepared for us, the Memorandum, he will see at page 50 the income under “other Taxes and Duties” all collected together. They fall under six clauses, taxes on luxuries, electricity duties, tobacco vend fees, tax on the retail sales of motor spirits and lubricants, the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940, and the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1941. Now I am not responsible for all these duties and taxes. I would remind the honourable member on the opposite side that the tax on retail sales of motor spirits and lubricants, is an all-India measure, and the Punjab Government does not stand alone in trying to fleece people and make them squeal unduly by imposing this tax. The Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax is also not peculiar to, or a monopoly of, the Punjab and the honourable member would certainly remember that so far as the Punjab General Sale Tax Act is concerned, it has been the subject of so much discussion in the House. It was discussed threadbare and I have no desire to go any further into it, but I would say this with absolute certainty, that it is the mildest measure that exists in India at the present time. (*Hear hear*).

This is the mildest measure that exists and to talk of the increasing burden of taxation—when the total revenue under these heads that has increased during the past three years, is the bare sum of 38 lakhs as against which we also have expenditure of 5 lakhs, that is, the total net revenue is 33 lakhs—is an abuse of language. To say that the burden of taxation has been imposed in an inhumane manner and with a vigour and energy

as if it was a set purpose of the Punjab Government to bear down on the good Punjabi's not to speak the language of sense. Nothing of the kind. In this regard, if I had time, I am prepared to travel with my honourable friend all over India and make a tour of the country and I am quite sure if he did, if he had the patience to enter upon an enquiry, laborious and not very pleasant enquiry of that kind, he will find that we in the Punjab, whatever else may be said, have not been unduly or unnecessarily harshly taxed, because the proof of the pudding is in the eating and the total comes to only 33 lakhs. I hold no brief for what Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has said about the two crores forthcoming or not forthcoming from these taxes. I rather think not, but he possibly thinks the other way.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** One says 15 lakhs and the other says two crores.

**Minister of Finance :** And if Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram proposes any immediate taxes, and I have no indication of these that will bring into my exchequer a further sum of 2 or 4 crores, much as I might like to secure that, I might be prepared to part company with Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram if I did not approve of any measures. If that is any satisfaction to honourable members on the other side I would gladly affirm this. I say so the more readily because I do not see any reasonable prospects of raising such a big sum as 4 crores in the Punjab, and I had the privilege of examining the position, as President of the Resources Committee, of the possible resources which the Government could lay their hand upon for the purpose of developing its resources. Nor am I not conscious of the fact, as some people may be, that since 1939, when the War broke out, when urban taxation, to use a non-technical word, so far as the Government of India was concerned, stood at 70 crores, now stands roughly at 150 crores, that is, the taxes of this character that are imposed by the Government of India, have increased during the period of four years, by 80 crores. I am not in a position to say today what the Punjab's share in those taxes may be, but I should be very much surprised if it came to much less than 5 crores.

It was said in connection with this Budget, "Here is this absurd sum of 50 lakhs that you are going to think as surplus". The honourable members who indulged in cheap diatribe of that kind did not do me even the courtesy of reading the short reference which I made to these 50 lakhs in my Budget speech. I have had the boldness to say that I welcome the emergence of these 50 lakhs. But I gave very good reasons for it and one of the reasons was this that we do not know how, as War advances, the call, if of nothing else, of increase of dearness allowance, may bear on our finances. I am sure the honourable members on the other side would not wish to discourage the idea of further dearness allowance if that allowance became necessary. Some honourable members said that dearness allowance at heavier rate is being given to people who are highly paid than to those at the bottom. Far from it. At the bottom we give 33 per cent and as we go up only by short steps, it comes to 10 per cent, at the top and, therefore, on the basis of equity what we give as dearness allowance would be regarded as a very proper scheme. May I say this in addition? During the year 1942-43 it was fortunately your financial position that enabled the Punjab Government to give as large a sum as 50 lakhs in dearness allowance to its employees. Now, may I ask my friend on the other side to make a



[Minister for Finance]

research into the budgets of other Provinces in India, and if he can discover any Province which has given 50 lakhs as dearness allowance to its employees, I shall bow to him as one duly corrected. We here in the Punjab hold our heads high today because of the liberal manner in which we have looked at the whole problem of the dearness allowance (*Hear, hear*), and may I say here just one word—I hope I am not giving away a secret,—if the dearness allowance is not higher today, it is not because of my colleagues here. We would gladly, with the limits of our Budget for 1948-44 where we have surplus, give more if a good case is made out for a better rate and possibly of going higher. That is a fact.

There has been a certain amount of criticism in the public press about the provision of 61 lakhs under A. R. P. Organisation which they think stands at too high a figure. Let me say that not a penny of A. R. P. expenditure is actually incurred without causing me a great deal of anxious concern and sometimes not only concern but unpleasantness with those who want me to give that money. I also feel that that much money may not actually be necessary and as I said in my Budget speech, if that happy position arises when the dangers of War should further recede from our Province, then I feel certain that with that happy position out of that 61 lakhs I may be obliged to spend no more than 10. If I save a further 50 lakhs, and you have the contemplated surplus of 50 lakhs, and I hope and trust the expenditure will not rise between now and the next year, then about this time next year I shall have a crore of rupees to amplify further the Peasant Welfare Fund and the Special Development Fund of this Province. (*Cheers*). And if that happy contingency should arise, who is there in the Punjab to say—it is up to us to signify what is the best method of utilising the further one crore I may have with me in addition to the more than a crore that I have today in these funds,—who is then to make bold to say that money cannot be spent properly for the Punjabi and his uplift? At any rate, I should be very much surprised if such people are anywhere lurking, and I hope and trust that it will be only with difficulty that hidden folk can be unearthed.

Sir, another observation was made about the Budget and it took nearly my breath away. I would not fix the responsibility, it would be a serious aspersion on the person who made an observation of that kind. The observation was that the debt position of the Province is unhealthy. Can any sensible Punjabi, who has given two seconds' thought to the matter, say that about our finances in spite of my repeated assurances to the contrary, repeated references in the Public Accounts Committee? May I now invite your attention to the Memorandum of the Secretary? These are the broad facts that should be remembered for all time. On the 31st March 1944, that is at the end of the year, our net debt would be 86 crore and 88 lakhs. Call it 87 crores. As against that on that date what you will possess in the shape of your canals and your Capital Works would be 47 crores. (*Hear, hear*). That is a fact which ought to open the eyes of every Punjabi who thinks patriotically about this Province and I am not claiming any credit for myself but I think the Punjab Government might well lay claim to the biggest amount of credit which honourable members could render to it in that one matter alone. You have property worth 47 crores.

and your debts are 37 crores only (*Hear, hear*). How many of us would not like to say that while our property is worth 47 crores, all that I owe to the world is 37 crores.

Ten crores is the saving. That means solvency, that means stability and that means happiness. How are these 47 crores utilised? It is known to everyone who has ever devoted even half a day to the study of Punjab finances that a large part of these 47 crores is invested in our canals, which have supplied the blessings of water to places that suffered and suffered sadly before, and incidentally it gave a good return to the exchequer of the province. Having invested your money in a manner that brings you a big, solid and substantial return every year, can anyone from any point of view say for even half a moment that there is something wrong with our debt position? The person who does that does not know the meaning of the words.

Something was said about the control of food prices. That subject does not directly concern me. It has been said that the matter is now recognised by all students of economics. One of the lessons which the last War of 1914—18 taught and taught the world for ever was of food control. The question of rationing comes alongside the control of prices. That lesson has been learnt finally by the United States of America and England, and to-day their level of prices is not as high as that of India, nor is their circulation. However, that is not a matter in which I can appropriately enter in the course of this discussion. It lies beyond the sphere of provincial Government at least in some of its aspects and our powers are limited. I am sure we cannot be open to any criticism that this Government did not play its part faithfully and manfully in this respect. The control was an All-India policy. Why it failed would be a long story to enlarge upon at the present moment, but the contribution of the Punjab Government to the problem was exactly what the honourable member there thought should have been, and that was that the Punjab Government laid in large and substantial stores of food grains in order to alleviate any difficulty that may arise for the Punjabi. I make bold to say that the Punjab Government laid in large stores at a time when prices were more favourable and we have not tried to make money out of this stupendous transaction. At any rate, let me say that not even one anna of the 'gains' has come to the Punjab exchequer on that account. We have often made suitable purchases, as also sale on appropriate terms, and we have afforded a very high measure of relief to the poor Punjabis during the period of stress. You cannot expect that during the period of war, when problems are apt to become so confused, when issues are not simple and when various provinces are trying to pull in their own several directions, an opportunity would arise which will please everybody. That is not likely. I venture to think that what the Punjab Government did, is in every way worthy of credit in this particular regard.

Now, a great deal has been said about our debt. May I say that during the year 1942-43, we extinguished our debt to the Government of India by two crores and-a-half. (*Hear, hear*). We are less the debtor by 2½ crores to the Government of India. As I pointed out in reply to a question, what we owed to the Government of India was on account of our canals.

[Minister for Finance]

We borrowed money in the past at favourable rates and we built our many projects and during the current year we have actually extinguished that debt to the extent of 2½ crores.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Was any loan floated against that ?

**Minister of Finance :** I am in a position to answer that question. We floated a loan, but the net result of the operation of extinguishing the debt of the Government of India is entirely in our favour.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** You borrowed from one pocket and paid to the other.

**Minister of Finance :** As a businessman, one ought to know that borrowing at 8 per cent and paying it at 4 per cent is not taking it from one pocket and paying to the other. During the year's working the operation is entirely in favour of the Punjab Government and that is good enough for me.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** Will you kindly give us the total of the loan that you raised ?

**Minister of Finance :** I have supplied that information in the Public Accounts Committee, but you will find the details at pages 17 to 19 of the Memorandum.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** I want the total of the loan.

**Minister of Finance :** I have given you the total loan. The total loan stands at 37 crores.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** What is the net total that you raised ?

**Minister of Finance :** Two and-a-half crores this year. But we have raised that loan at terms more favourable than those terms under which we held our prior debt. I trust that is a satisfactory business proposition. Without scanning the matter any further, I can assure the honourable members on this side of the House—and I am sure they will take my assurance fully—that so far as our debt position is concerned, any businessman should be proud of that position. What we have done during the course of the year is a matter of gratification for all. Many of these gentlemen are not businessmen nor am I in a way, but I have a very keen perception with regard to this matter and I am not out merely to pronounce a vain utterance. So, from whatever point of view you judge this Budget, it is something of which this Assembly may be proud and that is a matter of the utmost possible gratification. My colleagues on my right and left have examined this Budget from various points of view. Its general substance and the net result of it is beyond impeachment. (Cheers).

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan** (Jullundur North, Mohammadan, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, our condition is something like that which is covered by the well-known Punjabi saying :

آپس کے دال دالیا میرا اگلا سواد دی گندواں

In the time of the official bloc the budget used to be made available in Urdu and the non-English knowing members could very well read

and understand it. But since the advent of the provincial autonomy we have been deprived of that concession and the supply of the Urdu copy of the Budget has been stopped. The Honourable Ministers seem to think that English has become the mother tongue of our people with the introduction of the provincial autonomy. But how can we think that there has been an advance on the previous position? When the Budget was available in Urdu, people like myself could read it and speak on it. But now when the practice of supplying only the English copy has been adopted, we have to sit dumb in the House. The language of the Budget is Greek for us. So the beauties of the Budget, if any, are best known to the Honourable Ministers themselves. If the Budget is to be presented only in a foreign tongue, what is the earthly use of its presentation in this House? Another "advance" recorded since the advent of our autonomous Government is that whereas three days were given previously for a general discussion of the Budget, now only two days have been provided. This has evidently been done to avoid full discussion of the Budget by honourable members and to prevent them from making useful suggestions. This I regard as an advance in the wrong direction. But in spite of all that I find that some honourable members see it proper to flatter the Finance Minister with all sorts of congratulatory and laudatory references. But what is the occasion for offering felicitations? Is it a matter of congratulation that the Honourable Minister has earmarked a lion's share out of this budget of fourteen to fifteen crores for the fat salaried officers and has not thought it fit to raise the emoluments of chaprasis by a single pie, although the latter have to go with only fifteen rupees in these hardest of hard times? Every one knows of the hopeless decline in the rupee-value. It has come down to the pre-war value of a four anna piece. Just consider. How can a chaprasi drawing fifteen or sixteen rupees provide for his maintenance and that of his family? Why do you not look upon these poor chaprasis with some pity? They have to work from eight in the morning to almost ten in the night in order to serve you as best as they can. Is it just, I ask, to consider them deserving of not more than fifteen rupees? I tell you that in these days of famine and scarcity it is not possible for them to make both ends meet. Life has become a burden for them. They are between the devil of your service and the deep sea of an ever-recurring desire of running away from it. The Government should look into the question of revising the grades of these low-paid people. Eighty or a hundred rupees may be out of the question. But forty or fifty rupees seem to be a necessity. Less than that cannot suffice for bare existence in a town in these hard times. The Honourable Minister has not included in this Budget a single provision especially calculated to please the poor. Why these congratulations, then? Idle congratulations can come only from the idle—those who are not serious about their business. Congratulating the Minister for this Budget, I should think, is the worst form of flattery.

Now I want to say a few things about my own constituency with reference to this Budget. The condition of the *bet* ilaqa is really very miserable. We cherished a hope that some scheme will be included in the Budget for improving the lot of the inhabitants of *bet* ilaqa. But our hopes have been signally disappointed. Nothing has been done. Speaking of the Jullundur district alone, its wells are gradually disappearing. New

[Ch. Mohd. Abdul Rahman Khan]

wells are not easy to sink. They are a monetary proposition of great magnitude for the poor agriculturists, whose condition is really deserving of Government's consideration. The level of sub-soil water is gradually falling. What can the zamindars do? it is the duty of Government to do something. It can compensate the zamindars whose wells have been destroyed on account of the low water level. It can grant them squares in canal colonies. It can think upon digging up a new canal for the irrigation of these lands. But not even a promise has been held out to the people of that ilaqa that Government will try to tap new sources of irrigation.

I will now say a few words about the recruitment to the police. I have to point out that unnecessary increase in the police force is sanctioned every year. But the more the number of *thanedars*, the greater is the danger of all round damage in the ilaqa. Just imagine: can an assistant sub-inspector make his both ends meet with sixty-five rupees and a sub-inspector with eighty rupees only? If they cannot, the result is obvious. Their horses have to be maintained by the zamindars who have also to supply them with buffaloes and kine along with fodder. The police officers do not live on their salaries. They live on their ill-gotten money. It is well known that a foot constable who gets sixteen rupees from Government makes a hundred out of his own efforts in the ilaqa. The sub-inspector whose salary as fixed by the Government is a hundred to a hundred and twenty, can very well count nine hundred rupees for his perquisites. The poor zamindar has to foot the bill, of course. I would suggest, therefore, that Government should take pity on the poor people and reduce the number of the police, much less increase it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Honourable member's time is over.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** All right Sir, I resume my seat.

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Sirdar Shaukat Hyat-Khan) : Sir, I had no intention whatever to speak on this general discussion of the Budget, but two points in yesterday's debate have encouraged me to do so. Firstly, it was refreshing to see that members on both sides of the House even when crossing swords were most humane and at times even humorous. I therefore, hoped that I could depend on the indulgence of the House for a brief maiden speech. The second reason which prompted me to speak to-day was that some points have been raised against the departments in my charge. I shall, therefore, not be doing my duty if I did not get up and elucidate some of the points. Sir, it is gratifying to note that the criticism of the Departments in my port-folio has been very, very meagre and I shall endeavour to reply to the points raised one by one.

Some of my friends on both sides of the House made remarks about certain road constructions undertaken by this Government. In this respect I shall content myself with the remark that our Government since the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy has carried out road programme of course, with the permission and support of this House — which will be illustrated by the following figures which I beg to quote. In the

year 1937 there were 2,897 miles of metalled roads and 1,770 miles of unmetalled ones and to-day I am proud to say that we have 4,518 miles of metalled roads and 1,603 miles of unmetalled ones. Thus there has been an increase of 57 per cent of the original mileage. (*Hear, hear.*) Both the mileage and the cost of construction can be favourably compared with any other province in the country and I can say with confidence that our province is leading all others in this aspect of civic life. The credit for this achievement goes to my distinguished predecessor, the Honourable Premier. (*Hear, hear.*) I will be failing in my duty if I did not make a public reference and pay my compliments to the officers and subordinates of this department who carried out great work in most difficult and trying conditions. They have constructed our roads at the rate of 2 miles a day with very little extra cost.

With your permission, Sir, I shall revert to the criticism levelled against the local self-government. One honourable member said that the district boards were getting loans while the municipalities were not. I beg to submit that the honourable member must have been under some sort of misunderstanding because the rules of advancing loans to district boards and municipalities are the same and I am sure the honourable member did not expect us to advance loans without being asked.

Then I come to the question of grants-in-aid to the district boards. It has been the policy of the Government to encourage the district boards for beneficent activities since 1937 when it came to office, in the Education Department alone the grant for vernacular education has amounted to Rs. 79 lakhs this year, an increase of 5 lakhs as compared to the year 1937. This and many other grants have been given to the district boards and I am sure it is not just and proper to criticise the Government for letting the district boards suffer.

Then, Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, to whom I am most grateful for his personal reference about me the other day, referred to the removal of one of the members in the Amritsar municipality. I have studied that case and I find that the orders were passed in 1941 on the advice of the local officers and were based on good grounds. It will not be fair to the member concerned if I disclose the details on the floor of the House. In conclusion, Sir, I would request honourable members on both sides of the House that any constructive suggestion for the improvement of the department in my charge will be welcomed.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** What about the Lahore Corporation?

**Premier :** Address that question to me.

**Minister :** I can assure the honourable member that he will get a reply to this question.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat. (*Loud applause.*)

**Malik Barkat Ali** (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) : I am afraid I will have to strike a different note from that sounded by my honourable friend, Mir Maqbool Mahmood, and other members on the opposite benches. I have carefully gone through the Memorandum explanatory of the Budget prepared by the talented Secretary of the Finance

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Department and also the speech, jejune and dry as it is, made by the Honourable Finance Minister on the occasion of the presentation of the Budget. The speech of the Honourable Finance Minister was but a rehash of the material contained in the memorandum of the Finance Secretary, interspersed with a quotation or two, one from a witty statesman whom he did not disclose, and another from that arch Royalist and notorious revolutionary, Dr. Samuel Johnson. I make a special reference to Dr. Samuel Johnson, because I remember that in the pre-reform days it was the late Sir Michael O'Dwyer who quoted Dr. Johnson with a view to offer reproof to those political leaders who wanted a change in the government and the introduction of reforms. The passage that the late Sir Michael O' Dwyer quoted was—

For forms of government let fools contest,  
Whatever is administered best is best.

The House will agree with me that there can be no more foolish statement than the one made by Dr. Johnson to the effect that forms of government do not matter. I say, forms of government do matter most and there can be no better illustration of that than this representative House in enjoyment of provincial autonomy.

I regret that I cannot find it in me to offer any congratulations to the Finance Minister on his performance. As I study the various budgets,

I find that the Honourable Finance Minister has not been able to release himself from some of those inveterate tendencies which seem to have become a sort of second nature to him. For instance, I find that year in and year out, he is grossly under-estimating the receipts so that at the end he may come to the House and present a very rosy picture of his stewardship of the finances of the province. Now, let it be remembered that I do not contend that the estimate figures and the actuals should tally. From the nature of things there are bound to be divergencies between the budget estimates and the actuals, and particularly so in a country where budgeting is nothing better than a gamble in rain. But when we find that the gap is so wide as I shall show to the House presently, we are entitled to know of the Finance Minister what explanation he has to offer for these wide divergencies. Let me give some figures in support of my complaint. In order to avoid encumbering my speech with too many statistics, I will begin only from the year 1940-41. In that year I find that the Finance Minister actually under-estimated the receipts to the extent of Rs. 1,57,14,000. Out of this total under-estimate Rs. 89,00,000 was the share in under-estimate of ordinary revenue receipts. In 1941-42 he under-estimated the total receipts by Rs. 1,59,00,000. In 1942-43 he under-estimated the total receipts by Rs. 2,24,00,000. Now, what was the result of these under-estimates? In 1940-41 he actually budgeted a prospective deficit of Rs. 28,00,000 and yet the year closed with a surplus of Rs. 69,00,000. In 1941-42 he budgeted a surplus of four lakhs and yet he actually realised a surplus of Rs. 1,24,00,000. In 1942-43 he again budgeted a deficit of ten lakhs and yet according to the figures given by him in his speech we find that he expects on the basis of the revised estimate a surplus of something like 96 lakhs. Now, if these surpluses had been achieved

as a result of the application of the axe, I would have been the first to congratulate the Finance Minister on his achievement. But what do we find? We find that far from applying the axe, far from carrying out any retrenchment, the expenditure of the province has been increasing by leaps and bounds. In 1940-41 the expenditure increased by 87 lakhs; in 1941-42 by one crore and thirty-eight lakhs; in 1942-43 by two crores and eight lakhs. The House will realise the enormity of this increase. I may tell the House that the expenditure on the police actually rose from Rs. 1,28,50,000 in 1937-38 to Rs. 2,12,40,000. It is really surprising that a member of a popular ministry should have been spending such large amounts on the police.

Another tendency which I wish to refer to is this. The Honourable Finance Minister has been taking a deep dig into the capital of the province. The House will agree with me that the capital of the province has to be nursed and conserved. But what do we find? In 1940-41 the Finance Minister consumed the capital of the province to the extent of Rs. 91,64,000. In 1941-42 he spent the capital of the province to the extent of Rs. 1,10,00,000. In 1942-43 he went up to Rs. 1,92,00,000 and in 1943-44 we find that he proposes to go to the extent of Rs. 1,21,00,000. Now the House may kindly bear in mind that the surpluses that he has been realising are not the result of any retrenchment policy as I have already made clear. We have been repeatedly told on the floor of the House that the Government wants to extend relief to the poor peasantry of the province. My learned friend, Mir Maqbool Mahmood has been telling us repeatedly that there are 17 lakhs of poor ryots who are paying land revenue of Rs. 5 and less and that it is the set purpose of this Government to relieve these 17 lakhs of peasants of their liability to land revenue. Now, could not the Government have set apart Rs. 85 lakhs from the surplus to relieve them of this liability?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** I have just begun. The Honourable Minister of Revenue has told us that he has been thinking of certain schemes for the relief of the suffering poor peasantry. If so, why does he not reduce this land revenue; in fact, wash away this charge on the poor peasants of the province?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** Will you please allow me to wind up? I hold in my hand the Audit Report and the Finance Report for the year 1940-41. I find therein that the Punjab Government has actually been earning something like 27 to 33 per cent on its outlay on irrigation schemes. How can the Government conscientiously go on reaping 27 to 33 per cent on its capital outlay and not extend any relief to the people who are paying this high water rate? I therefore submit that so far as the relief to the peasantry of this province is concerned this Government has done pretty little.

There is one other matter to which I wish to refer and that relates to general administration. The fundamental fact in this connection is that we have now got a new government in this province. Some friends say in criticism that this government is nothing but a continuation of the



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old one and that there is really no difference between it and its predecessor, and in support of that they point to the dead hand of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram extending its devastating shadow over the activities of the present government. It is true that Sir Chhotu Ram is a member of the new government, but we must not forget the fact that we have a new Premier. I believe that the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan as Premier is a different person from the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan as a member of the old government. I have faith in him and I trust that he will never allow any injustice to be done in his time. I listened with very great respect and real delight to the speech that he made. He referred to the Congress and put forward the reasonable proposition that if persons obstruct the war effort, the Government has got to stop them. I can assure him that so far as members sitting on this side of the House are concerned, they entirely endorse that proposition. If any person obstructs the war effort, deal with him as you like. But have you any proof that the Congress leaders in this House, men like Lala Bhim Sen Sachar and Mian Itikhar-ud-Din were really obstructing the war effort? It is no good calling names like that. You know yourself that there was perfect peace in the province after the Congress declaration of August last; and yet you have laid your hands upon these innocent men and you continue to incarcerate them.

**Sardar Pritam Singh Siddhu** (Ferozepore West, Sikh, Rural (*Punjab*)): Sir, as there is limited time at my disposal I will try to confine my remarks as much as possible to those important facts alone which concern my constituency and which deserve immediate attention of Government. First of all, I would like to draw the attention of Government to the matter of Odes which has been under their consideration since 1922, that is to say, for years and years Government have been thinking over it. I remember when the first summer session of the Assembly was held at Simla, many questions were put in this House regarding that matter. Besides that, resolutions were moved inside and outside the House to the effect that Government should find out some remedy for the removal of this ever increasing trouble of the zamindars. In this connection I may also point out that certain deputations also called upon the late Premier Sir Sikander and the late Minister Sir Sunder Singh Majithia who were sympathetic enough in this matter. As a result of these attempts made by us a committee was appointed by Government to go into this matter. The committee consisted of four members including myself, Pandit Muni Lal Kalra, who is not present on his seat at this time, Pir Akbar Ali and my honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, who acted as the chairman of the committee. A report was prepared by our Committee and submitted to Government three years ago. But, Sir, it is a pity that all our sincere efforts and even thousands of rupees of the exchequer spent on the preparation of the Report proved useless, because nothing practical has been done in the light of that Report so far. As this matter mostly concerned my district, I did not sit idle and in this connection I make bold to say that off and on we have been approaching directly or through the Press the then Minister-in-charge, who is now Premier of the province, and requested him repeatedly to remove this nuisance. I have been

silently watching Government's attitude in this matter during the last few years. But it is most regrettable that Government have been doing nothing during these years except hoodwinking us. Absolutely no heed has been paid to our requests. So far as the deliberations of the said committee were concerned I dare say we did your level best. Besides my friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan toured along with Odes Committee through the whole of the eastern district and specially Ferozepur as chairman of the committee, and collected the representations of the Panchayats in this respect and after sound consideration he being a responsible officer of the Government promised to remove their troubles. But ultimately all his efforts failed miserably and being helpless in this matter he could not fulfil his promise which he gave to the panchayats and the afflicted people.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Certainly I have every sympathy with you and I entirely agree with you.

**Sardar Pritam Singh Sidhu :** Sir, we are told by the Minister in charge that Government cannot spare lands for settling these Odes as suggested by the committee in their report, which is really a discouraging and unsatisfactory reply. I would suggest to Government to provide them with lands in the vast area of Thal Project where they can easily be accommodated. As they are said to be hardworking and industrious, I think they can prove useful farmers and good soldiers for the defence of India as well, if recruited in the army. In case this alternative is not agreeable to Government they can adopt the first, that is, of granting them spare Government lands for settlement in the *ilaga* belonging to our Honourable, Premier. May I also submit that if the Pakistan Scheme can be practicable, then this idea of giving them a right corner in the province which is based on the same lines can also be equally practicable and useful. This is the only way, I think, to put an end to frequent quarrels and murders committed in our *ilaga*. I may, therefore, again submit to the Honourable Premier through you, Sir, that as he has not acted upon our suggestions made in our report while he was Minister for Public Works and now as Premier being in charge of law and order, his responsibilities have surely increased, and if now nothing solid and substantial is done to stop murders, due to Ode trouble in our *ilaga*, Government alone will be held responsible for that. As I have already submitted, I have been supporting Government during the last years in the hope that my grievances regarding Ode problem will be looked into. But being disappointed, I would not hesitate to remark that Government will not have my support in future if the grievances of my constituents are not removed.

Another point which I want to bring to the notice of Government is that some cuts have occurred in the canal somewhere between the villages Alamwala, Saranwala and Bodiwala in Fazilka tahsil. But as punishment an additional police post has been appointed at village Alamwala in spite of the fact that most of the cuts in the canal were found near Saranwala, and my honourable friend Pir Akbar Ali will bear me out in this respect. As to the justification for locating a police post there, I am at a loss to understand, for neither is any absconder to be found in Alamwala nor has any dacoity taken place there. Besides, the record of that village is very clean. Then what is the reason of appointing an

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additional police post at Alamwala ? It reminds me of a Punjabi proverb which aptly applies here.

نانی خصم کیتا دوہتیاں نور چٹی۔

Does Government think that ghee and milk of that village are very nice and nourishing for the Police ? What justice demands is that Government should trace out individual cases where the cuts have actually taken place and secure punishment to culprits but not punish the whole village where nothing of that sort has actually happened. Failure of the Government in tracing out individual cases of canal and making inquiry in wrong direction and providing punishment for the whole village accounts for the weakness of the administration of Government. So my submission is that the additional police post should be removed from Alamwala, etc., etc., as soon as possible.

Sir, my next point is with regard to the extension of debt conciliation boards. Since these boards have been established in the whole of the Ferozepur district with the exception of tahsils Fazilka and Muktsar, my submission is that these boards should also be extended in these two tahsils as well.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to submit a few words regarding licensed arms. Sir, this is a general complaint of my constituents that their arms are being taken away by Government without even giving them their reasonable prices. Previously when a licence was forfeited the licensee had the privilege to dispose of his arms within a period of one year. But now things have changed. As soon as a licence is forfeited, the arms in possession of the licensee are taken away by Government. This method is being resented by the licensees. My submission, therefore, is that Government should give time to the licensees, as was done previously, to sell their arms at the current market price. If Government wants to buy an arm from a licensee the former should give the actual and market price of the arm to the latter.

My last point but not the least is that as the crops are satisfactory this year, the limit of Mustajri debts may be decreased. This will go a long way to help the poor zamindars who would be in a position to lighten the burden of their debts.

**Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani** (Dera Ghazi Khan South, Muhammadan, Rural) : (Urdu) Sir, first of all I want to express my thanks to the Honourable Finance Minister for his taking great pains in preparing the budget. Now it depends upon the Government as to how they spend the sums allotted in the budget. So far it has been seen that no attention is paid to the people of our district and generally the major portion, nay, the whole amount is consumed by the central parts of the Punjab. I want to submit something about the backward district of Dera Ghazi Khan and I shall try to point out each requirement of the said district.

I shall deal with education first. I am highly grateful to the Honourable Minister of Education for he has tried his best to expand the means of education in the rural areas. It is crystal clear that our vast district, having

mountains on one side and plains on the other, is badly in need of education both in the hilly tract and in the plains area. In receiving education the people of my district have to face great inconveniences, so much so that our boys are obliged to go to Multan for receiving the degree education. Under the circumstances I would request the Government to open a college in our district.

Besides education, there is a great need of medical aid for the upkeep of public health. The opening of a hospital in the hilly tract is very essential, so that the thousands of sufferers who at present can get no medical treatment, may get cured. Looking at the plains area of the district we find that all the hospitals are run by compounders on account of the absence of doctors who have joined the War. A compounder was carrying on the work in the Lalgah Hospital since the death of the doctor and we are extremely grateful to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals for deputing a doctor there. I appeal to the Honourable Minister in charge to provide doctors in other hospitals where there are none at present and I fervently hope that proper arrangements will be made in this connection. There was a lady doctor appointed in Jampur for whom the municipality did not provide any residential quarters, nor was there any female ward in the hospital, as a result of which the lady doctor tendered her resignation and went away. Jampur is the centre of the district and therefore it needs a lady doctor for female patients. An engine was provided at Jampur for drawing out water, accumulated on account of floods, but that engine has been removed now. I am afraid if the water is not drained out it will prove baneful to the public health and the buildings of the city. Again I request the Government to consider this matter and provide the municipality with the expenses for setting up an engine for this purpose.

It is very essential to supply drinking water in 'Pachadh' which is a *barani* *ilaqa* of the district. The District Board should be provided with a special grant for making drinking water available in that area.

The third class roads of the district are in a very bad condition. The two roads, one in the south and the other in the north of Rajanpur, should be taken over from the District Board and constructed at Government expense.

Floods visit our district off and on. In this connection I should like to suggest that the bunds of Nanka and Noor-Dundi be extended. Government should ear-mark some amount for raising bunds with a view to improving the hard lot of poor zamindars.

Several branches of the handicraft schools have been opened in the district. Such work is very useful. I have already stated that a very good quality wool is produced in the hilly area of our district. Here I would like to suggest to the Government to open a wool factory at Dera Ghazi Khan and open different branches at Rajanpur, and other places. As the outside traders only reap all the profit in business in our district so it is requested that the people of the district may also be given an opportunity to earn profits. There are very good experts in our district who can make durries and carpets. Fine wood-work is done at Jampur. Government should encourage this work there.

Please make a house

[K. B. Sardar Mohd. Hassan Khan Gurehani]

Ghazi Ghat Railway Station of our district has been removed for military purposes, as a result of which the business of Dera Ghazi Khan suffers heavily and the people have to make conveyance arrangements up to Muzaffargarh. Ghazi Ghat station served a very useful purpose to the people of the district and the local Government. In this connection a request was made in the recent meeting of the Communications Board, but so far no action has been taken. However I should like to suggest that this station may be re-established for the convenience of the people.

Further, I request the Government to pay proper attention to the roads and sewerage of Dera Ghazi Khan for maintaining the public health, as it is not possible to improve the sanitary condition of the district with the income of the municipality.

With these words, Sir, I request the Government to consider my submissions sympathetically.

**Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber** (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian) (*Punjabi*): Sir, before I make any observations in regard to the budget, I should like to congratulate my honourable friend Malik Khizar Hayat Khan on his elevation to the high office of the Premier of our province. Any way the policy of the Government during the past six years has been one of presenting the budgets yearly and of making enactments and of framing rulings thereunder. They have succeeded so far in doing all these things. Budget is presented every year, in which an account of income and expenditure is shown. This year due to war, as is clear from the budget, income and expenditure have increased. At the time when the Unionist Government took office, the income of our province stood at 11 crores of rupees. Now it has gone up to 15 crores. The expenditure has also risen accordingly.

The enhanced expenditure has been shown under the heads of beneficent departments, Special Development Fund and Peasants Welfare Fund. So far as these funds are concerned, I make bold to say that the credit of showing this enhanced expenditure goes to the Honourable Finance Minister. This reminds me of a Punjabi saying which runs as under :—

الہ دتیں گاجران دچ کھر پارکھ

In fact this is nothing new. My honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali has pointed out that all the estimates shown in the budget are incorrect. In my opinion the Honourable Finance Minister has under-estimated the finances of our Province.

Besides this we have also to see as to what proportion exists between the expenditure on the beneficent departments and the total income of the Province. We find that it has not increased proportionately with the increase in revenue. My honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood was pleased to say that in no other province has the expenditure on beneficent departments been equal to what we have spent here in the Punjab. The average per centum here is more than anywhere else. Well, Sir, if we include the two sums given to the Peasant's Welfare and the Special Development fund the amount may be larger, but when we look at the budget we find that in proportion to increased revenues which stand at 14 crores the expenditure

on beneficent departments, i. e., Rs. 977 lakhs, seems very inadequate. In my opinion it is not such a matter which merits the boast that we have spent more on beneficent departments.

Then new taxes have been imposed. Of course I do not say that property and sales should not have been taxed. I know that house proprietors and businessmen are rich people, but apart from the reason that these taxes have been imposed on wealthy people, the Government have given no other justification for them. In other provinces where this tax was imposed, they had a greater reason for levying it. There the prohibition had deprived the Government of a considerable amount of the excise duty and they were justified in having recourse to fresh taxation for making up the loss in revenue. This has not been the case in our province. Levying new taxes on the mere excuse that the burden is going to fall on rich people is not proper. Provincial autonomy does not consist in doing something new but it also requires that it should be for the general good. The good that a Government does is best judged by the treatment it metes out to the minorities under its control. I do not know much about the other minorities but so far as the Indian Christians are concerned, I am aware that the Medical and Education Departments are not open to them. The plea given by the Honourable Minister of Education for debarring them from these services is that they are already represented in excess of their due proportion and so long as their number does not come down to a limit fixed for them, further appointments cannot be made. But if a representation is made in respect of other departments, we are told that the present proportion cannot be disturbed although in future the ratio fixed by the Government will be adhered to. Similar is the case with the other backward classes and village *kamins*. Nothing is given from any fund for their education or welfare. Even the promises made to the scheduled castes have not been fulfilled. I beg to submit that the Government ought to make some arrangement for the relief of the backward classes.

Provincial autonomy does not mean traversing beaten paths and carrying on the old routine. It means independence for doing better and much more than has been done so far for the welfare and prosperity of the people. May I know what have the Government done for the zamindars for whom they profess so much sympathy? Have they done anything for a reduction in land revenue? Has any step been taken to reduce the expenditure by carrying out retrenchment in non essential departments? We know of nothing that has been done in this direction so far but for the fact that communalism has been allowed a free hand to disturb the peace of the province, by exenuating the communal question in respect of the services. I do not deny that the Statute of 1935 gave us the Communal Award but it was intended for keeping the balance between the different communities on an All-India basis and not to start communal bickerings in the provinces. There is a danger of this policy of communal representation being carried too far. If there is a Hindu chaulkidar in a village, people may demand a Muslim chaulkidar as well. Unless you put a stop to this policy, no amount of money spent on bringing about communal harmony will achieve its purpose. The communal representation in services is helping to create a communal spirit. It is just like cleaning a wound superficially and not applying a medicine for healing it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Chaudhri Jalal -ud-Din Amber :** The very object of Provincial Autonomy has been defeated by this Government's embarking on fresh taxation. It is wrong in principle to impose fresh taxes. The Government can make itself popular only if they desist from levying new taxes. If they are obliged to do it at all they ought to come with proper justification for doing so.

The present policy can only lead to a reversion to the old bureaucratic times. I am reminded here of an English verse :

From the smoke to the smother

From the tyrant duke to the tyrant brother.

The most regrettable thing is that we are suffering hardships at the hands of our own brethren.

**Sardar Tara Singh** (Ferozepore South, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance upon handling the finances of the province in such an able manner. I had intended to say many things but now that the Honourable Minister and Mir Maqbool Mahmood have by giving facts and figures brought out all the good points in the budget, there is only one thing upon which I would like to say a few words. It concerns the hardworked, underfed and insufficiently clad zamindar. He has for centuries been the victim of the vagaries of nature and the cruelties of man. It appears that when God created the zamindar he sent him into the world with the barest means of subsistence and with the destiny that he will toil while others will enjoy the fruits of his labour. History tells us that during the Muslim rule the zamindars provided the entire cost of their administration. After the Mughals came, the British as a trading people sought relations with the commercial classes, and once more the zamindar could not catch his ruler's eye. The trading houses were all in the towns and thus the British could not learn anything about the woes and difficulties of the zamindars. They enhanced land revenue by 80 lakhs with one stroke of the pen and went on increasing it. At long last the prayer of the zamindars was answered and a zamindara Government came into being with the advent of Provincial autonomy. We also joined the ministerial party with great hopes. There is no doubt the Government have done a good deal, as Mir Maqbool Mahmood has informed us just now, but in actual fact the whole achievement of our brethren has not profited us to an extent of more than an anna in the rupee. In spite of it whenever a question of fresh taxation comes up, our friends in urban areas complain that they are being over-burdened by taxes. If we examine the true state of affairs we find that out of the total amount of income-tax that we pay in the Punjab, i. e., Rs. 128 lakhs, the zamindars pay 87 lakhs. Thus only 38 lakhs fall to the share of the urban people, which does not amount to an anna in the rupee. Yet my honourable friends raise a hue and cry in their conferences outside, as well as in the House, that the non-agriculturists are being over-taxed in spite of the fact that they form 50 per cent of the total population. I concede that their population is more or less evenly divided in the Punjab.

My honourable friend Sir Gokul Chand Narang, while addressing the non-agricultural conferences outside the House, tells the people that the ratio of their population is 50 per cent. Sardar Santokh Singh also tells the same fact to the honourable members of this House. They assert that they are not being justly treated under the present Constitution; they proclaim that because the agriculturists are in a majority they are taxed so heavily. They say that the non-agriculturists are being taxed very heavily. Upon the basis of these pretensions they claim equal representation. I submit that they have never said that they will also subscribe to the Government for carrying out their administration their share of half the total amount, that is, they have never said even once that they will give to the Government nearly 8 crores.

Sir, just to bring it to your notice, I submit that there are only two classes of people in the Punjab; one is the agricultural and the other is the non-agricultural class. The expenditure of the Government is 15 crores and 77 lakhs. I ask them to bear half of this expenditure. What I mean to say is this that they should impose a voluntary tax upon themselves to the extent of nearly 8 crores. This is the question for the consideration of the non-agriculturist rich people. The zamindars have been harnessed to the yoke of the English people for a pretty long time, and now they are under the subjugation of their own kith and kin. I ask them, is it just on their part not to subscribe any portion of the expenditure to the Government and still they should claim half and half share in their representation?

Sir, my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh has said that they comprise 50 per cent of the population. He has also said that since the time the zamindar Government have come into power, the revenue of the Government has been supplemented to the extent of 8 crores and 55 lakhs, but my friend has not told us as to what is the share that the urban population has contributed towards that revenue. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that they have contributed only 38 lakhs. Not more than that. All the rest of the revenue comes from the pockets of the agriculturists. I tell you that nearly 2 crores of rupees have come into the exchequer in the shape of revenue and *abiana*. The Government takes shelter under the plea that since there is the surplus budget, they have postponed the Sales Tax Act during the period of War.

I want to bring this fact to the notice of the Government that the zamindars are being ruined by continuous taxes. I ask the Government that if there is a surplus budget, that may be spent for the peasants' welfare. The surplus budget may be transferred to the Peasants' Welfare Fund. My honourable friends are clamouring in vain that they are being taxed very heavily. I tell them that the poor zamindar who fills the exchequer, sleeps without shelter and without food every night. Still he is quiet, and bears all the misfortunes quite cheerfully.

The urban population does not pay even an anna out of a rupee as tax as compared with the taxes on the zamindars. If ever they are taxed a little, they clamour and their taxes are reduced. How pitiable is this fact! I think it is the weakness of the Government. The Government is yielding to them but oppressing the zamindars. What is the justification



[S. Tara Singh.]

for withdrawing the Sales Tax when it was passed and enforced? The reason is obvious. The urban people were very turbulent, they revolted against the Government and thus the Government yielded. The Government suffered the loss of 50 lakhs of rupees. Does this loss not fall on the shoulders of the down-trodden zamindars? They are being oppressed in every way. Why is there chaukidara tax on us? Because we yield to every demand of the Government. After all what is there to protect in villages? Do they mean to protect the earthen utensils in the homes of the Mussalmans and the aluminium utensils in the homes of Hindus? The zamindars are already too poor to pay anything further, but the Government does not pay any heed to us. Why does not the Government pay the chaukidara tax out of their own exchequer? If at all they are not willing to accept our demand, then I would submit to the Government that all the expenses of the City Police be borne by the urban people. After all when the poor villagers are paying the chaukidara tax, why should the urban people be exempt from paying the expenses of the city police? Is it not a fact that so much is being spent on Police? It is true that if one more crore is being spent on police, we are getting more comforts in exchange. Our Government is very shrewd; they foresee the circumstances. By spending one crore of rupees on the Police, they have saved many crores of rupees. If they had not done so, they would have suffered a loss of many thousands of rupees as the Governments of the other Provinces have suffered. It is an undeniable fact that there are black sheep even in the Police. Some are very corrupt, some are very cruel. But the police authorities should take action against them. Of course there are some noble and honest officials in the Police Department.

I shall just mention an incident that happened in September 1941 in my village. A police sub-inspector gathered 400 people of my village, viz., Mian Vidhar, tahsil Khatar, District Ferozepore, and ordered them to lie prostrate. Then he inflicted injuries on them. He did every possible cruelty to them. I brought this fact to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner and to the Superintendent of Police, but nobody paid any heed to this incident.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Sardar Tara Singh :** All right, Sir. With these words I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Abdul Rahim** (Shakargarh, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Finance Minister has shown his budget as a surplus budget of 50 lakhs. He has been praised all over. Many honourable members sitting in this House have congratulated him. I do congratulate him also but with some reservations. If he had shown a surplus budget of 5 lakhs instead of 50 lakhs, and had helped those villages which have suffered most from the floods and the rains, he would have been more worthy of congratulations than ever. He was pleased to say that this year there was little burden on the Exchequer, but the fact is that the zamindars have suffered much this year. Their troubles and misfortunes are unparalleled in the history of present Government. They can say that

there were abundant rains this year. The crops were abundant, the people were prosperous than ever. This is all true, but with some limitations. The Government has not helped the flood-stricken, famine-stricken and poverty-stricken areas. The Government has not given taccavi loans to the *kamins*; they are hardly able to make both ends meet, a majority of the zamindars are on the verge of starvation. On the whole, the people are not as prosperous as they are considered to be. Under such conditions I do not think the Government is worthy of congratulations. It would have been better if he had shown a deficit budget.

Now I say some thing with regard to the control prices. In villages the depôts are usually in the hands of tahsildars. They charge very excessive prices for commodities such as sugar and kerosine oil. The control price is never charged. For instance, the control price of sugar is six annas per seer, but it is sold at eight annas per seer and kerosine oil is sold at Rs. 7-6-0 instead of Rs. 6-6-0 per tin. The Government knows all this, but does not pay any heed to the needs of the zamindars. Why should the Government take care of others, because their own officers are satisfied with what they get? I agree with Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan. He said that the Special Enquiry is not working honestly, it is not discharging its duties properly. The Committee knows that unless five different persons not connected with each other and belonging to different villages make a complaint, no enquiry can be held. It is a very safe provision. This is why it is so negligent of its duties. There should be an end to such a chaos. This Government should help the poor zamindars in every possible way, it should be their creed as was the creed of the past Government. It was hoped that the Punjab Government would really come forward and lighten the burden of the zamindars by reducing the land revenue and water rate. But instead of reducing the burden of taxation, the Government have added to the already heavy load of Government dues. Land revenue has not been reduced and water rate has not been decreased. On the other hand, the income of the Government has increased to a very large extent. There is no excuse left with the Government now. Previously their excuse was that necessary funds were not available. But now what prevents the Ministry from reducing the land revenue? As a matter of fact the normal term of the Ministry has already expired. The first five years of the Ministry have passed and yet we see that the old pledges solemnly given have not been fulfilled. With the exception of debt legislation, nothing of importance has yet been achieved. The better part of the agrarian legislation has been held in abeyance and no practical purpose has been served. The poverty-stricken cultivators are still groaning under the crushing burden of Government dues as well as other liabilities. No substantial help has been afforded to the down-trodden community of agriculturists. Even the debt conciliation boards are now working to the detriment of the zamindars. Their continued existence is not conducive to the welfare of the agriculturists.

I may now make a humble suggestion to the Honourable Minister of Education with regard to a very salutary circular which has been issued by the Education Department. It says that the sons of soldiers or their relatives should be given preference while granting fee concessions and other stipends. That is a very healthy and useful circular. But I am inclined

[Ch. Abdul Rahim.]

to say that the scope of this circular is limited to the Government and District Board schools only. It does not apply to the private schools which are established in large numbers in my district of Gurdaspur and especially in the Shakargarh tahsil. As our children generally read in these private schools, they cannot benefit from this circular. A similar letter should be sent to all private institutions as well, so that the children of those people who are making sacrifices on the battle fields, may be given necessary fee-concessions and other stipends. Such a circular will help the people living in backward areas.

My honourable friend Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber has observed that communal proportion should no longer be kept in view while filling the various vacancies in the Government departments. Instead of communal proportion and caste considerations, the only criterion that should guide the Government officers at the time of offering posts to educated young men ought to be as to how much money or how many recruits the family of a candidate has offered to the Government for the successful prosecution of this war. The measure of war effort of a family should be the measure of help which the Government should afford to the candidates for the different posts. I entirely endorse this view and strongly support the suggestion of my honourable friend. In this connection, I want to describe the extent to which the people living in my tahsil have gone in offering men and money to the Government for the successful prosecution of this war. As my honourable friends belonging to the Jhelum and Rawalpindi districts have claimed a prominent place for their respective districts in their war efforts, I can claim an equally distinguished place in the roll of honour for my tahsil among the various tahsils throughout the province. My tahsil of Shakargarh is second to none in the war effort so far as the individual quota of different tahsils is concerned. But I am very sorry to note that the people of Shakargarh tahsil have all along been completely ignored in the matter of granting Government posts. My tahsil is the most backward tahsil in the Punjab with regard to the favour of Government jobs to its people. I will, therefore, request the Government to bear in mind the services of this tahsil while granting various favours like Government posts and other facilities to the people. The people of my tahsil should not be ignored after the successful prosecution of this war even as they were ignored after the termination of the previous Great War.

With these few words, I beg to close my speech as the time allotted to me has expired.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, civil liberties are being crushed in this province since the inauguration of provincial autonomy. We are practically at the mercy of the police. Even though we commit no crime, we are put behind the bars without any judicial trial. The reports of the C. I. D. are taken by the Government as gospel truth and innocent persons are detained leaving their children and families in a helpless position. When political prisoners fall ill in jails, their relatives are not allowed to meet them. After all what is the crime of the political leaders? Does any person seriously entertain the idea that men like

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia or Diwan Chāman Lal will commit arson, loot or set fire to the houses of the people if they are released? I do not think this building of the Assembly will crumble down on the release of the several M. L. As. who are now under detention.

The second point that I want to urge is that even the Press is coerced by the Government not to publish true version of the highhanded policy and action of the Government. In this connection I will refer to the detention of Mr. Bali. What is his sin? His only fault is that he believes in publishing true facts about the tyrannies of the police and the Government.

Now I come to the budget itself. In this budget no provision has been made for the increase of peons' salaries. They draw about Rs. 15 per month. Now this meagre salary does not suffice a family to make both ends meet. Look at the poor peons. They keep waiting on their masters from early morning till evening for six annas per day. That is very little remuneration for a man who has to feed his children besides himself. (*Premier*: What has the Congress done in this behalf?) I am concerned with the wretched condition of this province only. I am entitled to discuss my own province and need not go out of my province to discuss the budget of my own Government.

In short the condition of this province is going from bad to worse day by day, and, when we complain of it we are detained and imprisoned. An ardu couplet aptly applies to our case. It is as follows:—

ہم آہ بھی کرتے ہیں تو ہو جاتے ہیں بدنام  
وہ قتل بھی کرتے ہیں تو چرچا نہیں ہوتا

With these few words, Sir, I beg to close to my remarks.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 15th March 1943.*

1911

1911年1月1日 星期日  
1911年1月2日 星期一  
1911年1月3日 星期二

1911年1月4日 星期三

1911年1月5日 星期四

1911年1月6日 星期五



1911年1月7日 星期六

1911年1月8日 星期日

1911

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Monday 15th March 1948.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock.  
Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE TO INTERNEES

**\*8545. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether maintenance allowance has been granted to any of the internees in the towns and villages in the Punjab under the Defence of India Rules ; if so, their names and the amount granted in each case ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** *First Part.*—No ;

*Second Part.*—Does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Has the Government ever considered the question of granting allowances to these internees ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Each case is carefully considered by the Government.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Have these cases ever been considered by the Government ? If so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The result is what I have just stated, no allowances have been granted.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Do the Government know that these internees have to spend one rupee or two rupees in order to come to report themselves to the thanas ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have no information.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Do the Government put any restrictions on these men that they are to go to the police thanas to report themselves ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** This does not arise out of the question of the honourable member nor does it arise from the answer I have given.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** My point is that these internees have in the first place no means of livelihood and secondly, they have to spend a lot to come and report themselves to the police thanas.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is not a question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Has the Government ever considered this question that these internees have to spend a lot in order to report themselves to the police thanas ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that I have no information on this point. I may, however, add for the information of the honourable member that internees are restricted in areas where they own lands or any other property and if they happen to be artisans they are restricted to areas where they can easily find employment.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know if this information given by the Parliamentary Private Secretary is quite correct ? Is it not a fact that one Ram Nath was interned in Batala for a year and-a-half and was then transferred to Amritsar, his original home ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I do not carry information about every internee with me. If the honourable member is interested in any particular internee, he may give notice.

**Premier :** There is plenty of employment both at Batala as well as at Amritsar, both being industrial centres.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8546. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether a new class of security prisoners known as II class has recently been created ;

(b) the number of security prisoners placed in the above-named category at present and the place of their detention ;

(c) the nature of the treatment accorded to prisoners of this category ;

(d) the general character of the security prisoners placed in the above-named category ;

(e) whether any security prisoners, who were recently in class I ; have been degraded to this class or have been placed in this class after their release and immediate re-arrest ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) It has been re-introduced.

(b) On 1st March 1943, 26 class II security prisoners were detained u/r 26, of the Defence of India Rules, in Jullundur, Lyallpur, Multan, Montgomery, and Rawalpindi Jails.

(c) They are given the diet prescribed for 'C' class convicted prisoners.

(d) That of the convicted prisoners referred to in Part (c).

(e) 12.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What considerations are taken into account in order to place a prisoner in class II ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** That depends on the mode of living of that individual and the breach of moral turpitude committed by him.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How is it that a prisoner who is placed in A class in the first instance becomes entitled only to II class when he is transferred to another jail ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it a fact that one Jagjit Singh was placed in A class for one year and-a-half in Gujrat jail with all facilities and allowances, but when he was taken to Multan jail he was placed in II class ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** My honourable friend has asked a general question to which I have given a reply. If he wants information in respect of a particular individual, he may give notice.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Who decides whether a particular person is to be placed in A or B class ? Is it the police or any other authority ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** It is decided by the Honourable Premier.

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UJAGAR SINGH BILGA AND PROFESSOR TILAK RAJ CHADHA.

**\*8547. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state in regard to the security prisoners, Ujagar Singh Bilga, detained in the Lahore Central Jail and Professor Tilak Raj Chadah, detained in the New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, the following facts :—

- (a) the weight at the time of arrest and first admission into jail ;
- (b) the present weight ;
- (c) the present state of health ;
- (d) the medical treatment ;
- (e) the medical report regarding the nature of the case ;
- (f) whether their cases have been reviewed for the purpose of release on medical grounds or otherwise ; if so, with what results ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

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SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SARAN

**\*8572. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Raghunandan Saran, a detenu in Sialkot District Jail, was suffering from Neurosis and various other ailments in September and October 1942, and that the Medical Officer of the said jail recommended an easy chair to be supplied to him ;

(b) whether the chair has so far been supplied to the detenu ; if not, the reasons for the delay ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.



SUPPLY OF HINDI DAILY NEWSPAPERS TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE  
DETENUS

**\*8573. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that not a single daily newspaper in Hindi is allowed to reach the 1942 Civil Disobedience Detenus ; if so, the reasons for the same and whether it is intended to remove this grievance of the Detenus ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

SUPPLEMENTING OF FOOD TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS

**\*8574. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the 1942 Civil Disobedience Detenus are not allowed to supplement the food allowed to them in the jail at their own cost ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 1940 Security Prisoners are allowed to supplement the food allowed to them in jail up to the value of Rs. 10 per month ;

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrimination ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

MR. ARVINDO BOSE

**\*8586. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Arvindo Bose, nephew of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, has been recently brought from Bengal to the Punjab ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Arvindo Bose is being kept in the Lahore Fort under the direct supervision of the Punjab C.I.D. ; if so, whether the Government intends to allow his legal adviser to see him and a private doctor to examine him ;

(c) the nature and character of the detenus who are generally kept in the Lahore Fort ;

(d) whether Government intends to appoint non-official visitors to the Lahore Fort in the same manner as it is done in the case of the jails, if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### ALLOWANCE TO THE CHILDREN OF S. SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

**\*8587. Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Miss Krishana Kumari and Mr. Krishan Kumar, children of Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, have recently applied for an allowance during the detention period of their father; if so, with what result?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): This prisoner is detained under the orders of the Central Government to whom all questions about him must be addressed.

#### DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL, C.I.D., PUNJAB

**\*8588. Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Deputy Inspector-General, C.I.D., Punjab, acts under the instructions of the Minister of Law and Order, Punjab, or under the Government of India, Home Department;

(b) whether, as regards Security Prisoners, the Deputy Inspector-General, C.I.D., Punjab, corresponds with the Home Department and police officers of the Government of India with or without reference to the Minister-in-charge of Law and Order in the Punjab;

(c) how many times the Deputy Inspector-General, C.I.D., Punjab, consulted the Government of India during the last year without making any reference to the Minister-in-charge of Law and Order?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) The D. I.-G., Criminal Investigation Department is an officer of the Punjab Government.

(b) He is not a Secretary or Deputy Secretary to Government and cannot in his own person address the Government of India officially on any subject.

(c) Does not arise.

#### LOCKING UP OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND CONVICTS

**\*8594. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether orders have been passed by Government about the "locking up" of the Civil Disobedience Detenus and Convicts of 1942, in the Punjab prisons; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House,

[Sayed Amjad Ali Shah]

but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8595. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any and if so what further facilities have been granted by the Punjab Government to the Civil Disobedience Prisoners after the statement made by the late Premier on this subject in the last autumn session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that since that announcement clothes meant for "C" class prisoners are being supplied to the Civil Disobedience Prisoners while formerly they used to be provided with clothes meant for "B" class prisoners; if so, why;

(c) whether it is also a fact that unlike before the Civil Disobedience Prisoners are not allowed to use their own books even after their being duly censored and that they are also denied the use of their professional technical books;

(d) whether it is a fact that even now the detenus and prisoners are not allowed to have any interview with their relatives and friends; if so, why;

(e) whether anything has been done to improve the lot of Civil Disobedience Prisoners in the jails; if not, why not;

(f) whether Government intends taking any steps in the matter?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### LATHI CHARGE ON CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS IN CENTRAL JAIL, MULTAN

**\*8597. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Civil Disobedience Detenus and Convicts in the Old Central Jail, Multan, were *lathi*-charged on the 9th November 1942;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a result thereof nearly 150 of the detenus and convicts were wounded and some of them were very seriously too;

(c) the reasons for this *lathi*-charge and beating and the action intended to be taken in the matter?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and

private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

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**CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND CONVICTS OF SHAHPUR  
CAMP JAIL**

**\*8601. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that when the Civil Disobedience Detenus and Convicts of the Shahpur Camp Jail were being transferred to the District Jail, Mianwali, they were kept the whole night in the open space at a small flag railway station to take the train next morning ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it was one of the coldest nights of the Christmas week and the jail authorities had provided no tents, proper clothing, etc., to detenus for spending the night at the station named above and when the police guard on duty were asked to make some suitable arrangements for the detenus they expressed their inability to do anything in the matter ;

(c) who was responsible for this kind of treatment of the Civil Disobedience Prisoners of 1942, numbering 62, and what action the Government intends to take in this matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

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**CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND CONVICTS**

**\*8602. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the non-official jail visitors are forbidden to see the Civil Disobedience Detenus and Convicts of 1942 ; if so, the reasons therefor and the authority responsible for issuing the orders ;

(b) whether such orders were issued in respect of any other class of prisoners before ;

(c) whether the Government intend to revise the order mentioned in (a) above ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) and (c) In view of answer to (a) do not arise.

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**CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS**

**\*8603. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many times the Deputy Commissioner, Mianwali, recently visited the local district jail ;

[Dr. Sant Ram Seth]

(b) whether he has had any talk with the Civil Disobedience Prisoners of 1942 confined there ;

(c) whether he found any cause to interfere in the management of their confinement ;

(d) whether he recently remarked in the said jail that the detenus confined there should cook their own food as they had not become *nawabs* ;

(e) why the Deputy Commissioner named above behaved in an insulting manner towards the Civil Disobedience Prisoners mentioned above including some members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly ;

(f) if so, what action the Government intends to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### ALIENATION OF LAND AMENDMENT ACT AND RESTITUTION OF MORTGAGED LANDS ACT

**\*8504. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the result of the appeal filed in the Federal Court by the Punjab Government against the order of the High Court, Lahore, holding as *ultra vires* the Alienation of Land Amendment Act relating to benami transactions and also the result of the appeal filed by the other party against the order of the High Court, Lahore, holding the restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act, as *intra vires* ;

(b) the action which the Government took after the announcement of the judgment in both the cases ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) While the result of the appeal filed by the Punjab Government in the Federal Court in respect of the Punjab Alienation of Land (Second Amendment) Act, 1938, was not in favour of the Provincial Government, the appeal filed by the other party in the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act case was decided in favour of the Punjab Government.

(b) Deputy Commissioners have been asked to dispose of cases pending with them under the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act, 1938. In view of the judgment of the Federal Court *no action could be taken under the Punjab Alienation of Land (Second Amendment) Act, 1938*, in respect of the transactions which the Act was intended to cover. The Government of India was, however, moved to have the Government of India Act, 1935, amended so as to make it clear beyond doubt that all the prohibitions on the transfer of agricultural land contained in the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900, should remain in full force. The necessary amendment has since been made in the Government of India Act, 1935, but this will have effect from the 1st April 1937 and not from the 8th June 1901 as recommended by the Punjab Government.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Has any application been made to the Privy Council for leave to appeal from the decision of the Federal Court in the *benami* cases?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No application has been made.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** What has become of the appeals pending before the Commissioners? Are they still stopped from taking any action? The orders were issued that the Commissioners should not proceed with the appeals. Are those appeals now kept in abeyance or in view of the decision of the Federal Court the Commissioners have been asked to dispose them of?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** As far as I understand no instructions have issued to the Commissioners to take up the appeals, about which they were instructed not to proceed. Now the result of this decision will be that they will not remain pending.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I was approached a day or two ago to put a question on this point. Luckily this matter has come up. The appeals are still pending and the Commissioners and the Financial Commissioners say that unless orders are received from Government the appeals will not be disposed of.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not think there is any need for Government to issue any orders in reference to the judgment of the Federal Court.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Do I take it that this declaration on the floor of the House will be considered by the Commissioners and the Financial Commissioners as instructions to proceed with the cases?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as courts are concerned, they are not required to receive instructions from Government.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** The Commissioners and the Financial Commissioners were ordered not to take any action. I understand that they will not take up these appeals unless they receive orders from the Government that the orders staying the appeals have been cancelled. The view of the Commissioners is that they stayed the decision of these cases under the orders of Government and that order of stay still holds good and they would not take any action unless that stay order is cancelled.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If that is the view of the Commissioners and the Financial Commissioners that they are debarred from proceeding into the cases, then the matter will be looked into by Government.

#### TEACHING OF GURMUKHI AND HINDI IN SCHOOLS

**\*8596. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any provision has been made for the teaching of *Gurmukhi* and *Hindi* in the Province as agreed to in the Sikander-Baldev Singh Pact; if so, the amount of money sanctioned for the purpose;

[R. B. L. Gopal Das]

(b) whether any circular has been issued to the Education Department or other departments of Government concerned in this connection ; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of such circular on the table of the House ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes. Rs. 10,000 for Gurmukhi and other scriptural languages.

(b) No.

STAFF IN EXECUTIVE OR CLERICAL LINES UNDER WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT

**\*8503. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any staff in the executive or clerical lines has been engaged under the Weights and Measures Act in the Province ; if so, the number of various classes of posts which have so far been created ;

(b) if the reply is in the negative, the reasons therefor and the date by which the various posts in this connection are likely to be created and filled ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) No.

(b) The draft rules are under consideration. The date or dates from which the appointments are likely to be made, may be known by the end of March 1948.

LOAN APPLIED FOR BY THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, AMBALA

**\*8505. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Committee, Ambala, has recently applied to the Government for a loan of Rs. 50,000 ; if so, whether the Government proposes to grant this loan to the said Committee ;

(b) the amount of the debt which the Municipal Committee, Ambala, already owes to the Government ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat Khan :** (a) Yes. The loan was sanctioned in January.

(b) Rs. 20,000 are outstanding on account of a previous loan. The municipal committee also owe Government some Rs. 23,000 on account of unpaid contributions in respect of the civil and veterinary hospitals.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M.L.As.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have received the following applications from three honourable members of the Assembly asking for permission of the Assembly to be absent from its meetings :—

1. **MR. DUNI CHAND** writes :—

“Leave of absence from attending the Budget Session of the Assembly may kindly be granted to me for reasons of health.”

## 2. SARDAR HARI SINGH writes :

"I hereby beg the House to grant me leave of absence from sittings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly during the Current Session, as the Punjab Government has refused to accord me permission to attend this Session."

## 3. MR. DEV RAJ SETHI writes :—

"I have been detained under Section 26 Defence of India Rules, and am at present kept in District Jail, Sialkot. Under the circumstances I am unable to attend the Assembly. My absence from the Assembly, for the period of detention may please be excused."

The question is—

That the permission asked for be granted.

The motion was carried.

### SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SECOND INSTALMENT)

**Finance Minister** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, I beg to lay on the table the supplementary statement of expenditure (Second Instalment) for the year 1942-43 authenticated by the Governor under section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

As required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following supplementary statement of expenditure for the financial year 1942-43, which specifies :—

- (a) the supplementary grants (second instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its Session held in March, 1943, and  
(b) the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.

#### Supplementary statement

Grant No.	Major head of account	Supplementary grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	7—Land Revenue .. ..	4,65,330	15,530	4,80,860
2	8—Provincial Excise.. ..	1,33,150	..	1,33,150
3	9—Stamps .. ..	29,950	..	29,950
4	10—Forests .. ..	9,38,190	17,050	9,55,240
5	11—Registration .. ..	13,270	..	13,270
7	XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses— 18—Other Irrigation Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues.	6,60,200	..	6,60,200



Grant No.	Major head of account	Supplement- ary grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums re- quired to meet ex- penditure charged on the revenues of the Pro- vince	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
8	Charges on Irrigation Establishment	2,39,000	..	2,39,000
	22—Interest on Debt and other ob- ligations.	..	9,82,100	9,82,100
10	25—General Administration ..	2,73,550	..	2,73,550
11	27—Administration of Justice ..	1,70,640	..	1,70,640
12	28—Jails and Convict Settlements..	11,05,990	750	11,06,740
16	37—Education (excluding European and Anglo Indian Education).	3,49,040	..	3,49,040
17	38—Medical .. ..	96,930	9,990	1,06,920
19	40—Agriculture .. ..	6,23,420	4,410	6,27,830
23	50—Civil Works .. ..	40,68,510	..	40,68,510
32	56—Stationery and Printing ..	3,52,940	..	3,52,940
33	57—Miscellaneous .. ..	77,92,330	1,17,370	79,09,700
34	Advances Repayable .. ..	50,85,450	..	50,85,450
35	Loans to Municipalities and Advanc- ances to cultivators, etc.	2,95,300	..	2,95,300
9	68—Construction of Irrigation Works	10	..	10
13	29—Police .. ..	10	..	10
14	47—Miscellaneous Departments ..	10	3,530	3,540
20	41.—Veterinary .. ..	10	15,610	15,620
22	43—Industries .. ..	10	..	10
25	XLI—Receipts from Electricity Schemes— <del>Deduct</del> —Work in g Expenses (other than Estab- lishment).	10	..	10
28	81-A—Capital outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account).	10	..	10
	GRAND TOTAL ..	2,26,93,260	11,66,340	2,38,59,600

LAHORE :

The 10th March 1943. }

(Sd.) B. J. GLANCY

Governor of the Punjab

## PUNJAB GENERAL SALES TAX RULES 1948

**Finance Minister** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, I lay on the table<sup>1</sup> a copy of the Punjab General Sales Tax Rules, 1948, framed under section 19 of the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1941.

### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

**Mr. Speaker**: The House will now proceed to discuss the Demands for Grants.

#### IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT

**Finance Minister** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, I beg to move:—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,33,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Charges on Irrigation Establishment.

**Mr. Speaker**: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,33,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Charges on Irrigation Establishment.

#### *Irrigation Policy*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, my object in moving this cut motion is to discuss the general policy underlying this demand. You will remember, that the Department of Irrigation has come under discussion several times before. In 1940 I dealt with this subject at length and discussed it threadbare. A few days ago I looked up the previous records with a view to refreshing my memory and gleaning out certain facts to be brought to the notice of the Government for taking suitable action thereon. Although for want of time I could not study and do full justice to the subject yet I have found that there were certain points to which the attention of the Government must be drawn again. Besides, a few other things relating to the demand under consideration have occurred to me and I want to put them before the Government for their consideration. It is my fervent desire that the Government should bestow their careful and active consideration to these suggestions and act upon them in the best interest of the zamindars.

You are aware, Sir, that the Department of Irrigation has been fortunate enough in having the services of eminent engineers of outstanding ability possessing technical knowledge of a high order. The irrigation system enjoyed at present by the Punjab is a monumental work of great engineering skill. It is due to their laudable schemes that this province is now flourishing. Besides, the province has one of the most successful irrigational systems of the world and as a result of its working enormous profits have accrued

<sup>1</sup>Kept in the Assembly Library

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to the Punjab Government, which has carried out several beneficent schemes and met other demands on the exchequer out of these profits. It was absolutely due to these canals that the expenditure on beneficent departments of the province was made good out of the income which went up to the figure of 40 or 45 lakhs of rupees in a period of 10 years. Besides, they did many other useful things. Now the days have changed and with it my theme changes. I am not asking the Government for the reduction of abiana today. But I would like to point out that the time has favourably changed and now the Government need not take direct action in regard to the reduction of abiana. You will remember, Sir, that it was in 1930 that I told the Government in the course of my maiden speech that they should have conserved the money earned by the zamindar during the last great war and I further pointed out that if they had taken keen interest in ameliorating the condition of zamindars they could have very conveniently realised an enormous amount of money amounting to several millions which if usefully employed, would have been more than sufficient for the Government to run the whole machinery of the administration. It goes without saying that when Government take the initiative with respect to working out some scheme they have to face many difficulties known as well as unknown in the beginning. But as soon as the consequences of that scheme are found satisfactory the masses are automatically convinced and won over. To clarify my point I would like to remind my honourable friends sitting opposite of the fact that the sliding scale system was enforced in the Lyallpur district at the time of the last settlement. I do admit that this system is very useful and profitable for the zamindars, and in this connection, the Honourable Mian Abdul Haye has just remarked that abiana should be increased. But the Government should adopt such a method for realising abiana at enhanced rate that the zamindars might not feel paying it. I had further suggested that the flood of wealth could be controlled by the Government. Abiana Committee was appointed. But it is regrettable that the members of the Abiana Committee while devising ways and means for the benefit of zamindars absolutely forgot to suggest a sliding scale system for realisation of abiana. I, therefore, feel constrained to say that the money which the Government spent on it has not been properly spent. Even the return from the expenditure and the amount realised by abiana was sufficient enough for the Government to keep their head above water. I can agree with the Honourable Mian Abdul Haye in saying that if that had been done, the money could have been most usefully employed to decrease the burden of the zamindar. To make it more clear I may point out that if the amount realised by abiana had been spent for the benefit of those zamindars who paid it to the Government it would have really been a great boon for them. Take the instance of the Lower Chenab Canal which is a great source of income to the exchequer and strictly speaking the Government have realised by now many times more than what was practically spent on it. Now, if the income was spent for the benefit of the people paying abiana in that area I am sure the Government would have derived so much profit from it that they could have easily remitted the whole abiana realised on that canal. But it is a pity that the Abiana Committee did not pay much heed to this side of the question and so I make bold to

say that they missed the bus. Now, as that time is over I do not think that the Government would ever succeed in that matter. On the contrary if the Government would like to resort to that method there is every likelihood of agitation taking place. My suggestion, therefore, is that both the Government and the zamindars should put their heads together to find out some ways and means for the amelioration and betterment of the farmers or irrigators. I submit that as the burden of the zamindar has been sufficiently decreased, now is the time to devise some ways and means to shake off the remaining burden.

By referring to facts and figures I would like to plead for a planned scheme for helping the zamindar. As to the Lower Chenab Canal, the capital outlay amounts to a figure of Rs. 4,75,08,341 while the expenses are Rs. 26,64,005 showing an income of Rs. 1,80,64,457. It is now crystal clear that the Government has been realising profits of 80 to 54.60 per cent as in 1926-27. This is exorbitant and I wish that the principle of Dam Dupat had been applied here. However, my point is that the irrigators alone deserve the benefit of extra profits and it should be spent on them in view of their interests.

Now, Sir, the Irrigation Report of 1939-40 tells us that the capital outlay on canals was Rs. 37,38,89,288 and the interest to the end of the year was Rs. 39,12,78,076. Before I develop this point I would like to submit to the Honourable Finance Minister to lower the rate of interest as much as possible because today the financial position of the Government is satisfactory enough. I, therefore, fail to understand the reason why the Government should continue the same rate of interest on previous loans. Money is cheap. Can Government not raise new loans and lower the burden due to high rates of interest? Now let me tell you, Sir, how much net revenue has been received by the Government to the end of the year 1940. It comes to Rs. 1,36,11,83,922. It is obvious that the Government have received an enormous amount of money as net profits. I think I have made my point clear and now I would like to ask the Government if they are going to accept the view of the Abiana Committee to the effect that water should be treated as a commercial commodity. If they are going to accept this view I would suggest to the Government with all the emphasis at my command that the canal budget be separated from the general budget. I remember when the Irrigation Report was made many non-official members were working on the committee and Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram being an active member and having a keen perception of the then situation was the leader of the non-officials. May I submit to him that now is the time for him as the Honourable Minister for Revenue to make sincere efforts to amplify the welfare of the zamindars? The money which the Government realises from this source is not being spent properly. Government should try to reduce the water rate with a view to helping the poor zamindars.

The next thing that I want to suggest is that the Irrigation Budget should be separated from the General Budget. The income derived from canals should be kept separate and should be spent for improving them. In this way Government will be able to improve the hard lot of poor zamindars. Government should devise ways and means for deriving more and

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more profit from these canals, so that they could separate the Irrigation Budget from the General Budget. Now if the honourable members refer to the General Budget, they will find that out of the total income of 6 crores of rupees which is derived from the canals, only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores of rupees are to be spent on canals. Had there been a separate Budget for canals, we would have been able to spend the whole amount for improving canals and thus we would have been able to give all possible facilities to poor zamindars.

Canals can be useful to us in many respects. First of all canals supply us water for irrigation purposes. Electricity produced from the water falls in the canals, can be utilised by the villages. Canals supply us water for gardening purposes. In fact villages can be converted into model towns with the help of these canals. Government should devise schemes by which the condition of villages can be improved. It is no wonder these schemes may fail in the beginning but after continuous efforts such schemes do succeed. Here in this connection I wish to quote an instance. Model Town of Lahore, which was planned some years ago, is no longer a jungle now. This scheme proved a success after all. Government should never mind about failures in the beginning in regard to such schemes. If the Government embark on a certain scheme of converting villages into model towns, I am sure they will succeed in their mission after 10, 15 or 20 years. Then our honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram will not be able to say (as he usually does) that such schemes could not be worked out because of insufficient time at his disposal. I should like to suggest to him to effect some changes in respect of canal water and devise schemes for improving the hard lot of poor zamindars. This Government has so far failed to bring about any re-orientation in the department. This Government like the conservative Government in England has not adopted the forward policy of effecting changes. Let them now work out a scheme and after ten years show that they have done something substantial.

So far as rules with regard to kharaka are concerned, I want to submit that they are very defective. Moreover bribery and corruption in this department are the order of the day. I should like to suggest that so long as Government do not introduce some fundamental changes such things are bound to continue.

Now, I want to say something about water rate. Government is recovering more than it really spends on water supply. Government should fix water rate according to the quantity of water supplied to zamindars. It would have been better and in the interests of the poor zamindars if flat rates were fixed by the Government. In this connection I should like to suggest that water rate should be assessed on the basis of the sliding scale system, as is being done in the case of land revenue.

Now I refer to the item of "Grow more food Campaign". On the one hand Government strove every nerve to induce the zamindars to grow more food and was prepared to provide facilities to achieve this end. But on the other hand it imposed control on the price of wheat as a result of which the zamindars were debarred from obtaining full price of their grain. This action of the Government damped the incentive of the zamindars to grow

more food. Only recently when de-controlling of price of wheat was brought about the prices shot up to Rs. 13 per maund. If there had been no control in the beginning, zamindars would have received ample return for their food grains and thus lucrative income accruing to them as a result of good prices would have automatically encouraged them to grow more food. Thus the success of the campaign would have been assured without the effort of the Government. Under the circumstances it is meet and proper that Government should effect changes in the methods of "Grow more food Campaign" for the amelioration of poor zamindars.

Water is the most essential factor so far as agriculture is concerned. It is both in the interests of the Government and zamindars to economise water and avoid wasting it unnecessarily. In this connection I want to suggest that Government should introduce collective farming. Let them try this experiment and see if it can be worked out for the benefit of poor zamindars. Money from the Special Development Fund should be spent for these experiments.

The system of consolidation of holdings has already been started in the province. Government should introduce the system of consolidating use of water and should first make an experiment and see to what extent it will be instrumental in improving the hard lot of the poor zamindars. The Government should appoint their own officers and bear the cost of this scheme, and other expenditure arising from its organisation. They should adopt the best methods of cultivation for making this experiment and show to the zamindars that where their ordinary mode of farming could produce an income of say Rs. 2 lakhs, the experimental farming has increased this income to Rs. 4 lakhs. I am confident that this experiment will prove a great success. If you wish you can spend some money out of the Special Development Fund on this experiment which is bound to benefit the small holder whom the Government are themselves very anxious to help. I beg to submit that the Government should boldly make such experiments and should not be afraid of doing something new. If by pursuing such a policy there is a revolution in production in the country the Government should rest assured that it will not affect them in any way.

Then there are certain other matters which greatly affect the zamindars, but with regard to which nothing has so far been done by the Government. The Canal and Drainage Committee was brought into being at considerable expense to the Province for proposing amendments to the Canal and Drainage Act. We have not been informed as to what has been the result of their deliberations. What are the amendments that have been suggested? What new proposals have been made and how far are they going to benefit the zamindars? In spite of the fact that a large sum has been spent on it we have not been told anything about it. I would request the Honourable Minister to enlighten us on this point.

Again we wish to be acquainted fully with how matters stand in respect of the Sindh water dispute? The other day we were told by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the result of the findings of the Indus Commission is likely to go against us. It is causing us great anxiety. How is it that the decision has gone against us? Big projects have been working now for many years and a good many canals are serving

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the irrigation needs of that area. Have the Government considered what line of action they are going to adopt in the matter? Surely it will be a great catastrophe for the zamindars of that ilaqa if justice is not done to the Punjab.

The next thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Revenue is the system of granting kharaba. In spite of the fact that it is a very long standing grievance of the poor zamindars no heed has been paid to it so far. The rule regarding the grant of kharaba is that if a crop has failed to an extent that what remains of it amounts only to 4 annas in the rupee no remission on account of kharaba can be given, but if the standing crop is less than 4 annas in the rupee then kharaba is granted. Now the determination of the fact that a crop is only 3 annas in the rupee or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas in the rupee is left to the discretion of the officers who may decide in whatever way they like. No rule or law is in existence under which the zamindars can contest this decision or get it revised. In my opinion the department does its work in a highhanded manner and does not brook the idea of any reform being carried out, while the zamindars have to suffer enormous losses on this account. Last year the Honourable Minister of Finance was indignant that his estimates had been upset because there were very little kharaba remissions that year. The grant of kharaba is a regular business transaction which is carried on between the irrigation officials on the one hand and those who can afford to buy this concession on the other. At the time of assessment the patwari and the zilladar fix their prices which range usually between Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-8-0 per acre. Landowners with means manage to get their average crops declared as kharaba while the poor zamindars who cannot afford to pay are deprived of their legitimate concession. Thus by paying say a hundred rupees the landowners can save as much as seven hundred rupees which is clearly a loss to the provincial revenues. This kharaba is a nuisance for which there is no remedy. Some years ago when I was a member of the Standing Committee I made several efforts for putting an end to this evil. Even the Abiara Committee recommended its abolition. His Excellency the Governor-in-Council contributed full one page to the subject but unfortunately nothing came out of it.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

Had the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram made any effort in this behalf I am sure the recommendation would have long been approved and the suggested action carried out. This is what His Excellency wrote:—

“The abolition of kharaba whether wholly or partially—has the approval of the Legislative Council.”

The members of the Government at that time were probably afraid of bringing the matter before the Council apprehending that the zamindars will oppose it and prevent it from being passed. Another method suggested by some people is that if the kharaba works out at 7 percent it should be reckoned at 14 per cent and may be deducted from the total water rate as a permanent measure. The Government must do something to settle this question once for all.

Now I come to the policy adopted by the Government in respect of the reclamation of land campaign. There is a general complaint that big estates at Sargodha and Nankana Sahib are being granted irrigation facilities at flat rates while the poor zamindars are not being supplied with water even at contract rates which are much higher than flat rates. In this connection I would request the Honourable Minister to look into the matter and try to redress their grievances so far as they are genuine, so that the small holders may also be able to derive benefit from this drive.

Then there is another common complaint against the method adopted by the Irrigation Department officials in determining whether a certain breach is a cut in reality or merely a breach. Even if a cut is maliciously made by an opponent the poor zamindar whose lands happen to be adjacent to a cut is penalized and no opportunity is afforded to him for putting up his defence and the penalty continues to be imposed on every crop sown by him.

*Wara-shikni* is another problem which can best be remedied by appointing a special officer for a particular division or circle, who should immediately examine a case of *wara-shikni* and restore the turn. He should not be influenced by any party in the village and should be vested with magisterial powers for deciding cases on their merits. The Government should do something on these lines. I know that even if a whole division abounds with such cases the matters can be set right within a month.

Finally, I would like to bring a few other things to the Government's notice. The first concerns the wastage going on in the department which should be tackled by amalgamating the revenue establishment with the civil department. It will not only benefit the Government, but will also help the zamindars in making a saving of Rs. 20 lakhs. Similarly, the amalgamation of the Buildings and Roads Branch with the Irrigation Department would effect a saving in expenditure. I am only bringing such matters to your attention as are the cause of innumerable hardships to the zamindars. The trees growing on various minors cause a considerable damage to the crops and if the zamindars are not to be compensated for this loss they should at least be granted some reduction in the land revenue. Otherwise the best remedy would be to sell the trees which are fetching very good prices in these days. While talking to an honourable member from Gurdaspur I asked him why they do not put the trees growing on the Dipalpur Canal to auction as it would be very profitable to sell them now. He told me that it could not be done as the trees were necessary for providing shade on the canal roads. Although the trees are planted for the sake of shade, yet if they are cut down and sold away for profit, it will add to the assets of the Government. The Government should derive benefit from them. They should cut them and plant new ones in their place, so that they may grow into big trees for giving more profit in the future. The Government will thus derive immense profit.

For repair of canals they dig pits but compensation for these pits is seldom paid to the zamindars who suffer by them. The zamindars are often very simple-minded and ignorant; they do not know whether they should demand compensation from the officials or not. The officials, take advantage of their ignorance.



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Now I want to say something with regard to gardens, their growth and their development. A few years ago no attention was paid to the growth of gardens ; they were not encouraged. The reason was that the people were ignorant of the advantages of gardens. Now this Government has, of late, tried to encourage the growth of gardens. More lands have been brought into use for the purpose. In spite of all the endeavours of the Government they are not as much encouraged as they ought to have been. I urge upon the Government to pay more attention towards the planting, the growth, and the development of the gardens. I submit, that even in States, the problem of planting of gardens has been seriously undertaken ; they are encouraging it to the maximum limit. For instance, in Patiala the gardens are in abundance. The Patiala Government does not charge land revenue for five years from those owners of land who plant gardens on their lands. I too urge upon my Government to pay attention to the problem of planting gardens. They are good from the point of view of health. The health of the residents will be improved, and the province on the whole will be more prosperous. Hence I suggest that the Government should pay more attention to the gardens.

Now I like to say a few words with regard to the distributaries and the duty levied on them. The duty on them is very uneven, and it differs even on distributaries of the same canal. As an instance, I might point out that on Bhangu distributary of Jhang Branch duty is 175 while on Khewra it is 264. Why this differentiation cannot be explained. May be that the rich zamindars of Bhangu influenced the then officials and that is why they are getting more water than the poor people living in the other distributaries. How uneven and unjust is this ? After all, what is the justification for the Government that they give more water to those distributaries where big influential zamindars are living ? I submit to the Government to wipe out this differential treatment.

**Minister of Revenue :** What is the name of that distributary which the honourable member is referring to ?

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Khewra and Bhangu. The duty for Bhangu is 175 and for Khewra it is 264. There is this differentiation. There was some agitation on this score. If you study facts and go into the bottom of the affair you might make up your mind to do something to remove their difficulties.

I further like to say something with regard to remodelling. A few days ago, a certain zamindar met me and asked me as to the basis upon which the remodelling of mogas was done. I could not reply to this question. I know that the basis is very haphazard. No arrangement is observed. Often mogas are remodelled on the basis of full supply of water in the canal, while actually canal runs full supply hardly about two months in a year. Thus the zamindars suffer for ten months in the year. What is the solution of this difficulty ? The zamindars get very little of water. When they bring their complaints to the officers concerned, the latter generally dispose them off by saying that such and such moga is properly designed, others who carry influence can have what they like. The fact is that most of the zamindars often do not get proper supply of water for their cultivation, while others

get in plenty. I think when new mogas are built, the officers do not pay any heed to the sandy soil, nor do they care for any high level of the land. While calculating water supply in new abadis proper allowance should be made for growth of trees and greens. Water is required for use in religious places. If the Government will not care for the new villages and for their colonisation, I am afraid there will not be much scope for progress for the new grantees. Let me draw the attention of the Honourable Revenue Minister to the literate grantees. They have settled in a jungle for the last ten years in the hope that in due course they will get the millenium. But this they cannot achieve unless they are encouraged by the grant of proprietary rights. They deserve encouragement and I am sure that the Honourable Minister will give their case favourable consideration. Some one pointed out to me that Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was a little calculating as it would mean grant of valuable squares to 150 grantees. I would not believe it as Chaudhri Sahib, being a liberal-minded Jat, could not possibly sit like a bania to calculate. Thousands have been granted these proprietary rights in due course and I am sure Chaudhri Sahib will not grudge granting this to these deserving young folk. It will give them status.

Now, I have to refer to certain other important matters. The first and foremost in this connection is the question of reducing chahi rates. The present chahi-rate is distressing the zamindars of Multan district in particular. Moreover the people of Jullundur are suffering on account of the lowering level of their wells. This problem may involve various questions relating to erosion, chos or floods. A scientific enquiry should be made in this direction. My complaint is that Government promises to do everything but actually does very little. This is a serious and urgent problem which must be solved immediately. Even though the construction of new canals may not be useful for irrigation in Jullundur, still it may help the water level of wells there. The zamindars of Jullundur want something to be done immediately.

In the end I want to invite once again the attention of the Government to the important suggestions that I have already made in my speech about collective farming, economising use of water, introduction of flat rate of abiana and other things. I hope the Honourable Minister of Revenue will kindly give his best thought to these practical suggestions and carry them out if he finds them conducive to the welfare of the zamindars. With these words I move my cut motion.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann** (Sheikhupura West, Sikh Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I want to ventilate the grievances of fruit-growers on the floor of this House. This unfortunate community of fruit-growers has not been able to get its grievance redressed so far in spite of the fact that the Honourable Speaker, of this House is the President of the Fruit Development Board in the Punjab. I propose to deal with four or five important matters relating to the grievances and demands of these zamindars who are

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interested in the development of fruit industry in the Punjab. The main points can be detailed under the following items :—

- (1) Levy of abiana and land revenue on gardens twice a year.
- (2) Non-grant of kharaba concessions when the plants bear no fruit.
- (3) Levy of abiana on gardens during the period before the plants begin to yield fruit.
- (4) Levy of abiana on the whole area sanctioned for gardens although it is hardly enough for  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}$  of it.
- (5) Non-grant of extra concessions or allowances until the area on one outlet is less than 18 acres.

I will now take up these points one by one. It is an acknowledged principle of the Irrigation Department, "No crop, no taxation". When gardens do not yield fruit twice during the year, why tax twice? It is high time that the Government should apply this principle to gardens as well. If on the other hand the quantity of water used is to be considered, the levy of abiana twice during the year on gardens is not justified. Take the example of sugarcane. Now this crop is irrigated by flooding the field while gardens are irrigated through small watercourses. Thus less water is used by gardens than by sugarcane crop. Moreover, sugarcane takes 10 months to ripen while fruit trees take only two months more to yield fruit. So from whatever point we look at this question, the levy of abiana twice on gardens is proved to be unjustified.

Coming to my second point, I would like to inform the house that if crops fail, kharaba is granted. But when gardens fail, similar kharaba concessions are not granted. There are various causes of failure of fruits. Sometimes natural calamities befall gardens. Sometimes trees bear no fruit due to some disease.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)*

But no kharaba concession is granted for gardens when they yield no fruit due to disease. Kharaba is granted only when some calamity befalls. This rule should be changed. Ordinarily some trees bear less fruit one year than in another. No concession is granted for the loss of fruit on alternate years.

Coming to the third point, I will say that when fruit trees are planted for the first time, it takes them 4 to 5 years to yield fruits. Now under the accepted principle that if there is no produce no charge should be levied, gardens should not be taxed during the first 4 or 5 years. But it is sad indeed that abiana is imposed even during this period against the acknowledged principle of the Irrigation Department, that is, "no produce, no taxation". Again, when other crops are sown in the garden area, the water rate is imposed at the enhanced rate for gardens while justice requires that it should be imposed at the rate of mixed crops of fodder as is the case with ordinary crops which are sown outside the garden area. This grievance of the fruit growers should be redressed.

My next point relates to the complaint of the fruit-growers against the injustice of the Canal Department which imposes *abiana* on the whole of the culturable commanded area which is sanctioned for gardening on any canal although the quantity of water supplied on various canals is different. I will make my point clear by referring to the case of the Lower Chenab Canal first. Now on this canal out of 1,000 acres of culturable commanded area, only 750 acres are permissible, and 2.9 cusecs discharge is given for irrigating it ordinarily. For planting garden a double discharge, that is, 5.2, will be given. Now *abiana* is imposed on all the culturable commanded area though only 75 per cent of it is being irrigated for gardening on this canal. *Abiana* should be imposed on actual garden area and not for the total culturable commanded area sanctioned for the gardens.

In order to enlighten my honourable friends I may point out that intensity of water supplied for growing of all crops and orchards is not uniform on all the canals. It is different in case of different canals. For instance, there is the Lower Chenab Canal. On this canal the quantity of extra water allowed for orchards is different in the case of old and new *abadies*. In the case of new *abadies* the quantity of water allowed for crops is 75 per cent of the total culturable commanded area, while in the case of old *abadies* it amounts to 50 per cent of the total culturable commanded area. This shows that orchard growers of new and old *abadies* are not treated on the same footing. In other words if an orchard grower of a new *abadi* applies for the allowance of extra supply of water he would be given 5.8 cusecs for 1,000 acres culturable commanded area, but if any orchard grower from an old *abadi* makes a similar request he would be allowed 3.8 cusecs for irrigating the same acreage of orchards. Thus my friends will see that though the extra supply given is for half of the permissible area in old *abadi* yet the water rates will be charged for the culturable commanded area in both cases which is 1,000 acres. It means that an orchard grower in an old *abadi* will have to pay the same amount of water rate for 3.8 cusecs which an orchard grower in a new *abadi* will have to pay for 5.8 cusecs. Then in the case of the Lower Bari Doab the quantity of water allowed is 65 per cent of the total culturable commanded area that is, 4.8 cusecs will be given for growing 1,000 acres garden on this canal. In the case of the Sirhind Canal the quantity of water allowed is 50 per cent of the total culturable commanded area that is, 4.0 cusecs for 1,000 acres will be given. On the Western Jumna Canal the supply of water given is 25 per cent of the total culturable commanded area that is it will be 2.8 cusecs for 1,000 acres of garden on this canal. Thus you will see, Sir, that the quantity of extra water supplied is different on different canals. Again, the position is anomalous that though the extra supply of water is given only for the permissible area, the water rates are charged for the whole of the culturable commanded area. This is sheer injustice. Therefore my suggestion is that extra supply should either be given on the basis of culturable commanded area or water-rates should be charged on the permissible area only and not on the culturable commanded area. I think the best course is that the assessment of water-rates should be based either on volumetric system or on the contract basis or should be on the permissible area, that is, for the area which can be actually irrigated by the quantity of water supplied. It would be the height of injustice to charge water rate for 1,000 acres

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when the quantity of water supplied would hardly be sufficient to irrigate 250 acres as is the case on the Western Jumna Canal. I am sure the Honourable Revenue Minister will do all that lies in his power to remedy this grievance of fruit growers.

Then there is another point to which I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Revenue Minister, that is, that the position regarding assessment of land revenue on gardens is very anomalous. It varies from district to district and from tahsil to tahsil. Justice requires that it should be made uniform throughout the province. So far as I remember, Mr. Emerson, when he was the Settlement Officer in Multan, decided that in Multan district the assessment of land revenue on gardens should be made uniform. So it is only fair that it should be made uniform throughout the province.

There is yet another very important point which I want to bring to the notice of Government. Up till now Government have not shown any sympathetic attitude towards development of fruit cultivation in the province. In many foreign countries Governments are spending huge sums of money for developing fruit industry. In Palestine the Government of the day remitted land revenue for five years in order to encourage fruit cultivation. Similarly, the Italian Government in order to improve the standard of fruit gardens went the length of passing a law remitting land revenue for a certain number of years to those who adopted improved methods of fruit growing. In fact fruit gardens are a national asset in all civilized countries. It may be of interest to mention, as has been pointed out by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah, that even His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has, in order to encourage fruit industry in his State sanctioned special concessions such as (a) supply of fruit nursery plants at normal price, (b) enhanced supply of water for gardens at the rate of five times the usual supply for ordinary crops in the State, (c) full remission of land revenue for 8 years after the planting of the gardens, (d) half abiana rates for first three years. If the ruler of an Indian State has gone the length of giving so liberal an encouragement to fruit culture in his State, it is all the more necessary for a Government which claims to be a popular Government to encourage fruit industry in the province.

The last but not the least important point is that the zamindars are offered absolutely no facilities for the plantation of fruit gardens. So long as no assistance is given to them they would not be in a position to take to fruit culture. According to the rules now in force in the department of irrigation no extra supply of water can be given to the zamindars if they bring less than 18 acres under fruit culture on one outlet. If any zamindar wants to bring 2 or 4 acres of land under fruit culture he is asked to arrange for double *wari* with the consent of other shareholders on that particular outlet. If he cannot get the consent of his shareholders to get a double *wari* as it is practically impossible to do so for no shareholder would give his willing consent to the reduction of his supply, he has no chance whatever of planting a small fruit garden. Therefore my suggestion is that when the extra supply required for a small area is negligible in quantity as compared with the total discharge of the outlet instead of asking the

prospective small orchard grower to arrange with the consent of other shareholders double *wari* of water supply for himself, it should be made the duty of the department to make arrangements to that effect. If this difficulty of prospective small orchard growers is not removed they would not be in a position to take to fruit culture. With these words I appeal to the Honourable Revenue Minister to take immediate steps to remove the difficulties of orchard growers.

**Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber** (West Central Punjab Indian-Christian), (Urdu): Sir, the irrigation demand is very important from the stand point of the zamindars for it has a great bearing on agriculture. Though I do not claim to be an expert in matters concerning irrigation still I deem it my duty to voice the grievances of zamindars in this behalf and it is for the Government to redress them. I do not think that there can be better opportunity for the redress of their grievances than this when the well-wisher of the zamindars happens to be in charge of this department. So taking advantage of this opportunity I would place before him some of the grievances of the zamindars and I hope he will try to redress them. To begin with my submission is that the needs of the zamindars require that extensions should be made in the present canals. By making such extensions we would be in a position to supply water to more and more zamindars. We all know that agriculture without irrigation facilities is a meaningless thing. The first essential thing for the purpose of agriculture is water which is required for irrigating lands and it is on the procuring of this that zamindars have to incur lot of expenditure and labour. The importance of irrigation can be realized by only those zamindars to whom so far canal water facilities have not been extended. In fact the success of agriculture depends on irrigation only. If agriculture fails, it fails because zamindars cannot incur heavy expenditure and labour for irrigating their lands. It is therefore necessary that more and more canal water should be provided to zamindars for irrigating their lands. For this purpose if Government carry out extensions in the present canal works that will prove very useful. It cannot be said that maximum efforts have been made in this behalf. There is still room for further extensions. For the last so many years Government have given their main attention to bigger irrigation projects like the Haveli Project, Thal Project and the Bhakhara Dam Scheme. This year also a large provision has been made for developing and completing those schemes. I do not say that Government should not pay attention to these schemes. By all means they may do so. I know that these projects will also provide irrigation facilities to some parts of the Punjab. Besides, on commercial basis Government stand to gain from such projects. But my submission is that there are other ilaqs which require the urgent attention of Government. There are many areas in the province where on account of lack of irrigation facilities zamindars are suffering untold miseries. They also require the attention of Government. I request the Honourable Minister to make endeavours to find out such tracts of lands where the poor zamindars are suffering great hardships, because of lack of irrigation facilities. After making this survey he should try to provide irrigation facilities to them. The areas at present served by the old canals such as the Lower Bari Doab and the Lower Chenab Canal are specified and they are providing canal water to only a limited number of zamindars. I admit that the department is

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considering the question of bringing more areas under irrigation on these canals and in some cases instructions to that effect have been issued; still there are some ilaqa which lie far away from these canals to which so far no attention has been paid. For instance, there are such ilaqa in Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Batala, Shakargarh and Zafarwal tahsils where up till now no irrigation facilities had been provided by Government. I ask, do Government think that because the zamindars of these ilaqa irrigate their lands by well water, so no canal irrigation facilities should be extended to them? They have also some claims on Government. I do not say that they should not take in hand bigger projects. By all means let the Government bestow their careful and active attention on bigger irrigation schemes like the Thal Project, etc. I have no grouse against them for doing so, rather it redounds to the credit of a really capable Government to undertake such projects calculated to bring about prosperity in the province. But what I desire is that apart from undertaking these schemes, the Government should try to find out all those tracts of land and get them surveyed, where the poor zamindars are put to great hardship for want of irrigation facilities. As you are aware, Sir, the ilaqa of Lyallpur is flourishing because of ample arrangements that exist there for irrigating lands. Still the representatives from that ilaqa raise a great hue and cry for want of sufficient water supply and they plead for extension schemes. I do not grudge these extension schemes, which the Government contemplate undertaking with a view to meeting the demands of the people of that part of the province. But my submission is that Government should make efforts to save some water for supplying to those tracts of lands where it can be made available without incurring much expenditure and thus earn the gratitude of the poor zamindars. I know that Government can advance this argument that they are discharging their duty in the matter of irrigation to the best of their knowledge and ability. If still some tracts of lands in the province have remained without irrigation facilities, they should be brought to their notice by the honourable members. As I consider the Honourable Minister for Revenue to be the custodian of the rights and interests of all the zamindars, and not of a particular section, I feel he should devise ways and means for providing water to those poor zamindars whose difficulties I am voicing on the floor of the House. Since Government expect honourable members interested in the welfare of the tillers of the soil, to put forward some constructive suggestions, I make bold to say something in regard to the extension of water-supply schemes. I suggest that a committee, consisting of experienced officers, should be appointed to examine thoroughly the question whether any water can be saved from the discharge of old canals after they have fully commanded the areas under them. If it is found that some saving in water can be effected, it should be made available by small extension schemes to those lands which have remained parched up for want of water supply. As this matter requires careful consideration and involves scrutiny of statistics also, I cannot say whether I can endorse the proposal made by my honourable friend, Mian Muhammad Nurullah. He has told us that every distributary is calculated to discharge a certain number of cusecs of water to irrigate lands of a certain ilaqa. Since these distributaries were started long long ago, the lands

adjoining them have undergone changes in their productivity. Some lands have become water-logged and have developed brackish soil. Obviously they absorb less water. Then there are lands which are sandy. They absorb more than the specified quota of water. The result is that a reduction is brought about in water-supply for lands situated at the tail of the distributary. The Government should take steps to remedy this difficulty. But in the former case, the water may become surplus, as smaller quantity is absorbed owing to brackish soil. The water thus rendered surplus will obviously be wasted unless it is diverted to some other channels for being utilised with advantage. I suggest that better use should be made of this surplus water as recommended by the committee proposed by me. In this way water-supply can be enhanced, where necessary and *vice versa*.

Then I have to draw the attention of the Government to another important point. We find that the Irrigation Department has, under some law of Medes and Persians, made a rule not to grant water for irrigating lands situated on the left side of the distributary. So far I have failed to account for the advisability of this action. I take for instance the case of Raya Branch. This distributary is a non-perennial inundation canal. In other words there is abundance of water during the season it runs. But here, too, that unalterable and irrevocable law is in force. Under the fiat of the Irrigation Department lands situated on the left side of the Raya Branch are denied water-supply. If the Honourable Minister of Revenue happens to motor through that ilaqa during his tour, he will be surprised to find that whereas lands on the right side of the Raya Branch Canal produce bumper crops, the lands on its left present a gloomy picture. There the smiling fields are conspicuous by their absence. Not a vestige of greenery is to be found there. I see no reason why water-supply to the lands mentioned by me should be refused in case of a seasonal canal. Very often much of the water in such canals is wasted due to breeches and other reasons. I am, therefore, of the opinion that during the summer season when water flows abundantly in the rivers and canals, the Government which is lucky to have a surplus Budget, should not grudge spending ten or twenty thousand rupees on small extensions to provide water where it is needed badly. Generally the Government feel reluctant to move in the matter of undertaking small extension schemes on the ground of scarcity of water. But in the case of inundation canals this plea does not hold good. I think Government would be well advised to pay more attention to my suggestion, specially when they are keenly interested in the success of the "grow more food campaign". They should see that such extensions are carried out and necessary water supplied from canals, having more than sufficient water supplies. But the difficulty is that the Irrigation Department has assumed the airs of a despot. It pays no heed to the requirements of the poor zamindars. What an irony of fate! At first a certain department is created with the sole object of rendering service to the public. But no sooner does it acquire some importance, than a change for the worse comes in its mentality and it begins to behave like an autocrat. Similar is the case with the Irrigation Department. The very object of service to the zamindar is being defeated, as it turns a deaf ear to the grievances of the poor zamindars. Let me hope that the Government will find it possible to remove this anomaly of supplying water only to the lands situated on the right side of the distributary and not



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to the lands on its left. I am sure Government will do even-handed justice to the aggrieved party in the matter.

Then my honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, will remember that once a scheme for digging out an inundation canal from Deg Nala in the Sialkot district was undertaken. My submission is that if this system, that is to say, the land revenue remitted in the past would not be realized in future, is adopted by the Government in Sialkot and such other districts and in addition to that if money is spent on commercial basis, I feel certain that the Government would not lose anything. And if this proposal is given effect to I can say with confidence that the ilaqa of Narowal, Shakargarh and Sialkot would be greatly helped resulting in the success of grow more food campaign.

Now my next point is with regard to the short-comings and defects found in the Irrigation Department which zamindars would like to get removed for their benefit. In fact, we are here to place before the House the grievances of our constituents and it is for the Government to go into them. So far as our duties are concerned we stand to plead the cause of the zamindar who is hard pressed in this province, by making demands in his interest, no matter whether they go heard or unheard as it is said in a Persian couplet—

حفظ وظیفہ تو دعا گفتن است و بس

در بند این مہش کہ نشید یا شنید -

Anyhow, we should hope for the best, and at least I feel certain that our submissions would not fall flat on the Government. But the Honourable Minister in charge who is a well-wisher of zamindars and has fortunately a keen perception of their needs and requirements would take all these facts into consideration.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :**

ایں خیال است و محال است و جنوں

**Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber :** I do not agree with the honourable member in saying this. But on the contrary we have many hopes in the Minister in charge and we trust that he would very sympathetically consider the demands of the zamindars and would do everything possible in giving them their due. Now, my first complaint with regard to irrigation is regarding kharaba. It pains me to say that whenever we raise this question it is taken lightly by the ministerial benches asking us to drop this matter as its existence as well as non-existence is nothing but kharab. Anyhow, I would not go into the details of this matter and take much time of the House on this point. But I would like to make a proposal to the Government regarding this matter and it is up to them to work it out. You are aware, Sir, that a number of committees were appointed by the Government with a view to help zamindars so far as their complaints regarding land revenue were concerned. What has been suggested by them to the Government in a nut shell is that water rates enforced on different canals should be looked into and reduced where necessary. Now, let me ask if this is the only trouble the zamindars are suffering

from. It seems unintelligible to me to consider it the only way of granting concession to the zamindars. It is strange that the Government have arrived at this decision after say 100 years' experience of administration whereas there are other hundred and one ways of helping the zamindars. Now, as to kharaba, I may submit that it has been ignored invariably by the Government while giving other concessions to the zamindars. You will be surprised to know that where five hundred rupees are realized as land revenue nearly two hundred go into the pockets of patwaris and so long as a change in the mentality of the officers does not take place it is very difficult to obliterate this evil. Anyhow, the Government has to carry on its administration and it is doing so. As I do not want to dilate much on this point I come to what I was submitting. To me what appears the only remedy of the grievances regarding kharaba is to increase the strength of the staff appointed for its inspection. If this proposal is worked out I can assure the Government that the profit thus accrued would be far greater than the expenditure incurred. For instance, the work will be more satisfactory if two or three officers like tahsildar, naib-tahsildar and zilladar are appointed temporarily to inspect the kharaba cases at a place where previously only one officer was appointed for the same work. In this way the work will be done most efficiently and I do not think the expenditure incurred on the temporary appointments of these three officers would exceed two or three hundred rupees as these are not highly paid officers. I may, therefore, submit that this meagre amount of money if spent like this, would never affect much the exchequer of the province. As I have said, the supervision of kharaba will become better as a result of the appointment of a staff at the area concerned. The more the staff, the better the supervision. Besides, I may also point out that temporary staff is generally appointed on different canals and this has been the practice of the Government since long. It is true that they can save much by making temporary appointments. But in fact they do not gain much as you cannot expect a temporary staff to take as much pain in work as you can expect from a permanent staff. Now take the instance of the Haveli Project. On that project only one-third of the total strength is working on a temporary basis. My point is that the sanctioned strength of the staff working on canals should be made permanent as the maxim goes—

”ز دور خوشدل کند کار بیش“

In this way, I am sure, the work will be improved a lot. You can very well realize that a man who knows that he has been temporarily appointed on a post does not take interest in his work and has absolutely no sympathy with his master. In such cases the results can never be satisfactory. As the establishment of irrigation has been made permanent my last submission is that the staff working on canals should also be made permanent. Besides, the posts held by these people should be included in the pensionable cadre, and if this is done the Government would earn the blessings of the people concerned.

With these words I close my remarks in the belief that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram in whom our great hopes are centred would give a careful consideration to what I have said.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana** (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I want to make a few submissions on the floor of this House to the Government in general and the Honourable Revenue Minister in particular in regard to a particular matter concerning Irrigation Department. I hope that he would be kind enough to give replies to what I am going to submit.

My submission is that the Punjab Government made a statement before the Indus Commission regarding the distribution of water-supply from Bhakra Dam. In this statement the Punjab Government said that after the completion of the Bhakra Dam the water thus obtained would be used for irrigation purposes in the Eastern Punjab, that is, Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon, while the rest of the water would be distributed among the States. In the light of the decision arrived at by the Indus Commission, I consider the statement of the Punjab Government to be wholly unjust. Sutlej Valley Canals have not been given any share in the Bhakra reservoir. Before making my submission I wish to give a detailed history of this scheme. Discussion was raised on this scheme from 1905 to 1918 by three States, that is, Bahawalpur, Bikaner and the Punjab. Bahawalpur State contended that no village land whatsoever belonging to Bikaner State was situated on the banks of the rivers Sutlej and Beas and as such it had no right to share any water supply from the Bhakra reservoir. Immediately after this in 1920 an agreement was arrived at among the aforesaid three State, in which it was maintained that the Punjab be given full representations.

The scheme of the Sutlej Valley Canal was completed in 1928. Since then Government have been supplying water for only six months in the year, that is, from 15th May to 15th October. August is the harvesting time and the supply of water is made in October. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of this House to a few lines of the report of Darley Committee which was appointed to investigate the matter, which is as follows :—

"The Committee observed that ordinarily sufficient supplies were available till the 31st December of each year. Thereafter they decreased rapidly and in many years there was great shortage of water in January, February and March when it was required to mature the crops. They also noted that there were years when the supply will fall below these averages and some years there will be little short of a water famine in the new colony areas where there are hardly any wells and the water in these is often brackish. They also observed that if some additional water could be given from the Bhakra Dam when supplies are short, it would ease the whole situation for the Sutlej Valley Canals and it might even turn a scheme which may otherwise be doomed to failure into a profitable undertaking if prices rise once more. It is only fair, they said, that the Sutlej Valley Canals should be given first claim on any storage as it is more important to make a success of a scheme already built rather than open up new colony elsewhere."

Then, Sir, I would refer to the report of the Central Board of Irrigation Committee. Mr. Nicholson, the Punjab representative, stated before this Committee as follows :—

"The inadequacy of supply in the Sutlej in the early Kharif can be overcome in two ways.

(1) By storage, as suggested by Mr. Foy, . . . . since the Sutlej Valley Project was undertaken, the Bhakra Project has been under reconsideration. On the advice of Mr. A. J. Wiley, Consulting Engineer to the Reclamation Bureau of the United States of America on high masonry dams, we propose to increase the storage capacity from 2½ million acres to 4½ million acres which would make the desired supply available on the Ghara reach of the Sutlej, until the capacity of the reservoir decreases and makes a separate storage on the Beas necessary."

My object in reading these extracts before you is to show that even after the lapse of so many years the scheme proved a failure. The poor zamindars who had been labouring hard in the hope that after some time the problem of scarcity of water will be solved for good were sadly disillusioned. The Government *communiqué* in regard to the decision of the Indus Commission that the Sutlej Valley is not entitled to a supply of water from the Indus river dashed all their hopes to the ground. A Sutlej Valley Zamindara Association was formed which submitted representations to the Government that the matter may be clarified and the fears of the zamindars set at rest. But the Government did not make any reply to these representations and consequently we do not know what the Government have in their mind with regard to this matter. This is causing great anxiety to the people. The Government had no right to concur to this decision without first referring it to this House. Even in the case of supplying water to the Bikaner durbār no such consultation was made. They should at least do something now to allay the fears that have gripped the minds of the people. If the Bhakra Dam scheme has been shelved for want of adequate supply of water, they ought to devise some other means of solving this problem.

Another matter to which I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Revenue concerns the supply of water to garden areas. He was pleased to remark that the supply of water given to orchards was double only when such lands exceeded 18 acres. Now this limit causes great hardship to the poor zamindars who cannot afford to have an area of more than 18 acres for fruit growing purposes. If an area of less than 18 acres is to be provided with the ordinary supply of water given for other crops, how is the deficiency to be made up? Surely no one is going to permit him the use of his own supply of water in order that his garden may not be ruined. I would, therefore, request that the supply for garden areas should be doubled unconditionally so that the fruit industry may develop unhindered.

Then there is another matter which requires consideration at the hands of the Government. During the rainy season the supply of water in our rivers increases considerably for a month or two, and if some arrangement is made by the Government for supplying one and a half times more or double the quantity of water than usual to the zamindars during that period, it would become much easier for them to prepare the soil for rabi crops. This would not only save water from being lost into the sea, but will also help the zamindars a great deal.

Finally, I wish to say a few words in respect of the areas on the banks of the rivers which have been ruined on account of the construction of the canal headworks. It often happens that in certain cases they do not get any water for the whole year while at others, as was the case last year, they get too much of it. In my opinion this area of the headworks can be irrigated without prejudice to the lands served by those canals at a time when the canals are closed. If the Government pays a little attention to this problem and my suggestion is put into practice I am sure that this arrangement will go a long way in saving the poor zamindars living in such areas from utter ruin and will prevent the lands from going waste. I hope the Honourable Minister of Revenue will give a sympathetic consideration to my submissions.

With these few words I close my remarks.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Sir Allah Bakhsh Tiwana** (Shahpur Muslim, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Honourable Minister of Revenue on providing irrigation facilities to an *ilaga* for which I had long been wishing something were done in this connection. Let me make it clear that I have absolutely no interest in the Pind Dadan Khan tahsil barring my past association with that *ilaga* as a Sub-Divisional Officer. From the time I came to be acquainted with the conditions prevailing there in my official capacity I have always felt that the people there deserve better treatment and irrigation facilities from the Government. In my time I husbanded two schemes for tackling this problem. One of these was that the streams running down the salt mines should be closed so that the lands may not be ruined by the salt water and their water could be used for drinking purposes. The Pirkhara scheme was completed but the Watlischeme, though approved, could not be put through, either for want of funds or for some other reason. Again, I tried to do something for the Jalalpur canal and in this connection the Government did send certain officers of the Irrigation Department to visit that *ilaga* but it seems that they met with no success. Now the Government have done an act of great good by repairing and remodelling the Pind Dadan Khan Municipal canal. I am told that another scheme is under consideration and I will urge upon the Government to expedite its completion so that the lands of the poor zamindars may be saved from ruin. Personally I do not share the belief that the Khewra salt mines are solely responsible for this state of affairs. Anyhow the fact is undeniable that the lands are being further ruined every day and the Government must do something to remedy it. Apart from other considerations this area has greater claims on the sympathy and attention of the Government in that it is the second best recruiting centre in the province. The military services of the Jhelum district are too numerous to detail and they deserve the best treatment from the Government.

With these words I would commend their case for the careful consideration of the Honourable Minister of Revenue.

**Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan** (Dera Ghazi Khan North, Muslim, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I want to say a few words in respect of the backward *ilaga* of Sanghar, in Dera Ghazi Khan district, where the only means of irrigation are the hill streams. The irrigation system there is organised under an officer known as the *Mohit* *Rod-i-kohi* who has naib-tahsildars in every tahsil as his assistants. These naib-tahsildars are generally untrained and on account of their lack of proper knowledge of their duties are unable to discharge them efficiently. This results in the people of *ilaga Rod-i-kohi* (served by the hill streams) being deprived of water for irrigation purposes. Most often water is not available but at times water comes in such abundance that it washes away the *kumara jat* (holdings) along with it. This year the flooding of the streams caused destruction in many villages and blocked the roads for many months. It is very regrettable that able and efficient officers are not entrusted with this work on which the prosperity of the zamindars of that *ilaga* largely depends. Again in *ilaga* Pachadh revenue is realized on the basis of permanent settlement but the zamindar is made to pay the *kumara*. Moreover, to top all the

*kumara* of an absentee zamindar is realized from the one who happens at that time to be present on the land. I beg to submit that the Government must do something to make permanent arrangements for the irrigation of the *Rod-i-kohi* area. It can be done in two ways. Firstly, by conserving water in the pass by constructing a sort of a dam so that a supply of water necessary for irrigation purposes can be available throughout the year. Secondly, by constructing an embankment running along the river at a distance of one mile from it. This embankment, or *pal* as it is called in our *ilaga*, would not only prevent water from running back into the river and thus being wasted instead of being used to save the low lying area (*paina*) but will also provide a high and dry road during the rainy season.

Now I would like to say a few words in regard to the method of granting suspensions in land revenue in the *Rod-i-kohi* area. The principle adopted is defective, in so far as it results in a loss to the owners of low-lying lands. The practice is to grant *kharaba* to that village where more than half the lands remain unproductive and to assess that area to land revenue where crops on more than half of the village lands do not fail. My submission is that this principle should be applied only to the low-lying lands and the present practice should be discontinued.

Another matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Revenue concerns the Manika canal whose closures in the mid season on account of a defect in the sluices has caused great loss to the people of my *ilaga*. The Government should do something to enable the zamindars to get a permanent supply of water.

In the end I hope that the Government will give a careful consideration to my submissions and would try to redress the grievances of the people of my backward district.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad** (South-East Gujrat, Muslim, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, so far as the usefulness of the Canal and Irrigation Departments is concerned, there can be no divergence of opinion about it. The weightiest argument in its favour is that the zamindars of those *ilagas* where canal system has not yet been introduced desire that canal irrigation may be made available to them. The felicitations offered by Nawab Sir Allah Bakhsh Tiwana to the Honourable Minister of Revenue upon the reconstruction of a canal in Pind Dadan Khan lends further support to my contention. Nevertheless mention must be made of certain evils that exist in the administration of the Canal Department. I hope the Honourable Minister will carefully look into the matter and try to bring about their eradication as best as he can. The first of these is the prevalence of corruption among the lower ranks of the department such as *patwaris* and *zilladars*. In the canal irrigated areas the *patwaris* usually charge Rs. 4 per rectangle per annum. In the Nili Bar colony this used to be entered as the *sahiana* of the *patwari* in the numberdar's *Dhal Bachh*. I brought this fact to the notice of the Colonization Officer of the Nili Bar Colony, but in spite of it the *patwaris* continue to receive their *sahiana* as before. At the present moment when a terrible war is going on, it would be infinitely better if this amount which is being given to the officials of the Irrigation Department as illegal gratification should be paid into the War

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Fund. I strongly urge upon the Honourable Minister the dire necessity of doing everything in his power to eradicate this evil. Here I am not unconscious of the unfortunate fact that in continuing this evil our own people are also to blame to a very large extent. They are wont to give bribes to these officials in consideration of manifold facilities and concessions. At the time of assessment they run after the patwaris and other canal officials. This is all due to lack of education and moral training. That is why they are incapable of looking beyond their selfish interests to the higher and more praiseworthy ideal of striving for the general welfare of the Province even at the cost of our own interests. I beg to submit that the Government should devise ways and means whereby this evil may be totally eradicated.

Sir, in the Nili Bar Colony, there are two canals. One is the Pakpattan Canal and the other is Khadar. The Pakpattan Canal is perennial, while Khadar is non-perennial. I agree with my friend Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, who said in the course of his speech, that the Khadar Canal has got insufficient water supply. As the river Sutlej wherefrom these canals take off, gets dried at certain periods of the year so the Pakpattan Canal cannot run continuously for the whole year. The result is that many a time, there is a great shortage of water at the time of sowing as well as in the maturing season of both the crops. The grantees have to face immense difficulties owing to insufficient water. I have seen that sometimes the water supply in the Pakpattan Canal was so insufficient that in some chaks, water could not be had for watering the cattle and the grantees had to be asked to return to their old villages till the water supply in the canal became sufficient.

I now bring to your notice another very important fact regarding the auctions of the colony lands. There is no doubt that at the recent auctions the colony lands have fetched very high prices but this is mostly due to the fact that on account of war conditions there has been abnormal rise in the prices of all things including land. In addition, the land of the colony being quite a new one, it gives good crop even with insufficient supply of water.

The grantees of the Nili Bar Colony had their only hopes in the Bhakra Dam, because the existing insufficient water supply in the Pakpattan Canal could only be improved when it received its share of water from the Bhakra Dam scheme. But on hearing that there is little chance of getting water from this scheme they are considerably disappointed. People have spent millions on purchasing lands in this colony and Government has also spent millions on the construction of canal and if water is not given from the Bhakra Dam Scheme to this colony, considerable portion of the capital which has been sunk there will be wasted.

Sir, there is another fact that I wish to bring to your notice and it relates to *patta-rayati* given to the new wells, which are sunk for irrigation purposes. Under the existing rules only that land which is irrigated by the new wells is exempted from the payment of the *chai* rate for twenty years or more but this concession cannot in any way be alluring so far as

the sinking of wells in the Nili Bar is concerned. If the Government wishes to stimulate well-sinking in this colony, so that the wells may be a source of irrigation at the time when the canal is not running, then at least it must remit half the abiana of the area which is irrigated by both canal and wells.

Sir, I tell you that near my village, there are some villages which are irrigated by canal water. But in these villages canal irrigation is doing harm instead of being beneficial and it is due to the fact that sub-soil water has risen so high as to touch almost the upper surface of the land. I suggest that after making the necessary enquiries, for the benefit of the people of these villages, the perennial irrigation of these villages should be made non-perennial. I am referring to the village Gakhara. There are villages at some distance from my own which are mostly barani. Originally at the time of the construction of the Upper Jhelum Canal, a proposal was made to irrigate them by means of a rajbah, named 15-R, but later on the proposal was dropped for reasons not known to me. The cultivators of these villages are very keen about getting non-perennial water-supply from the Upper Jhelum Canal and if 15-R rajbah is dug out for this purpose it is bound to bring in a good deal of more income by way of land revenue and abiana.

Sir, in the village of Mangowal, a drain has been constructed to drain out the water which collects round about the village during the rainy season. But curious as it may appear, although a part of it was made many years ago, it has not been completed as yet with the result that the water round about the village still remains standing throughout the year. There was another proposal to construct another drain at some distance from Mangowal on the side of Kunja with a view to drain off the water into the Buddhi Nala. I also understand that sufficient amount was sanctioned but later the scheme was dropped for reasons best known to the Government. If the drain is made, it will go a long way to improve the sanitation of Mangowal.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to condemn and not to praise the policy of the Government so far as it relates to the Irrigation Department. As a matter of fact the Unionist Government has no particular policy to follow. It is the most unpolitical government in the country and even in the world. It has no goal and if it has any it lacks the necessary strength and will to achieve it. In every matter our Government follows a policy of drift. Events take their natural course and the officials do as they please without caring for the grievances of the public or the orders of the Government. I would like to sound a note of warning to the Government. The circumstances have altogether changed. The Government should change its policy of drift, and arrest the course of things to prevent wastage, and mould things to the pattern which they might set before them. At present no political aim or object seems to be before the mind of the Ministry. In fact our Government does not understand politics. It is absolutely unpolitical and unpatriotic, and it is incapable of understanding the true significance of the present political currents that move the modern age. All I have said about the Unionist Government can be corroborated



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by citing facts and figures. I will, therefore, proceed to prove how this government has been following a policy of drift.

Let us take the 'grow more food' campaign which has recently been started with the beat of the drum throughout the length and breadth of the province. Has it really caught the imagination of the people? Has the Government made all the necessary arrangements? Nor at all. Nothing of importance has been achieved in this behalf. To me this slogan of 'grow more food' is merely an empty cry. It has proved a complete failure and a hoax. More food has not been produced in spite of this slogan, 'grow more food'. Similarly the Reclamation Department of the Punjab Government was established to reclaim the land that had been affected by thur and waterlogging. But no area worth the name has been reclaimed so far. It has proved a failure. I may add that the sum of money amounting to Rs. 8,19,590 which has been spent on this department has been wasted. Even if this money had been spent in purchasing land for those landless people whose land had been lost on account of thur and waterlogging, the kisans would have benefited to a great extent. The only purpose this department has served is that jobs have been given to big salaried people, otherwise no useful purpose has been served thereby. (*Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann* :—Question. A considerable area has been reclaimed in the neighbourhood of Sangla Hill). I have also inspected that locality, the people of this ilaqa are put to a great difficulty.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann** : I want to refute this charge against the Reclamation Department. The land around Sangla Hill has been ruined by waterlogging and thur and the Reclamation Department has done a lot to alleviate the sufferings of the people.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : That bears me out.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann** : If the honourable member will give way I shall explain the position. A large area has been reclaimed by this department and the people are very much indebted to the Government for this.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : I am in possession of true facts of the case. Thur and waterlogging has not only ruined the fertility of the lands around Sangla Hill and in other parts of Sheikhpura but has also created malarial condition so that when the malarial season comes, this ilaqa suffers tenfold. Particularly this year the attack of malarial fever has wrought havoc in this part of the province. A large number of persons became victims of this epidemic and some persons died of it. In the first place the land is ruined. In the second place malaria spread in this ilaqa like wild fire. Thirdly, the houses of the people crumble down as the mud walls fall due to waterlogging and thur. No effective remedy has so far been found by the Reclamation Department. With the exception of a few big zamindars and wealthy persons, the inhabitants of this ilaqa are in a hopeless condition and are in constant danger of their houses falling on their heads. That is certainly the most miserable sort of life that any people can live. Even the old drainage channels have stopped working now. One such channel was working near Chuharkana to drain the water

away. It has now stopped working. If the Government had been capable of taking a long view of the matter, it would have cemented the canal and waterlogging would have ceased long ago. The same money which has been wasted on maintaining the white elephant of the Reclamation Department, would have been better spent on cementing the canal passing through this area. In spite of the costly Department of Reclamation, the land is being ruined, the cattle are dying, the people are suffering through malaria and their houses are falling. That is the achievement of the Government which proudly claims to be most sympathetic to the people.

Now let us take the case of the National War Front encouraged by the Government. This movement was launched with great pomp and show and we expected that the war effort would receive a fresh and a very strong impetus. But what has it done? It started a new slogan of 'grow more food'. Our Government took its cue from the National War Front Committee set up by the Government of India. The present "grow more food" campaign is a mere catch-phrase, a slogan. It has no other meaning. We all know that very recently because of the imposition of control, food grains became scarce. As a result of this scarcity of food-stuffs the people of the province in general and the inhabitants of Lahore in particular suffered terribly. The control imposed by Government proved a failure. After all why did this control fail? It failed because the military authorities contravened it by paying high prices for the purchase of foodstuffs for the military. That was the main reason which led to the failure of the system of control. In fact the military authorities paid no heed to what the civil authorities did. My honourable friends over there know nothing about these matters. What they do is, they sit in their offices and append their signatures when such files come to them without knowing whether their orders would be enforced or not. Their brains have become so routinized to bureaucratic way of doing things that they cannot think of new schemes at all. (*Interruptions*). My submission is that there is absolutely no use of creating a department of this nature. On the contrary what was necessary was that people should have been told that for the successful prosecution of the war it was necessary that more and more food grains should be grown and that law and order should be maintained in the province, so that no opportunity should be provided to enemy agents to disturb the peace of the country. In short this is the real meaning and import of the "grow more food" campaign which should have been impressed on the people. They should be told the significance of this campaign. Besides it should be brought home to them that any relaxation in this respect would be detrimental to their own interests. But it is very much regretted that instead of doing such things my honourable friends act in a manner which would pave the way for Japanese aggression. If my friends are serious they should have placed some plan or programme before us or should have taken practical steps to give a fillip to "grow more food" campaign. For instance, they should have increased the number of outlets on canals. They should have issued instructions to the effect that henceforward water should be supplied to kisans throughout the year instead of for six months as is being done on certain canals now. They should have reduced the rates of abiana. They

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should have provided new lands to zamindars free from payment of land revenue at least for two years. Had they taken some such steps then we would have thought that there was some meaning and import in the "grow more food" campaign started by Government. But no such steps have been taken by them. So we are forced to the conclusion that this campaign is a mere farce. In spite of the fact that Government have started this campaign there is scarcity of foodstuffs and it will continue to remain so even if the crops be plentiful. In this connection I may point out that so far Sir Manohar Lal had never agreed with us in any matter but it is gratifying to note that in this matter he had agreed with us inasmuch as he has stated that this scarcity of food grains would continue. It is a hard fact and nobody can deny it. But Sir Manohar Lal has not given any grant to Sir Chhotu Ram for removing this scarcity of food grains or with which he could give a fillip to "grow more food" campaign. What is more, he himself has also taken no steps to alleviate the misery of the people. Anyhow the scarcity of food grains is there and it will continue to increase. Let me tell you that this time instead of bringing forward their stocks of wheat in the market people will hoard them with a view to get more prices for such stocks at some future date. At present only those people will sell their produce who have to pay Government dues or debts of co-operative credit societies or who are forced by circumstances to sell their stocks in order to meet their other pressing demands. It can be said with a fair amount of certainty that even if the production of foodstuffs goes on increasing there will be no decrease in the scarcity of food grains. I, therefore, think that so long as the import and significance of "grow more food" campaign is not impressed on the people no benefit will accrue. What the Government have done is this: they have taken this slogan from the National War Front Committee and have provided a small sum for it and nothing more. I may tell them that that is not sufficient for the purpose of intensifying the "grow more food" campaign. So long as those who can grow more food are not assured that they would benefit by this campaign we cannot expect them to take interest in this "grow more food" campaign. My submission is that Government officials are unimaginative and of slow thinking. They cannot think out plans for intensifying this campaign. As I have already pointed out in order to attain this object it is necessary that more canal water should be supplied to kisans for irrigation purposes and the size and number of outlets should be increased. The canals which now flow only for six months should be made to flow for 12 months, that is, throughout the year. (*Pir Akbar Ali*: But wherefrom will the water come?) Better address this question to Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and he will give you a befitting reply. Besides the rate of abiana should be reduced. New lands should be brought under cultivation in respect of which no abiana and land revenue should be charged, at least for the first two years. Taqavi loans should be given to the zamindars to enable them to purchase bullocks and agricultural implements. In addition, instructions should be issued to stop the execution of decrees which have been issued by courts against the zamindars for realization of debts due to co-operative credit societies or sahu-kars. Then it is also necessary that Government should provide manures

to zamindars for growing more food. They should supply good seeds to them. This should be the programme of my honourable friends if they really want to intensify the grow more food campaign. I may tell them that more food cannot be grown merely by arresting and imprisoning people. They should take some practical steps in this behalf. Moreover a guarantee should be given to the peasants that Government would not commandeer their stocks forcibly. If my friends go through the history of Russia they would find that the people who overthrew the government of the Czars burnt their stocks of wheat rather than surrender to government when the latter forced them to do so.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am discussing the item of "grow more food Campaign". It is closely related to the demand under discussion. I want to emphasise that just as water supply from the canals is essential for the success of this campaign, similarly it is equally necessary to give a guarantee to the zamindars that the food grains produced by them will not be requisitioned by the Government. What happened during the last war?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Do I take it that I should make no reference to this matter? Well, sir, I feel that the policy adopted at present by the Government in regard to grow-more-food-campaign is wholly unsound. The Government are acting in an unpatriotic manner. In view of the conditions created by war, the cultivation of food-grains has become all the more necessary. They are greatly needed to save the masses from starvation and thus make them refrain from creating disturbances in the province. The maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the province at the present moment is most essential for the successful prosecution of war. I am convinced that the Government's policy of drift is not going to produce any bright results. I may also point out that the people of the province, being actuated by patriotic motives, are striving every nerve to safeguard their motherland from the aggression of the Fascists. They are laying down their lives in the battle fields to achieve this end. So far as "Grow More Food Campaign" is concerned at the home front, they are prepared, rather determined, to make it a success. But if the *bona fides* of the Government are unquestionable, they should concede the demands of the people beforehand and give a proof positive of their sincerity. It is a pity, the Government merely indulge in tall talks and simply repeat the slogans of the grow-more-food-campaign. Even Sir Chhotu Ram has not been able to do anything worth the name from his citadel. He has even failed to carry out the programme chalked out by the Unionist Party, and I have serious apprehensions whether he will be able to accomplish anything substantial. If the Honourable Minister or for the matter of that the Government mean business they should shed off this policy of drift, give more water-supply to the zamindars and announce remission of land revenue for two years on new lands brought under cultivation. With these words I close my remarks.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan** (Parliamentary Secretary) (Urdu): Sir, I have no hesitation to say that the speech of my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh has sorely disappointed me. True to his nature, he made a vigorous and forceful speech. But I am constrained to remark that it amounted to a mere waste of breath. The arguments advanced by him did not carry conviction and from the tone of his speech it appeared as if some subject other than Irrigation Demand was being discussed by him. However his so-called constructive suggestions can be divided into three parts. The first was to the effect that the Reclamation Department was a white elephant maintained by the Government. The amount of Rs. 4 lakhs provided for its working was a sheer waste of hard-earned money of the zamindars and hence the department should be abolished lock, stock and barrel. The burden of the argument offered by him for doing away with this useful department was that thur had spread to such an extent and had worked havoc to such a degree, that any effort, made to reclaim the lands so affected would amount to waste of time, money and labour.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: I never said that the budgeted amount was large enough. It could be enhanced but this expenditure would bear no fruit.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan**: Nothing extraordinary has happened with my honourable friend. It usually happens with zealous speakers that wisdom dawns upon them after they have spoken. In the heat of the moment they say something, which in their calmer moments they would not like to utter. Similar is the case with my honourable friend.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**:

دل کے خدش رکھنے کو غالب یہ خیال اچھا ہے

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan**: My honourable friend was pleased to remark that this department for which so much money had been provided, was like a dead weight on the Exchequer. It should be done away with. This proposal would be on all fours with the suggestion of a person who, finding the province in the grip of an acute epidemic, advocates that the hospitals should be closed and the doctors dismissed as they cannot cope with it (*laughter*). My honourable friend wants to abolish this department on the plea of thur only. This ludicrous suggestion has even marred the effect which his present explanation, that the budgeted amount could be increased, might have produced on the honourable members. My honourable friends should remember that a forceful speech divorced of cogent reasons fails to create any impression on the mind of the listeners. Again, his suggestions were of such nature that if Government were to make an attempt to act upon one-tenth of them, the whole province would be plunged in chaos. His second suggestion was that the water in those canals which run for six months should be allowed to flow throughout the year. I can say with the fullest confidence that even if a Communist Government were in power here, the canals, referred to by my honourable friend, would defy any effort to run them for all the year round. He should bear this fact in mind that the flow of water in a canal depends upon the discharge in the river. This, again,

is dependent upon the amount of snow that falls on the mountains. Anybody with a modicum of commonsense knows that water in the rivers would be commensurate with the amount of snow melted. The more the snow melts the larger will be the quantity of water in the rivers. I assure him that no engineer would ever commit the folly of withholding water merely out of fun, if it is available, for running the canals throughout the year. He should credit the officer with some sense. If water is made available by him in larger quantities during summer and less in winter, it is not due to any idiosyncrasy on his part. There must be some reason for adopting this method of supplying water. As a matter of fact the Government want to provide more water to the zamindars, but they cannot do so owing to the scarcity of water in the rivers. Since they have no control over nature, they are unable to convert the seasonal canals into perennial ones.

Then, the honourable member put forward the ridiculous suggestion for remitting land revenue for two years.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** In the case of new lands.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Well, sir, new lands are to be granted in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign", which is a small item of the demand under consideration. I may tell honourable members that Government have adopted a very reasonable attitude regarding this matter. They have passed orders that wherever there is any scope for giving out more water, it should be given unstintingly to such lands where only wheat and bajra will be grown. The other thing that the Department of Irrigation did in this matter was that in the case of temporary cultivation it laid down certain conditions under which crops other than cotton were necessarily to be grown. Honourable members would realise that there is nothing in these conditions which can be considered as an edict issued by the Government. However, Government are prepared to give every possible help to the zamindars, but they cannot afford to grant total or partial remission in the land revenue for growing food-grains in the new lands. Only honourable members opposite can make this experiment.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether instructions have been issued to the Executive Engineer, Ludhiana, in respect of the Sutlej Valley Canals that lands which are not under chakbandi system should also be irrigated?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** As I do not carry the name of every Executive Engineer in my head I cannot reply to this question offhand. My honourable friend had better send a notice of this question. However, for his satisfaction, I may tell him this much that general instructions have already been issued. But I cannot say to whom.

Then, my honourable friend, Sardar Sohan Singh, in the course of his speech asked the Government to enlarge 'mogas'. But my friend seems to have conveniently forgotten the fact that it is absolutely useless to enlarge mogas when a canal has no water at all. As this point suggested by him was very funny, may I tell him that the advantage and utility of a small or large moga depends on the amount of water running in a canal? For instance, if a canal has not got sufficient water in it and if out of 100 mogas fifty are enlarged then we will have to close the remaining fifty.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Do you know how much water is wasted?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** My friend opposite should not interrupt me frequently. He may rest assured that I am not making any reflections on his person. But I must say that as he is only a politician, he cannot know much about mogas. Although criticism on this item was not his subject, yet it is creditable for him that he continued his speech for half an hour in spite of the fact that it was his first attempt to speak on this item. As you are aware, Sir, this discussion was started by Mian Muhammad Nurullah and it is satisfactory to note that this time he has refrained from criticising the Government so strongly as he used to do. On the contrary, he has admitted this fact in the course of his speech that this year he has not got much to say in regard to irrigation. It is true that the more a man advances in age the more he grows wiser, and this is exactly what we see in the case of Mian Muhammad Nurullah who invariably used to urge upon the Government to reduce abiana by 50 per cent. But, today, instead of dealing any blow to the Government as usual, he has admitted his fault with regard to the reduction of abiana. He has, however, put forward a new economic proposal which I am afraid even the Honourable Finance Minister might have followed with great effort. Further on he pointed out a figure of some crores and said that so much abiana had been received in the lower Chanab Colony and then told us that so many lakhs had been spent, and while developing that point he asked the Government why they did not exempt those zamindars who had already paid the water rate. Sir, what I understand he was driving at was that the Honourable Finance Minister should see at the time of the preparation of the Budget that the surplus income of every zail and district is spent on the same place. I am afraid my honourable friend seems to have conveniently forgotten the fact that most of the income of the province has been spent on irrigation. Does he think that lands in the district of Lyallpur are irrigated by water springs? Let me point out that as far as his novel economic proposal is concerned I am not at one with him. What I would like to say in this respect is that as in rainy season even a backward district like that of mine gets plenty of water which comes from Kashmir, Rawalpindi and Jhelum, it will be a great asset for the zamindars of that ilaqa if this water is stored in a reservoir. And I feel certain that this will be an economy in the real sense of the word. I think my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah has opposed the Government simply for the sake of opposition.

Again, another point was raised by him to the effect that inasmuch as the Government had realised 37 crores and some lakhs of rupees, what was the good of realising abiana any longer? In other words it would be like asking old shopkeepers on the Mall that as they have been getting benefit out of their business for the last 80 years they should now hand it over to us. May I submit, that an argument of this type cannot hold water and I do not consider it a sensible reasoning. The novel proposal advanced by him did not carry conviction at all. The proposals should always be such as to compel the Government to give a serious consideration to them. But so far as the suggestions made by him are concerned I can say that no great importance can be attached to them because if a layman like myself

can easily dispose them off, it cannot be said that he has done something big in placing them before the House.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** The Parliamentary Secretary is misrepresenting the honourable member. He never made these statements.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I do not understand why my honourable friend sitting opposite is becoming so impatient as to interrupt me every now and then. Neither can I be held responsible for the absence of Mian Muhammad Nurullah nor can my friend over there hold a brief for him to plead his cause. I was simply submitting what has been suggested by Mian Muhammad Nurullah for the consideration of the Honourable Minister for Revenue.

Now, I would like to submit a word or two with regard to corruption and bribery. It goes without saying that this evil has been of very long standing in the province and no honest and sensible man would ever justify its continuation. The Government, as a matter of fact, have left no stone unturned to stop this evil in the Province. For instance, anti-corruption agencies were created in the Punjab. In addition to that, instructions were issued by the Government through confidential notes to the officers to give black marks in the confidential reports of corrupt and dishonest members of the staff so that their promotion may be withheld. I can, therefore, assure my honourable friends sitting opposite that the Government are giving serious consideration to this general complaint of the people. But, as you are aware, black sheep are everywhere and so long as a change in the mentality of the officers does not take place it is difficult to obliterate this evil. I do not say that the Government have done all that they can do in rooting out this evil. No, they are still doing their best to obliterate this evil from the province. But, as a matter of fact public are equally responsible for the continuation of this evil as they do not co-operate with the Government in removing it. It will be, therefore, far from justice to hold the Government alone responsible for that.

Now, I would like to say a few words in connection with the remarks made by my honourable friend Nawab Sir Allah Bakhsh Tiwana regarding Pind Dadan Khan. Since he has spent most of the time of his service there he has always been taking a keen interest in the betterment of that ilaqa. I know it full well that while in service he had been very busy in finding out ways and means for providing irrigation facilities to that backward area and it is a matter of gratification that even now he has not forgotten the troubles of the inhabitants of that part of the country. Let me make a few observations with regard to facilities made available for irrigation in Pind Dadan Khan on which luckily none but Nawab Sahib has spoken so far. May I with due deference submit to the Honourable Finance Minister that unless we have a full dress debate on the Budget, the discussion will remain insipid and uninteresting. My first submission is that every department should be so active and alert in expediting their files that a work requiring one year to be finished should be done within a month. Let me, therefore, suggest to the Minister in charge to tell the Chief Engineer that in these days of war everything should be done swiftly, especially every facility should be provided for growing more food which forms a part of war effort. I am sorry to say that red tapism still continues



[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan]

to prevail and matters especially in the Irrigation Department which can be decided in no time are delayed for nothing. For instance, luckily or unluckily it has been a passion with me for the last twenty years to get that land reclaimed which has been spoilt by the salt range in Pind Dadan Khan. Off and on this point was pressed on the Punjab Government and I am pleased to remark that due to the repeated attempts made by the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly the Government of India sent 50 lakhs of rupees to the Punjab Government. I may point out that this happened six or seven years ago. However, I am glad to say that after all our Government had no alternative but to incur expenses on this account.

Inundation Canal was completed last year. So far as this Canal is concerned I may tell my friends that it was expected that it would irrigate 2½ lakh acres of land, but later on it was discovered that it irrigated only 70,000 acres of land and that too with great difficulty. That was not due to scarcity of water in the canal, but its main reason was that people in general and the agriculturists in particular, took no interest in it. In fact the agriculturists showed no interest in it and whenever digging was required they hesitated to come forward to do it. Another reason was that unfortunately a breach about 100 or 150 yards wide was discovered in the canal and the officers concerned submitted an estimate of Rs. 450 for filling in this breach. But in spite of the fact that correspondence continued for some time, it resulted in nothing and the breach remained as it was. Then, there is another instance of a similar nature. There were some acres of land adjacent to the canal which could be utilised for constructing a distributary which was to be taken from under a railway line. It was estimated that this distributary would irrigate 800 acres of land. After a good deal of correspondence with the railway authorities an estimate amounting to Rs. 2,500 was worked out. But eight months have passed and no decision has so far been arrived at between the canal department and the railway authorities.

Now I come to "Grow More Food Campaign". It is the bounden duty of the irrigation officers not to impede the "Grow More Food Campaign". They should know that this campaign has been started for the successful prosecution of the War. In fact "Grow More Food Campaign" forms a part and parcel of the War itself. I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Revenue Minister to this point that matters relating to War should be decided in no time and that there should be no delay whatsoever, in dealing with such matters which might otherwise hinder the successful prosecution of the War. Besides, every effort should be made to root out red tapism, which prevails in this department, and that cases which can otherwise be dealt with quickly should not be unnecessarily delayed. In this connection I should like to suggest that instructions should be issued throughout the province to the effect that every effort should be made to encourage growing of more food, and thus make this campaign a success. Whoever shows any slackness or hampers the progress of this campaign should be dismissed forthwith. War times are always extraordinary times. On such occasions extraordinary efforts should be made to bring the War to a successful conclusion.

Now, Sir, I want to make a few submissions with regard to my own district. I regret to say that the province of Sind has proved a calamity for us. Several years ago it was announced that Jalalpur Pumping Canal Scheme would be taken in hand and completed in one year. This canal was to flow at a distance of 10 miles away from western Lyallpur irrigating the Thal area. But afterwards certain mistakes were discovered in the estimates and thereafter the Sind Government said that they were not prepared to supply us water from the Haveli Project. Our right to take the Indus water had been unduly questioned by the Sind Government. It is the birth right of the people of the Punjab to use the water of rivers for irrigation purposes, which pass through our province.

The prosperity of the province mainly depends upon agriculture. There can be no agriculture without water. In fact agriculture mainly depends upon canals. If the Punjab Government do not continue their fight till the last moment, it will be detrimental to the interests of the province and to the interests of the coming generations. So far as the Sind dispute is concerned, Government have already engaged lawyers of all-India repute, who have prepared the case thoroughly. I therefore ask the Government to see that this dispute, in regard to the water of the River Indus, is settled in an amicable manner; otherwise I am afraid the coming generations will not excuse us.

There is another matter in regard to which I want to say a few words. I have been previously drawing the attention of the Chief Engineer for the last five or six years to a small scheme, but so far he has not taken any action in the matter. After all such areas as are irrigated by canals are

3 p. m.                      limited in number. The existing canals cannot penetrate every district or part of the Punjab. Even the areas where lands are irrigated by wells cannot be said to comprise the rest of the province. There still remain vast areas which have no means of irrigation available to them. Have the Government ever considered their problem? Have they ever explored ways and means whereby irrigation difficulties of such areas can be removed? Take the case of the Jhelum district to which Nawab Sir Allah Bakhsh has also referred just now. The Salt Range abounds with springs of sweet water but the moment they pass over that portion of the range where salt is found the water is turned into brine and ruins the lands as it reaches them. If the Government gets its experts to devise some means by which the streams running from those springs may be diverted in such a manner that they could not touch the salt containing portion of the range they can be used for irrigating the lands. (*An Honourable Member*: It is not very difficult to manage it.) Yes, but the difficult part of it is that no heed is being paid to this long-standing grievance of the poor inhabitants of this district. All that our cries can get out of this Government is a laconic reply that investigations are being made in this connection. Similar is the case of Chakwal. Two well-known non-perennial canals run through this tahsil and their water can be easily conserved for irrigation purposes by constructing a dam. The land of this tahsil is the best in the whole of the division and if water is made available the Grow More Food drive can achieve unlimited success there.

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

These are the few submissions that I had to make and I hope that the Honourable Minister of Revenue will give them the attention they deserve. If he orders his Chief Engineer to visit that ilaqa I will explain to him the details about my proposal in respect of the two non-perennial canals in the Chakwal tahsil.

**Sardar Lal Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the speech made by the Parliamentary Secretary who has just resumed his seat was creditable in many respects but for the flimsy arguments that he advanced in support of his remarks thus negating their effect. What my honourable friend Josh meant to say was that the Government have urged the zamindars to grow more food but they have not been given facilities which could help them in making a success of it. In point of fact if the outlets are widened and water is supplied in time, much headway can be made in so far as the Grow More Food Campaign is concerned. There is an English saying—'Where there is a will, there is a way.'—and it aptly applies to our case, because if the Government once make up their mind, no difficulty in their way can deter them from their purpose. Moreover, my honourable friend has admitted in the last portion of his speech that it can be done. He should have, therefore, strongly urged upon the Government that before asking the zamindars to join the Grow More Food drive they should provide them with irrigation and other facilities, such as transport, etc. Last year the monsoon was unusually heavy and brought the traffic on the rural *kutchra* roads to a standstill. For many weeks the agricultural produce could not reach the markets. It has been submitted more than once that the zamindars should be allowed to use the canal roads under such conditions or when other roads do not exist. Now this is something which the Government can do without getting into extra expenditure, by merely issuing instructions to the Executive Engineer. Some ten days ago a complaint was made in respect of a piece of 100 bighas of land that water had not been provided to it. The reply given to him was that water is allotted at the time of *chakbandi* and nothing could be done in the matter now. My submission is that this rigidity in the working of the department should be lessened. There must be some resilience at least. Some latitude ought to be given to the Executive Engineer for using his discretion as long as the war lasts so that the Grow More Food Campaign may be carried out with success.

**Minister of Revenue**: What is my honourable friend's complaint? Is it that water is not provided outside the chaks?

**Sardar Lal Singh**: I wish that the Government should supply water to lands on certain distributaries which are situated outside the chaks once at least if it can possibly be done in order to make the Grow More Food Campaign a success. I am speaking for East Punjab only.

**Pir Akbar Ali**: In other words you want to usurp the right of those living in chaks?

**Sardar Lal Singh**: My honourable friend knows nothing and starts interrupting others without giving a second's thought to what he is going to say. He probably does not know that even the lands in chaks are not all getting water. Sometimes it is said to be due to the lands lying on a

higher level and at others because those whose lands lie above the Chak lands go on getting water for 12 hours at a stretch instead of the 6 or 8 hours allowed to them. Still my honourable friend says that I want to usurp the right of those living in chaks. My honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali also said things in regard to Mian Muhammad Nurullah either because he misunderstood him or else he deliberately distorted his statements. Mian Sahib never said anything about getting water without making any payment.

Coming now to the Budget debate there is a note in the Budget by the Honourable Minister which says :—

“ This is the most important revenue head in the Budget. The gross receipts under it inclusive of the reduction in working expenses—approximately 50 per cent of the revenues of the Province.

The Government has derived 5 crores of rupees from the zamindars for water supplied. Year in and year out an interest ranging from ten to twenty-five per cent has been received on the capital outlay. The original capital has been recovered long ago. As a business this irrigation system is the most paying concern in the world. What my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah said was this, now that all the capital has been paid over, why not let the zamindars pay only the working expenses. I am of the opinion that instead of putting by fifty or sixty lakhs now and then for peasants' welfare, something more should be done. From the equitable point of view it is only just that whatever is derived from the zamindars should be spent on them alone. But if, somehow, the whole cannot be spent why not spend a good portion of it ?

What a pity it is, that the Government under the pretext of war is paying no heed to the needs of zamindars. While most of the revenue is spent in cities, villages remain where they are. It would have been a matter of much consequence if by spending one or two crores of rupees, the Government had experimented on lift-irrigation, by means of portable pumping sets. Experiments should be made in this direction by providing portable pumping sets to a district or group of villages. The Government could have opened a Tractor Factory with a sum of one crore. The Government may go on improving the amenities of life in cities, but the standard of living in villages remains low as ever.

Sir, in 1939 a Canal Committee was organised with a view to explore the ways and means for wiping out corruption that is prevalent in connection with the canal irrigation. Corruption is so dreadfully a rule of the day, that it is indescribable. We expected that something will be done on the basis of its recommendations, but nothing has been done so far. The reason for not doing anything is stated to be that owing to war, the Government could not do anything. There was nothing to be done but just to change some rules under the Canal Act, and immense relief could have thus been given. In those villages, where the water-supply is certain and regular, the problem of *kharaba* does not disturb much. If the Government had acted on the recommendation of that Committee, much of the trouble of *kharaba* and consequent corruption would have been eliminated. By keeping the *kharaba* rules only applicable where water-supply is uncertain and by general reduction of water rates, the matter would have been greatly simplified.

[S. Lal Singh]

Sir, I respectfully invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to another point. I want to draw a line between those who derive income more or less by cultivation and those who just subsist by it. The bigger zamindar gets surplus grains and sells them. He earns some income. But there are those who use the canal water to be able to raise food just sufficient for the family. These poor peasants are also charged water rate at about the same rate as the bigger landholders. This is like taxing the food of the poorer ones. This I think is not just. The smaller zamindar, who does not get anything beyond his own requirements should be exempted from the water-rate. We are worse off than those people even who depend on charity in other countries. Even the poorest persons in England get beer for their diet. Under the dole system Rs. 15 to 20 per week is given to the poor. We in this country are poorer than the poorest of other countries. Even those zamindars who are taxed by the Government on the presumption that they are rich enough to pay land revenue and abiana, do not get half as much as those living on dole in other civilised countries. It is high time that this so-called popular Government undertook to lighten the burden of the poorer cultivators. I do not say that the Government should forthwith discontinue the levy of all dues. All I say is that a step in this direction must be taken. Let the Government make a small beginning by exempting the petty holders of land from the payment of abiana. Only those cultivators who own about five highas may be exempted from paying abiana. If this is done now, a beginning will have been made. Gradually more and more reductions can be made.

One or two more points deserve special mention and I will take this opportunity to invite the attention of the Government to them. The whole machinery of administration is worked by the Secretariats and in the case of the Irrigation Department, it is the Irrigation Secretariat that is ultimately responsible for the efficient discharge of the duties entrusted to the various officers. But it is a great pity that the rights of the minorities are not safeguarded in this Secretariat. Sikhs who form a minority in the Punjab do not get their proper share in the personnel of the Secretariat and even when the time for their promotion to responsible posts of Superintendents or head clerks comes, outsiders are employed at the cost of those who are already working in the office. Thus the minority communities who are already under-represented find that their members are not given due promotion in the office. I do not say that we should be given more posts than we are entitled to but this much I must say that we should not be given less than the quota which has been fixed for us.

Leaving this question of communal representation in the offices, I now come to the policy of the Irrigation Department which does not take a long view of the matter while sanctioning new schemes. As a direct result of this policy people have come to grief. In reality the network of canal has resulted in direct loss and misery to many people. River water has been taken to distant places and people near rivers are faced with the problem of subsoil water going down lower and lower. As a direct result of canal irrigation the level of water in the Doaba has gone down. Now the Government cannot say, 'Oh, it is the work of nature. What can we do?' No, it is the result of their own doings. They cannot escape

responsibility. Their greed and hasty policy are responsible for the misery of the people living on lift irrigation in these areas. Something must be done for these people who are suffering so that others may get more water and grow rich. I appeal to the Honourable Minister of Revenue to consider my humble suggestions in a sympathetic way and try to carry them out.

With these words I close my speech.

**Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan** (North-West Gujrat, Muslim, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, several honourable members have expressed their opinions and most of the grievances of the zamindars have already been placed before the House. The Irrigation Department is a department which can benefit the zamindars to the utmost, but it is a thousand pities that it is not benefiting the public as it ought to benefit them. We have several grievances against this department. I hope that the Honourable Minister of Revenue will bestow a sympathetic consideration over the submissions that I am going to make to him. I am confident that the grievances of the zamindars will be duly redressed. I take this opportunity to support the statement of my honourable friend, Mian Muhammad Nurullah, that remodelling of outlets does not benefit the zamindars. Similarly, I wish to associate myself with all the other suggestions that my honourable friend has put forth in this connection.

My honourable friend Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann has ventilated the grievances of the fruitgrowers in connection with the garden industry. I would submit that it is impossible for the poor people to grow gardens in this province. The reason is this. No concession in water supply is given unless the area of gardens on any rajbah comes to 18 acres. Now one can imagine whether it is possible for any poor zamindar to grow a garden in 18 acres. He can neither plant so large a garden nor obtain increased water supply. My second submission is that twice as much water supply should be given for gardens as is given to other crops, so that more and more gardens may be planted resulting in increase of public wealth and promotion of health. My point is that when gardens do not yield fruit twice a year, why should they be charged abiana and land revenue twice during the course of a year? Land revenue should also be charged once a year. When water supply is not double in the case of gardens as compared with other crops, the rate of abiana should also be the same as in the case of other crops and not twice as much. Water-rate should only be charged once a year. Another point which I would stress is that no abiana and land revenue should be charged before a garden begins to yield fruit.

I will now take up the case of fodder crops of *barsin* and *shaftal*. They are not charged abiana at the rate of fodder but are charged at the rate of wheat and *jawi*, although *barsin* is fodder and not foodgrain. Similarly, *lusan* is charged twice a year, that is, water rate and land revenue are charged twice on this crop during the course of a year. In my opinion it should be charged, only once, because zamindars do not derive any monetary advantage out of this fodder crop.

[Ch. Ahmad Yar Khan]

Furthermore, the zamindars are very hard hit by the existing kharaba rules. The poor zamindars do not get full kharaba. The Irrigation Department has made the promotion of Irrigation officials depend on their recommending as little kharaba as possible. The less they recommend kharaba, the more promotion they get in the department. In these circumstances they do not recommend kharaba cases although actually a recommendation may be called for due to the failure of the crops. The Honourable Minister of Revenue should bestow his special consideration and sympathy over this problem. The Honourable Minister of Finance has observed that the savings of the last year contain a considerable amount of money which has been saved by withholding kharaba concessions. It shows that the poor zamindars have not been granted their full share of kharaba and the Government has thereby increased its income and shown a large surplus in the Budget of this year.

I hope the Honourable Minister of Revenue will sympathetically consider my submissions and win the gratitude of the backward community of zamindars by acting on my suggestions. With these few words, I close my speech.

**Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani** (Dera Ghazi Khan South, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I should like to say something in regard to the demand now before the House. As the honourable members are aware there are no perennial canals in the Dera Ghazi Khan district. On the contrary there are only inundation canals which flow during the summer and that too only for a few days in the beginning of the rainy season. But at the close of the rainy season they become dry. No doubt these canals benefit the zamindars of the district but that benefit is temporary only. It is not permanent at all. When the water flows in these canals the zamindars sow their crops but soon after the water supply is cut off with the result that the crops of the zamindars are destroyed because of lack of water supply. The zamindars find themselves helpless. My submission is that now-a-days great stress is being laid on increasing the production of foodgrains. But how can the zamindars of my district grow more food when they do not get water to irrigate their crops? In my district there are large tracts of lands which are lying waste merely because the zamindars cannot get water to sow crops and irrigate them. What is more, they have to pay land revenue on these waste ilaqs. I would respectfully submit that Government should make inquiries in my district that all the old *nalas* which are at present not functioning should be restarted. If that is done the result would be that water would be supplied even in those areas where at present it is not supplied. That will benefit the zamindars a great deal. Then there is another difficulty which the zamindars have to experience and that is, that even in the present canals water is not made available at the proper time, the result being that crops are not sown at the proper time and hence the yield from them is always very poor. This delay in the water supply, it is explained on behalf of the canal authorities, is due to the fact that silt is deposited in the canals and it is necessary to clear it away. For that reason water is not supplied to the zamindars at the proper time. I do not say that silt should not be cleared away from the canals. On the contrary, it is very necessary to do so, but along

with this it should also be borne in mind that time should not be wasted. This work should be finished in time so that at the time of rainy season no delay should occur in the supply of water. My honourable friend Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber has stated that differential treatment is meted out to the zamindars even in the matter of supply of water, that is, water is supplied on right side of the canals and on the left side of it people do not get any. Exactly the same thing is happening in my district. The big people are benefiting and the poor zamindars get nothing. There is a concrete example of this kind of treatment in my district. There is a road known as Daibal-Jampur which goes from East to West. Water is supplied from a *nala* which flows nearby on the north side of the road, but it is not permitted to cross the road even though there is plenty of water in it during the rainy season. Moreover, it is only the big zamindars who are benefiting from that inundation canal and the poor people get no water supply at all. In fact nobody cares for them. Similar is the case on the other canals. Under the circumstances I request the Government to draw the attention of the Irrigation Department to pay some heed to the needs of the poor as well, and to try to remove their hardships so that they may also be in a position to feed themselves and their children. I ask, will there be any end to the policy of pampering the rich or not? This Government claims to be the well-wisher of the poor and it is necessary for it to give practical proof of its claim. What is the use of making empty promises? I hope that my submissions will be considered dispassionately and efforts would be made to put them into effect. With these words I close my speech.

**Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi** (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I stood up several times but unfortunately I could not catch your eye. However I am grateful that you have afforded me an opportunity to make a few observations in regard to the demand now before the House. I admit that Government have provided irrigation facilities to many parts of the country by carrying out new projects, so much so that lands which once were arid and barren have been converted into smiling fields and the zamindars who could not even provide two square meals a day to their children have become well off. For all this we are grateful to Government. But at the same time there are some ilaqas which have up till now been completely ignored. It is our duty to bring the grievances of such ilaqas to the notice of Government. Sir, you are aware that those honourable members who have so far taken part in the debate on the demand under consideration, have brought to the notice of Government many grievances of the people but still there are some grievances of particular areas which can be dealt with properly only by the local members of those ilaqas. It is for this reason that I have risen to speak, for I want to bring to the notice of Government the grievances of the zamindars of Montgomery district. We have drawn the attention of Government more than once by asking questions and by other means to the fact that the zamindars of Nili Bar Colony in the Montgomery district do not get water-supply even from perennial canals according to the scheduled time. So far this grievance of the zamindars of that ilaqa has not been redressed. Whenever we made this request we got some such reply from Government: "Wait, we are working out another scheme. As soon as it is completed all the difficulties of the zamindars of Nili Bar Colony will be removed". And what is that scheme?



[Tikka Jagjit Singh.]

That is no less than the *Bhakra* Dam Scheme itself. Promises were held out to us that as soon as it began to function water would be given to the zamindars of the Nili Bar Colony. Not only that. Even the Chief Engineer, at the time Mr. Bedford, assured us many times that the zamindars of Montgomery district would get their grievances redressed when *Bhakra* Dam Scheme was completed and that we should not agitate over the matter. But now when the *Bhakra* Dam Scheme has started supplying water, although on a small scale, our grievances have not been redressed. That water has been supplied to the Eastern districts of the Punjab. Let me tell you that I have no grudge against the people of the Eastern districts. I do not say that Sir Chhotu Ram should not supply water to his people. By all means he may do so. But he should also see that we are not deprived of our fair share of water. I admit that the water supplied by *Bhakra* Dam Scheme has been made available to those people who had experienced ravages of famine for the last so many years. This is one reason why preference has been given to them. Besides, there is another reason also why water supplied by the said project has been given first to the zamindars of the Eastern districts. That is that they are the home districts of Sir Chhotu Ram. It is but natural that he should look to the interests of the zamindars of his home districts first. But I tell him that he is not the Minister of Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon only. He is a Minister of the Punjab Government. It ill-behoves him to benefit his own people at the expense of zamindars of other ilaqas. My submission is that the Government should fulfil their promise and honour their assurances which they have been holding out off and on for the provision of irrigation facilities. But I am pained to remark that cold water was thrown on our hopes when we came to know that the Punjab Government, while giving evidence before the Indus Commission, admitted that they intended to undertake the *Bhakra* Dam Scheme solely with a view to providing water to the zamindars of Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hissar. They might allow Bikaner State to take advantage of the scheme; but so far as our claims are concerned, they have been brushed aside. It is now crystal clear that Government have no desire for making irrigation facilities available to the ilaqas of Montgomery and Nili Bar Colony. Again, whenever we press for our just claims being considered, we get the same stereotyped answer that owing to scarcity of water in the rivers, Government are unable to do anything in the matter. Even to-day my honourable friend, Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, was waxing eloquent that as there was less water in the rivers, Government could not supply the same to the areas concerned. But this argument does not hold good, as I will presently show. If there is less water in the rivers, why are Government selling out or granting new lands for cultivation? When it is difficult for them to make satisfactory arrangements for water supply to the existing lands, how will they be able to provide irrigation facilities to new lands? Since the quantity of water is to remain the same, obviously the latter class of lands would receive water supplies at the cost of the existing lands which are already experiencing difficulty in obtaining sufficient supply of water. To provide one at the cost of another is not fairplay. Again, when the Government were able to supply us water during this winter, why can they not now arrange for its supply in a liberal manner, especially

when they are keenly interested in the success of the 'grow more food campaign? I think if the Honourable Minister for Revenue himself takes interest in the matter, only then can our hopes for obtaining irrigation facilities materialise.

**Minister of Revenue :** What is the matter ?

**Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi :** This is a matter relating to the provision of irrigation facilities to the ilaqs of Montgomery and Nili Bar Colony. He will perhaps remember that I had a long talk with him about this matter. I may bring this fact to his notice that these are backward areas. The residents are all law-abiding people. There has never been any agitation in these ilaqs. They are very peace-loving and staunch supporters of the Government. The fact that all the members representing these ilaqs are with the Government party is proof positive of what I have said. But in spite of this the Government have very callously disregarded our just claims.

**Minister of Revenue :** Which claims ?

**Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi :** The same, which I laid before him sometime ago in connection with the supply of water to the ilaqs of Montgomery and Nili Bar Colony. I am sure the Honourable Minister will give due consideration to my observations. With these words I close my remarks.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar** (Gurdaspur East, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I have to make a few observations about the canals. In fact I have done so several times before, but the pity of it is that my voice has been a cry in the wilderness. You are aware, Sir, that the Upper Bari Doab Canal was opened in 1860. At that time it had a discharge of 1,400 cusecs, which has since been doubled or trebled. The result of this increase is that all those lands in my district, which are situated in the vicinity of this canal, have been acutely water-logged. But unfortunately these lands have not been allowed by the Government to be placed in the category of water-logged or waste lands. The fact of the matter is that the zamindars owning these lands are very poor and they depend entirely upon them for their livelihood. Again, in spite of the fact that the lands are not fit for cultivation, they put in great labour and till them with the help of spades in order to eke out their living. After a lot of trouble they grow rice in it. Since the lands are extremely marshy, they cannot be ploughed and hence no other crop can be produced. But the zamindars have to face a great difficulty which arises when the canal authorities close the headworks of the canal on account of flood. The closure of the headworks adversely affects the said lands. For instance, when the head of the canal is closed, its bed gets dried up and then the process of percolation takes place. In other words the water standing in all the neighbouring waterlogged lands percolates into the canal which becomes a sort of drain. This process proves very detrimental to these lands, because as a result of the loss of water by percolation, the crop of rice is ruined altogether. The thing is that no moisture is left in the lands and the rice crop is a crop which cannot grow unless abundant supply of water is made available to it. Consequently the seedlings of rice are damaged beyond repair and the whole crop is destroyed. But if after four or five days the canal authorities open the head-

[Ch. Ali Akbar.]

works and the canal begins to flow as usual, then water again comes back to the lands through the process of percolation. But now this water proves to be of no avail, because the seedlings have already died out. Even if some seedlings sprout up, they do not grow into rice plants but are merely wild weeds. Now the position is this. If the canal authorities close the headworks, the rice crop of the zamindars is ruined, but the patwari feels reluctant to grant them any *kharaba*. On seeing the sparsely grown plants, he assesses land revenue unmindful of the fact that the poor zamindars deserve that the definition of waste lands should be made applicable to their lands. The reason why the application of this definition is necessary is that the income derived from these lands is not commensurate with the amount of labour applied to it. If the zamindar earns Rs. 10 per acre, he has to bear Rs. 15 per acre as the cost of cultivation. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to place these water-logged lands in the category of waste lands, as the same yield no crops worth the name. Besides, it is submitted that the headworks of the canal should not be closed at the time of flood. As I have already stated, the closure of the headworks causes a damaging blow to that little rice crop which the zamindar expects after having put in a lot of labour. I would like to cite an instance to elucidate my point. Suppose a zamindar sows seedlings of rice in his fields. But suddenly owing to heavy rains in the mountains, the rivers are inundated. Consequently the headworks of the canal are closed and the canal gets dried up. But at the same time, like a sponge, it absorbs the whole water standing in the water-logged lands and itself turns into a drain. The result is that the water in the fields no longer remains there, as it percolates into the canal. Besides, the seedlings of rice are ruined and if by chance some rain falls, some of them escape destruction from scarcity of water and sprout up into wild plants. But absolutely no yield of rice is obtained from these plants. It is a thousand pities that in spite of this useless vegetation, the patwari does not grant any *kharaba* to the zamindar. In fact these lands ought to have been considered as waste lands.

Then, Sir, if you look up the old records, you will find that at the time of the opening of this canal, these very lands yielded valuable crops like cotton, etc. Now on account of water-logging only rice can be grown and that too is produced in a very small quantity.

Besides, zamindars have to face another difficulty and that is this. The trees standing alongside the canal have grown very old and are infested with monkeys which cause incalculable damage to the crops in the fields adjoining the canal (*laughter*). Honourable members from Lahore laugh at my statement and take this matter lightly because they do not realise the gravity of the situation. It is a matter of fact that the monkeys are a great nuisance and cause immense harm to the crops. I request that steps should be taken to obliterate this evil and that can be done by cutting off the old trees and planting new ones in their place. This action will prove very beneficial to the zamindars because they will get rid of the monkeys which will have to seek a new abode in the absence of the old trees. Only a short while ago, I heard an honourable member making a remark to the effect that if all the trees were cut off, there will be no rain in the *ilaga*. My submission is that I never advocated doing away with all the trees.

What I suggest is that only old trees, infested with monkeys, should be lopped off. Besides, the Canal Department would not stand to lose by cutting off the trees mentioned by me. As you are aware, Sir, nowadays wood fuel is fetching a very high price. It is clear that the Canal authorities would be able to realise a handsome amount from the sale of these trees. I, therefore, request that when this work is taken in hand, old trees of village *Dhamrai* should receive the first attention of the authorities as here the monkeys are making life difficult for the zamindars. After the trees have been cut off, the zamindars will have good crops and the result will be that on the one hand the zamindars would be financially better off and on the other the Government will realise their dues, that is, land revenue, etc., easily.

**Captain Sayed Mubarik Ali Shah :** (Jhang Central, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, it is a happy coincidence that I have come to attend the meeting of the Assembly to-day when such a subject is under discussion regarding which I have many grievances of my electorate to lay before the House. These grievances are not new. On the contrary, they are very old. We have been feeling them for the last 30 or 40 years. Although they have been brought to the notice of the Government many a time before, still at this time especially it seems to be encouraging that our grievances may be looked into as the Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department is a person who has sound and up-to-date knowledge of this subject and has sympathetic views regarding the needs and demands of poor zamindars. I have, therefore, every hope that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram would go into our grievances sympathetically and take steps to redress them without any further delay. The honourable members of this House will be surprised to know that there are different *haq-i-abpashi* on the Lower Jhelum Canal despite the fact that it is a property of one and the same Government and it comes out of the same river and irrigates the same lands. For instance, new colony lands are treated very liberally as against those of the old *abadi*. The former circle includes new villages and the later old ones. Now let me point out as to what differential treatment is being meted out to these *ilaqas*. The Government thought that as the *purani abadi* landholders are having their ancestral lands and have been tied to them for generations they would accept any small quantity of water offered to them. So, they fixed the *haq-i-abpashi* at 30 per cent per annum. On the other hand, 75 per cent *haq-i-abpashi* was granted to the new colony area with a view to attract and persuade the people to purchase lands there. The people of the old *abadi* did not know how to protest and so they kept quiet. Besides, they considered it undignified to raise their voice against this step-motherly treatment by the then bureaucratic and foreign Government. As I said before, since water was needed at that time for the new lands and the Government had to attract people by giving them every facility in that respect, this justification for differential treatment could be acceptable. But now I do not see why this differential treatment should be allowed to continue; for, about forty years have elapsed since this canal was opened and obviously during such a long period the landholders in the new *abadi* area have been greatly benefited by this preferential treatment. Now, is it just to carry on this differential treatment any further? Does it not seem strange to accord this treatment to tax payers of the same *ilaqas* on the very same system of canal?

[Capt. Mubarik Ali Shah.]

This matter was placed before the Government even in 1927 when the Honourable Nawab Muhammad Hayat Qureshi and I had the privilege of being members of the then Punjab Legislative Council and we voiced the grievances of our respective constituencies in this respect. But our three years' continuous efforts with regard to the discontinuance of this differential treatment between these two ilaqas (*purani abadi* and *nai abadi*) resulted only in the increase of *haq-i-abpashi* in the Sulki branch of the Lower Jhelum Canal area. Even that was done on an experimental basis and we were told that if the experiment proved a success it would be extended to the rest of the *purani abadi* lands of the Lower Jhelum Canal. It is most regrettable to say that nearly 10 or 12 years have passed since the undertaking was given. The grievances of the silent and poor zamindars of the Jhang district who have lands on the Lower Jhelum Canal have not been redressed as yet and they are still being deprived of their legitimate and deserving rights regarding the *haq-i-abpashi*. There is no doubt that the zamindars of the Jhang district are backward and are not aware of the present day methods of propaganda and demonstration. But the Government should remember that patience also has some limit. I may tell them that the time has come when they will be compelled somehow or other to admit the validity of our rights.

There is another very serious grievance against the Lower Jhelum Canal system. The lands of the Jhang district are situated on the tail of the Lower Jhelum Canal and so gets less water as compared with those lands of the Shahpur district which are situated on the upper reaches of the Canal. Honourable members will feel surprised to know that the schedule of water rates is invariably heavier on Jhang district lands than on the lands of the Shahpur district. Schedules A and B are applied to Jhang and Shahpur lands respectively. In order to appreciate the difference between the two schedules, I may point out that the rate per acre under schedule A is Rs. 1-8-0 greater than under schedule B for the same crop. Schedule B was probably applied to new colony areas with a view to attract people to purchase lands and settle down there. However, I am glad to remark that in 1934-35 when Nawab Muzaffar Khan was the Revenue Minister, something substantial was done to help the zamindars of Jhang district owning lands on the Lower Jhelum Canal. On my representation to him in the then Punjab Legislative Council he applied schedule B to about 100 out of 182 villages to which previous schedule A was applied and promised to do the same with regard to the rest of the villages. Since then we have been waiting till now to see our grievances redressed. But nothing has been done so far. For the last 40 years or so these areas have been paying rates at schedule A and I am at a loss to understand why differential treatment is being meted out to one as compared to the other. I would therefore most respectfully submit to the Honourable Revenue Minister that these legitimate grievances of the backward zamindars of my district may kindly be removed. As he is a minister of a very high calibre and a well-wisher of the zamindars, I have every hope that he would do his best in this respect and if this grievance is removed it will be considered one of the achievements which will ever shine in the annals of his services to the deserving zamindars.

Now I want to make a few submissions in respect of the Haveli Project. The headworks of this project are situated in my district and that is the only connection we have got with the project. My honourable friends over there may be under this impression that the people of Jhang district are deriving large benefits from this Haveli Project. But I may tell them that that is not so. We are rather suffering many hardships on account of these headworks. I have drawn the attention of Government more than once to these difficulties and sufferings of the people, but it is regretted that they have not so far taken any steps to remove them. I would request the Honourable Revenue Minister to consider our complaints and try to remove them.

In our district there are about fifty villages the lands of which are destroyed by the mere fact that these are unfortunately situated immediately above the headworks of the Haveli Project. All these villages remain under water for the greater part of the year and as a consequence all the lands have turned marshy and the disease of malaria is stalking our villages and is taking a toll of human lives. Besides cultivation is not possible which means that the zamindars have been deprived of their only means of livelihood. I therefore request the Honourable Revenue Minister to pay a visit to these villages and see for himself the miserable plight which the zamindars of my ilaqa are put to. The attitude of silence on his part will be detrimental to the interests of zamindars of this ilaqa. Numerous representations have been made by the inhabitants of these villages on each harvest, but nothing has been done to redress their just grievances by the local officials who probably think that this is also part of their war effort—not to report for remission of the Government dues on the miserable crops (if any) in the ilaqa. But they do not know that discontent and poverty among the zamindars in time of war is more injurious than the remission of a few thousands of rupees of the Government dues on these harvests. The officials are acting as foolish friends of the Government. With these words, I once again request the Honourable Revenue Minister to save us from this whirlpool of miseries.

**Sardar Tara Singh** (Ferozepore South, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir,

4 p. m. I want to make a few submissions in regard to the demand under consideration. The Irrigation Department not only benefits the zamindars but it troubles them to a great extent also. The present Canal Act does not benefit the poor zamindars. So long as this Act is not amended, the lot of poor zamindars will not be improved. I know that a committee was appointed to find out the grievances of the zamindars and after making enquiries it recommended the amendment of Canal Act, with a view to improving the lot of poor zamindars. In this connection, I request the Government to effect changes in the Canal Act on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee with a view to removing the difficulties and inconveniences of the zamindars. So far as kharaba is concerned, it is granted to rich zamindars only. Poor zamindars are denied even this relief because they do not have any influence with the irrigation officers. Generally kharaba is granted at the sweet will of the canal officers. In fact it is impossible to get kharaba without greazing the palm of patwaris.

[S. Tara Singh.]

The rules governing the breaches and cuts in the canals are very defective. For instance, there is a breach in the canal and it is caused as the result of holes dug out by rats ~~or~~ by the malicious intentions of the villagers. The concerned irrigation officers visit the place and report it to be a cut. Police officers also make enquiries in this connection but to no purpose. They file the case and there the action on the part of the Government ends. The methods adopted by the Irrigation Department in determining whether a certain breach is a cut in reality or merely a breach, are very defective. Even if a cut is maliciously made by an opponent, the poor zamindar whose lands happen to be adjacent to a cut is rendered homeless in no time, because his few acres of land which are the only source of his livelihood, come under water, and being innocent is penalised and no opportunity is afforded to him for putting up his defence and the penalty continues to be imposed on every crop sown by him. No such instances of injustice and irregularities could occur, if Government had suitably amended the Canal Act. Under the circumstances I request the Honourable Revenue Minister to amend such rules as are detrimental to the interests of poor zamindars. Reports to this effect have continuously been made to the Government.

So far as supply of canal water is concerned, only those zamindars who hold influence with the authorities or who resort to force and other malicious means succeed in getting water for their lands. The poor and simple-minded zamindars are deprived of water and their voice is a cry in the wilderness. Whenever these poor zamindars approach the officers of the Irrigation Department with their complaints, they are told either to settle their disputes amicably or put their case before a magistrate who could refer them to some judgment passed by the High Court. This is the treatment that is being meted out to poor and simple minded zamindars. Very recently a breach was caused by rainfalls and the whole burden fell on the poor zamindars. In spite of the fact that magistrates advise the villagers to keep a vigilant watch over canals, the cuts do continue to occur. As a consequence the poor zamindars experience great hardship and inconvenience. It is the bounden duty of the Government to find out the real culprits who cause these cuts in the canals. I again request the Honourable Revenue Minister to consider my submissions sympathetically and amend the Canal Act.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, various points in regard to the Irrigation Department have already been discussed threadbare on the floor of this House and I feel no necessity to repeat them. However I would like to make a few submissions in respect to gardens and I hope the Honourable Revenue Minister will carefully consider them.

It is an admitted fact that Punjab is a province where different and good varieties of all sorts of fruits can be grown in abundance. Its land and climatic conditions are favourable for growing such fruits. As a matter of fact Punjab can produce the best fruits ever known to Europe, Japan or other big countries of the world. But an abundant supply of water is required for the gardens especially when they are newly planted with fruit trees. The poor condition of the gardens that we come across so often

in this Province is due mainly to an insufficient water supply which is, moreover, never in time. You are aware, sir, that there can be no income from orchards for the first three or four years. After about six years regular income starts. So long as an abundant supply of water is not forthcoming a garden cannot prosper. For this very reason fruit culture has not developed on a very large scale in the Punjab barring one or two places. Water is the most essential requirement of the gardens and lack of it has so far been the bugbear of the fruit growers; otherwise there is hardly any fruit which cannot grow in our province. The Honourable Minister of Revenue would recall that previously three times more water used to be given to the orchards or fruit growing areas but now it has been decreased to a quantity double that supplied for ordinary agricultural purposes. He is probably aware of the fact that only last year the Maharaja of Patiala started taking a very keen interest in horticulture, and he has allowed five times more water for gardens than is given to other lands. Moreover he has remitted the *abiana* for the first three years to the fruit growers. So far as I am aware this information is quite correct but the Honourable Minister is welcome to correct me if I am wrong.

● **Pir Akbar Ali :** Is there any canal in Patiala which is owned by His Highness ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** It matters little whether there is any canal owned by the State or not, but the fact remains that His Highness the Maharaja has granted these concessions to the horticulturists in his State. In my opinion it is more to the Maharaja Bhabadur's credit that he has made arrangements with the British Government for allowing five times greater quantity of water than is made available to other agricultural lands. I am surprised that Pir Sahib addressed that question to me when the boundary of his district Ferozepore touches that of the Patiala State and he is in a better position to know everything about the State. Here in the Punjab even the quantity of water that used to be given, that is, double the supply given for ordinary agricultural lands, has been reduced. Probably the rule is that for every 100 squares of land one square is allowed a double quantity of water for horticultural purposes.

**Mr. Speaker :** One acre for every two hundred acres.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Thank you, Sir. For every two hundred acres the double supply is given to one acre only, for fruit growing purposes. Now this is not sufficient and I would request the Honourable Minister to try to give more, if possible, to lands where fruit is grown. The excuse that the quantity of water in the rivers is insufficient or as my honourable friend Raja Sahib told us that until there is more monsoon or increased snow fall on the hills we cannot expect more water in our rivers, is not tenable. The monsoon or the snow can affect the quantity of water in the rivers at best during two or three months while the canals here work only for about six months. Moreover the size of the outlets does not materially affect the supply of water in the canals, as has been pointed out by my honourable friend. If a proper adjustment is made it can be a source of immense benefit to the zamindars. A stiff and stubborn attitude cannot do any good.



[Mian Abdul Aziz.]

I may also bring another matter to the notice of the Government. There is a tendency for giving promotion to junior and inexperienced members of the Irrigation Department belonging to the ruling race over and above the heads of the more experienced and senior Indian officers. I would request the Honourable Minister to look carefully into the matter and to redress this injustice which is being done to the senior Indian officers.

In the end I would once again urge upon him the necessity of increasing the supply of water to the garden lands and making a considerable reduction in the land revenue for the first four years.

**Pir Akbar Ali** (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have to talk a lot, but I will take care that I confine my speech only to relevant facts, which I particularly wish to bring to the notice of the Government. First of all, I will remind the Government about a matter of urgent necessity, which Sardar Tara Singh had suggested during the course of his speech. I submit, that owing to torrential downpours, this year, most of the banks of many canals have given way or are likely to give way soon. The breaches are not due to any inattention on the part of the Government or their officials, but gradual deterioration has weakened them so much that now they are yielding to the ravages of time. Coming to my district of Ferozepore, many vigil-parties have been organised, and they perform their duties at different places. This year owing to frequent breaches of the canal banks, much damage has been done to crops either because they did not get enough water or because they got water in abundance. With a view to prevent breaches in canal banks, many villages have been grouped together and punitive police posts have been stationed there. Why should the poor people be made to bear the expenses of such police posts? The banks give way on account of heavy rains and consequent floods. The people this year could not at all be held responsible for the breaches in the canals. It is the duty of the canal department to have the canal banks in good repair, but they have shifted their responsibility on to the poor zamindars. The posting of police chaukis has not decreased crimes in any way, though of course one effect of the police chaukis is that no reports of crimes have been lodged with the police. It is a well-known saying that Englishmen have no eyes, they have only ears. They are afraid of propaganda. But you have both ears and eyes, hence you should take note of this problem.

Now I shall speak a little about the roads along the canal banks. I agree with Sardar Lal Singh when he said during the course of his speech, that the roads along the banks of canals are not allowed to be used for bullock-carts. I, for one, should have no objection, but I resent the differential treatment of the officers. Why should those roads be allowed for the use of cars of the Government officials only? Honourable Ministers and other officials pass over them in their cars in the twinkling of the eye while the needy and oppressed zamindars stand along the track with a view to see the Ministers and other officials for expressing their grievances, but they are not paid any heed, and they are left standing disappointed. What a just and democratic way it will be if the officers, while, going on their tours

travel on horse-back and hear and see personally what their subjects,—the zamindars,—feel about their administration. The state of zamindars is so pitiable that it cannot be described.

Next I shall say a little about *chakbandi*. There are so many innumerable discrepancies in the treatment meted out to the zamindars by the officials and so glaring injustice is done to them in the matter of *chakbandi* that it is simply heart-rending to describe them. Not to speak of the usual complaint of the zamindars that their fields could not be watered at such and such time, even their complaints are not heard by the canal officials. What a pity! Sometimes a certain moga (inlet) waters a low-lying field, but one whose level is higher than the other is left unwatered, and they are not even mentioned in the registers of *chakbandi*. The officers state so much in their registers, that such and such field is not fit to be watered. For instance, in a certain area of 100 ghumaon, a piece of 50 ghumaon is a low-lying area while the other piece of 50 ghumaon is situated on higher level. The low-lying area will be watered, but the other will be left unwatered, no matter whatever be the loss to the zamindars.

I now come to the oft-discussed question of corruption. To say that there is no corruption under the regime of the present Government is to tell an untruth. I say with all the emphasis at my command, and without fear of any contradiction that there is corruption prevalent everywhere, particularly most glaringly in the Canal Department. The canal officials get bribes and unless they are bribed, they do not pay any heed to the needs of any needy person. They must be bribed before they are asked to do any piece of work.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Not to speak of 'must be bribed', the fact is that they do not work until they are bribed.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** It is not their fault. They are made to take bribes and they are accustomed to taking bribes on every pretext. It is the fault of the public. They have taught them to be corrupt, to be dishonest and to be indifferent to their complaints, howsoever valid they may be. To eradicate this evil, I venture to suggest to the Government to increase the pay of the officials if they think that they are drawing less pay than they ought to have been drawing. If the Government cares to act in accordance with my suggestion, I am sure the zamindars will also be benefited thereby, they will cease to bribe the officials, and hence they will save their hard-earned money.

The next point I should like to touch is the communal aggressiveness which was very prominently displayed by the honourable members sitting on the opposition benches. They were too loud in voicing their communal feeling. (*Voices of 'no, no.'*)

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Most of the unstarred questions have been asked by the Unionist benches.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** It is a misstatement. The Unionist benches are not to be held responsible for this misstatement. The records are there for your perusal.

*At this stage the assembly Adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 16th March 1943.*

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1911年1月5日 星期四

1911年1月6日 星期五



1911年1月7日 星期六

1911年1月8日 星期日

1911

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Tuesday, 16th March 1943.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the Clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SARDAR HARJAB SINGH AND MASTER KABUL SINGH, M.L.As.

**\*8548. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the cases of security prisoners Sardars Harjab Singh and Kabul Singh, M.L.As. have been reviewed for the purposes of release ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :**

*First part : Yes ;*

*Second Part : It was decided to continue their detention.*

### SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8549. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the cases of congress security prisoners arrested on or after the 9th August 1942 have been reviewed for the purposes of release ; if so, with what result ;

(b) the total number of security prisoners referred to above in the province and the number of those among them who have been released so far ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

### SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8550. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the weight on admission into the jail ;

(b) the present weight ; and

[S. Hari Singh.]

(c) the state of health of the following congress security prisoners of the Hoshiarpur district among those arrested on or after the 9th August 1942 :

Lala Om Parkash, Chaudhri Amar Singh, Thakar Munshi Ram, Munim Mukhand Lal Mukerian, Sita Ram Bandematram, Salig Ram Prashar, Hari Singh Ahiyapur, Mahasha Tirath Ram and Giani Ram Singh 'Jouhar' ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of this House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SUPPLY OF BOOKS TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS

**\*8575. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that no books excepting purely religious ones are allowed to 1942 Civil Disobedience Detenus ; if so, the reasons for the same ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, M.L.A., sent a letter to the Government from Shahpur Camp Jail in November last stating therein the difficulties that the detenus in that jail have to experience in the matter of the supply of books through the jail Library ; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of that letter on the table of the House and also state the steps, if any, taken to remove those difficulties ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### INTERVIEWS WITH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS

**\*8576. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 1942 Civil Disobedience Detenus have not been allowed to have an interview even with their nearest relations during the last six months or so ; if so, why and whether it is intended now to lift this ban on interviews ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes.

(b) It is not in the public interest to answer the rest of this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## DIET FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS

**\*8577. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 1942 Civil Disobedience Detenus are allowed diet worth Re. 0-9-3 per day and clothes and bedding of the type allowed to 'C' class prisoners and that 1942 Civil Disobedience convicts are supplied diet worth annas six per day and bedding and clothes of the type allowed to 'B' class prisoners; if so, the reasons for this discrimination?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHER AND MR. DWIJENDRA NATH BOSE**

**\*8589. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government has recently received any complaints from Sardar Sardul Singh Caveesher and Mr. Dwijendra Nath Bose, a nephew of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, that they were tortured by the Police during their confinement in the Lahore Fort; if so, whether he would be pleased to lay a copy of the above-named complaints on the table of the House;

(b) the specific complaints made by the above-mentioned detenus and the period for which they were kept in the Lahore Fort?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Sardar Sardul Singh Caveesher and Dwijendra Nath Bose are detained under the orders of the Government of India, and questions about them cannot be raised on the floor of this House, and should be addressed to the Central Government.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Are these detenus under the charge of the officers of the Punjab Government or those of the Government of India?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** They are here in the Punjab.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Does the complaint refer to the Punjab Police or to the Police of the Government of India? The complaint is that they were tortured by the police. I want to know whether this complaint refers to the Punjab Police or that of the Central Government.

**Premier :** My answer is that such complaints about the persons detained under the orders of the Central Government should be addressed to the Government of India.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Even with regard to anything done by the Punjab Police?

**Premier :** I have already stated that such questions can be put and have been put in the Central Assembly and anything done here will be answered there.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** And there the answer will be that these questions should be put to the Punjab Government.

**Premier :** That will not be the case.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I want to know whether the Punjab Government will be prepared to supply information to the Government of India with regard to the questions which relate to the officers working here.

**Premier :** The Punjab Government will send the necessary inform a to the authorities for answering such questions at the proper place.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Has the Punjab Government abdicated in favour of the Central Government so far as this matter is concerned ?

**Premier :** There is no question of abdication. As those persons were detained under the orders of the Government of India, Central Assembly is the proper place for answering questions relating to those detenus.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Honourable Premier hold the portfolio of C. I. D. ?

#### SUPPLY OF *CHARPAIS* TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

\*8598. **Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that *charpais* have not yet been provided to many of the 1942 Civil Disobedience Prisoners so far in the District Jail, Mianwali, contrary to the latest orders of the Government for the supply of *charpais* to these prisoners ; if so the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of these detenus are compelled to sleep in *kacha* cells in the jails ; if so, why and the action Government intends taking to redress the grievance of these prisoners ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of this House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I appeal to your sense of justice, Mr. Speaker ? A question which relates to the supply of *charpais* to the prisoners is replied in this way that it is not in the public interest to answer this question. We know that the Ministers have a right to withhold any information they like, but the way in which it is being done here reduces the whole thing to a farce. They can say 'yes' or 'no' straightaway. They themselves issued orders for the supply of *charpais* and the question was whether those orders have been carried out or not. What is the justification to say that it is not in the public interest to answer this question ? Absurdity cannot go any further.

**Premier :** The honourable member is unnecessarily agitated. The point is that Government has the power not to reply to a question if it is considered that it will not be in the public interest to answer it. There is no quarrel about that. In season and out of season such questions are raised ; now it has been about the supply of *charpais*, then it will be about

the size of charpais, and on another occasion it will be about the nature of charpais. No useful purpose will be served by agitating such questions on the floor of the House. It will be sheer waste of valuable time of the Assembly.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Eliminate the questions hour.

**GANDHI KHADAR BHANDAR AND NATIONAL FLAGS**

**\*8599. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Gandhi Khadar Bhandar at Lahore run by All-India Spinners Association, was searched by the police on the 24th January 1949 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that after the search quite a good number of national flags were removed by the Police ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no ban on these flags in the Province and whether Government has received any representation from Mr. Ram Lall, Manager of the Bhandar, dated 4th February 1942, for the return or the cost of these flags ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, a large number of congress flags was seized.

(c) The representation of the Manager was not accepted as the production and sale of the seized property was clearly intended to assist the operations of an unlawful Association.

**PANDIT RAM RUP SHARMA**

**\*8600. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Pandit Ram Rup Sharma, Director in charge of the Peoples Insurance Company, and the New Hindustan Bank was arrested on the 6th of February 1948 ; if so, why ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pandit Ram Rup Sharma has been kept in the Lahore Fort, since his arrest ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said detenu is not allowed to move out of his cell for the purpose of exercise since his arrest ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the said detenu is not permitted to interview his family people and to supplement his diet from outside as allowed under the Security Prisoners Rules ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the said detenu is not given any newspapers to read ;

(f) his weight at the time of his arrest and his present weight and also the general state of his health ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.



## CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8604. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the complaints sent by the Civil Disobedience Prisoners of 1942 through the jail authorities to the Government are intercepted ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some such complaints recently sent by the detenus in the district jail, Mianwali, to the Inspector-General, Prisons, Punjab, and the Honourable Minister in charge of prisons did not reach their destination ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the copies of such complaints are not forwarded to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of jails administration ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the jail authorities are required to submit the communications, addressed by the detenus to the Inspector-General of Prisons and the Punjab Government, to the C. I. D. for censorship ;

(e) whether the complaints made by the Civil Disobedience Prisoners of 1942 to the Government through the jail authorities are intercepted by the C.I.D. and are even stopped on the way ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## ALLOWANCE TO FAMILIES OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8605. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of applications received by the Government, since 8th August 1942, from 1942 Civil Disobedience Prisoners for the grant of allowances to their families ;

(b) the action taken by the Government on the applications mentioned in (a) ;

(c) whether in view of their detention without a trial, the Government intends to grant allowances to all the needy detenus for the maintenance of their families during these hard times ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## GAMES FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8606. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that no out-door games are allowed to the Civil Disobedience Prisoners of 1942 even at their own expense ; if so, the reasons therefor :

(b) whether it is a fact that both in-door and out-door games are allowed to the 1940 detenues lodged in the Gujrat Jail ; if so, the reasons for this discrimination between the detenues of 1940 and 1942 ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

**\*8623. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to revise the dearness allowance granted to Government employees ; if so, to what extent ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** The proposal to revise the dearness allowance is under the consideration of Government.

#### VICTORY FAIR

**\*8624. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the amount collected for the Victory Fair held at Ludhiana on 14th February 1943 from the Ludhiana city ;

(b) the expenditure incurred on amusements in connection with the Victory fair mentioned above including wrestling etc. ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sardar Gopal Singh, M.L.A., complained to the Superintendent of Police about the forced collections in connection with the said Victory Fair from members of the scheduled castes by the Jagraon Police authorities ;

(d) whether he has received any report to the effect that the Jagraon Police authorities have embezzled a substantial sum of money out of the collections made in connection with the aforesaid Victory Fair ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No money was collected, but tickets worth Rs. 39,431 were sold in Ludhiana City in connection with Victory Fair held in aid of War Purposes Fund.

(b) A sum of Rs. 3,867 only, i.e. about 1½ per cent of total collection was spent on wrestling and other amusements.

(c) Sardar Gopal Singh, M. L. A., made no such complaint orally or in writing to the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana.

(d) A complaint has been filed in the Court of A. D. M., Ludhiana, and the matter is still *sub judice*.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Did Sardar Kapoor Singh make any representation in this connection ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I require notice for that.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** With respect to part (a) of the question is the honourable member sure that no embezzlement was made ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that a complaint has been filed in the court of A. D. M. and the matter is *sub-judica*.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Has the matter been brought to a court of law or an executive enquiry is being held ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** It has been brought to a court.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Did any public man make any representation to the Government that money had been extorted from the public ?

#### INTERVIEW WITH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8628. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any interviews are allowed to the prisoners and the detenus detained in connection with the Civil Disobedience movement of 1942; and, if so, under what conditions ;

(b) whether Government is aware that since 9th August 1942 numerous cases of deaths and other calamities and unusual happenings have taken place in the families of those imprisoned or detained in different jails under the Defence of India Rules and yet no interviews have been allowed to their relations or friends ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in many cases of these prisoners and detenus there has been illness of serious type and yet in spite of their requests their relations or friends have not been allowed to interview them ;

(d) whether even the right of interview conceded to ordinary prisoners is denied to the prisoners and detenus ; and, if so, what are the reasons for this kind of treatment ;

(e) whether the Government intends to relax the rigour of the rule as to interviews ; and, if so, when and to what extent ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### AMENITIES TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8629. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names and number of jails from which the Civil Disobedience prisoners and detenus have made representations during the last six months or so to the Hon'ble Ministers and other authorities for the supply of ordinary amenities of life to them and the action, if any, taken thereon ;

(b) whether it is a fact that for months the prisoners and detenus of the movement of 1942 were not provided in the jails in which they were confined even with the raised platform to sleep on, and were made to sleep on the ground and whether this state of things was permitted by the Government during the rainy season and under malarial and other insaniary conditions; if so, why;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in certain jails even up to this time *charpais* have not been allowed; if so, why?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8630. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) what scale or scales of diet have been prescribed for the political prisoners and detenus of the movement of 1942;

(b) whether the Government has considered the question of the insufficiency of the same in view of the fact that the prices of articles of food have been soaring high; and, if so, what improvement have been effected therein;

(c) whether the said prisoners and detenus are allowed to supplement their food and other requirements at their own cost; and, if so, under what conditions?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Annas 6; convicts Re. 0-9-8 detenus.

(b) Government have raised this to annas 8 and Re. 0-12-3, respectively.

(c) Only on medical advice.

#### "AZAN" IN JAILS

**\*8622. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan:** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state whether there is any restriction on the calling of "*Azan*" in jails in the province?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal:** The attention of the honourable member is drawn to paragraph 600 (3) of the Punjab Jail Manual.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan:** What is that paragraph?

**Minister:** I can read it out to you.

No gathering for the purposes of any caste ceremony or religious function shall in any circumstances be permitted.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan:** This is not a question of gathering. This question only relates to *azan*. That is a different thing. It is not a congregational prayer. May I know whether there is any restriction on the calling of *azan*?

**Minister :** Whether it would be regarded is a matter of opinion.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I know how this question of a difference of opinion arises ? There is absolutely no rule.

**Minister :** It is this rule which has always been applied to that particular circumstance.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I know whether this rule covers this particular circumstance of call to prayer ?

**Minister :** I think it does.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know what is the opinion of—

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** May I know whether there is anything in the rule which allows or disallows the calling of *azan* ?

**Minister :** The opinion is that this particular rule covers the circumstance.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I know whether the opinion expressed by the Honourable Minister is that the rule that he has read out covers the circumstance ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Opinions cannot be asked by questions. Therefore no further discussion is allowed.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** I want to know the rule, if there is any, which disallows the calling of *azan*.

**Mr. Speaker :** I think the Honourable Minister has expressly stated that there is no rule other than the one he has read.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** The Honourable Minister states that the rule covers the circumstance. That is his opinion. My submission is that when he expresses his opinion, I have every right to express my opinion.

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

#### SUBORDINATE JUDGES

**\*8626. Chaudhri Ranpat Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total strength of the cadre of Subordinate Judges in the Punjab ;

(b) the total number in the whole cadre of the Subordinate Judges coming from each of the five revenue divisions ;

(c) the total number of those in the cadre referred to in (a) above belonging to the Lahore and Amritsar cities ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) 151.

(b) and (c) The information is contained in the History of Services of Gazetted Officers, a copy of which is available in the Assembly Library.

## SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

**\*8627. Chaudhri Jugal Kishore :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any scholarship has been provided exclusively for the benefit of those scheduled caste students who continue their studies beyond the fourth primary class ; if not, whether Government intends to do so now ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Twenty-nine middle school scholarships for boys and 18 middle school scholarships for girls are available for award annually to the children of "the weaver class and the special classes" (Hindu depressed class). Besides, all local bodies have already been invited to provide close scholarships for the encouragement of the children of the weaver and special classes at the middle stage and informed that Government will contribute towards the expenditure incurred by them on this account in accordance with the rules in force.

## SALE OF CATTLE SUFFERING FROM T. B. IN GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARM, HISSAR

**\*8506. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** With reference to the reply to the unstarred question No. 1464<sup>1</sup> appearing in the Assembly Debates of 9th February, 1942, will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government has considered the consequences of sales to the public of animals suffering from T.B. ;

(b) whether it is a fact that T. B. is a contagious and infectious disease ; if so, the reasons for keeping animals suffering from T. B. with other animals in the Cattle Farm, Hissar ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the flesh of diseased animals, if eaten, affects the health of the people concerned adversely ;

(d) the action that Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. All affected animals at the Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, have, however, been segregated and kept in separate blocks.

(c) No, if the affected glands and organs are taken out and destroyed under expert supervision. In cooked meat there is no danger at all.

(d) Government have appointed a special Veterinary Assistant Surgeon to carry out meat inspection of animals sold for slaughter and a detailed record of such animals is being maintained. This record shows that in majority of cases only one or two glands are affected and once these are removed the rest of the carcass is perfectly safe for human consumption.

## BUND OF NAKTI NADI

**\*8562. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the allotment sanctioned by the Government for strengthening and repairing the bund of Nakti Nadi constructed to the north of Sadhaura, district Ambala ;

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

- (b) the date of the sanction of allotment ;
- (c) whether any action was taken to achieve the purpose specified above in 1942 before the rainy season ; if not, why not ;
- (d) the name of the officer who is responsible for not taking the requisite action in time and the reasons for this omission on his part ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Rs. 28,728 were sanctioned by Government for strengthening bunds for the purpose of protecting Sadhaura Town from erosion by the Suk-Rao and Fandi Naddis. Other small allotments were subsequently sanctioned for immediate temporary requirements, amounting to Rs. 8,577.

(b) 27th May 1942.

(c) Yes. Necessary action was taken and was effective for the above purpose.

(d) Does not arise.

#### RELIEF TO ZAMINDARS LIVING ON BANKS OF NAKTI NADI

**\*8563. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that in the last rainy season a great damage was caused to the crops of the zamindars living on the Nakti Nadi owing to the breaches in the new bund and the old bund near Sadhaura, district Ambala ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the villages situated on the banks of the above-mentioned stream have been utterly destroyed owing to the overflow of the stream caused by the breaches in the aforesaid bunds ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the residents of the villages mentioned above have been reduced to starvation and have become homeless by the overflow of the above-mentioned stream as everything in their possession had been swept away by the torrents ;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to find out the value of the losses sustained by the victims of the flood in the villages lying on the banks of the above-mentioned *nadi* and Sadhaura town and the extent of the damage done to them ;

(e) the steps taken by the Government so far to relieve the sufferers and the nature of the relief afforded to them ?

**The 'Honourable' Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** (a) No serious damage to crops was done by Nakti Nadi. The main crop was as a matter of fact 'rice' which rather benefited by the inundation.

(b) Some houses in villages Tibbri, Saidpur, and Majri, suffered damage, but no life was lost.

(c) The residents of the villages mentioned in (b) suffered some hardship.

(d) & (e) A list showing the houses destroyed and the damage otherwise caused has been prepared, and the question of the grant of relief is under the consideration of Government.

## IMPROVEMENT TRUST, LAHORE

**\*8625. Mian Abdul Aziz :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Lahore Improvement Trust, which has notified to take several villages, viz., Fatehgarh, Salamatpura, Kotli Abdul Rehman, Devipura, Muhammadpura, Nabipura, Maskinpura, Shadipura and portion of Baghbanpura, within the limits of the city of Lahore near the Grand Trunk Road, beyond Shalamar, comprising an area of 1,100 acres, practically populated and owned by agriculturists, has done so in consultation with or approval or sanction of the Punjab Government or on its own initiative ;

(b) whether the above-named agriculturists have been living in the aforesaid villages for generations and depend on the produce of those lands, and whether by this acquisition on the part of the Lahore Improvement Trust thousands of people will be made homeless ;

(c) why the above-named villages which are situated at a distance of about 7 miles from the city of Lahore, are being acquired in preference to other areas, situated in the city, around the city and within the limits of the old civil station ;

(d) whether the zamindars of the above-named villages have recently submitted any memorial or memorials to the Government to save them from this disastrous measure ; if so, what action has the Government taken on the said memorials ; and, if not, why ;

(e) whether the lands of the villages mentioned in (a) would be valued according to the Land Acquisition Act or according to any other method ; if so, what method ;

(f) whether any and how many different other development or expansion schemes were prepared of this locality or its neighbouring locality and on both sides of the Shalamar-Mohgalpura road, from which the above-named villages were excluded ; if so, why those schemes were abandoned, and by whom ;

(g) what will be the effect of the above-named acquisition by the Trust on religious, educational and other buildings situated on the lands proposed to be acquired by the Trust ;

(h) whether the Government have considered the advisability of taking some other waste lands in other localities instead of the villages mentioned in (a) to serve the same purpose ;

(i) whether the Government intends to give lands of equal value to the agriculturists living in the villages mentioned in (a) for their cultivation and maintenance ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** (a) The Trust has notified the proposal on its own initiative.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) The area is required for industrial development which must essentially be away from the city.



[Minister for Public Works.]

(d) Yes. The matter is at present at a very preliminary stage. The Government will consider the villagers' objections, when a formal scheme is submitted by the Trust.

(e) According to the Land Acquisition Act, as modified by the Punjab Town Improvement Act, 1922.

(f) No other development or expansion scheme has been prepared for the locality.

(g) These buildings will be dealt with according to law.

(h) & (i) These points will be considered when formal scheme is received from the Trust.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### LADY WELFARE WORKERS

**1631. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names, community-wise, of those who have been recently appointed as Lady Welfare Workers in the province ;

(b) whether the successful Muslim students have been given 50 per cent appointments among Lady Welfare Workers under the Government orders fixing communal representation of various communities ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) The number of appointments last made in November 1942 was 37, out of which 12 were Muslims, 12 Hindus, 12 Sikhs and 1 Indian Christian. It is not the practice to give names.

(b) The appointments of above Lady Welfare Workers constituted the fourth batch of workers. As the Muslims had received more than their shares in the first two batches of appointments, their share was less than 50 per cent. in the fourth batch, but their communal proportion in the cadre as a whole after the appointments made in November 1942 exceeded their share by 3 appointments.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG HEAD MASTERS OF DISTRICT BOARD AND GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS

**1632. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of District Board and Government High Schools in the Punjab and the number of the head masters of these schools, community-wise ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of Hindu head masters in Government and District Board High Schools is progressively deteriorating ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a)—

Number of District Board High Schools	..	..	37
Number of Headmasters of District Board	{	Hindus ..	7
High Schools community-wise ..		Muslims ..	23
		Sikhs ..	7
Number of Government High Schools	..	..	86
	{	Hindus ..	22
Number of Headmasters of Government		Muslims ..	51
High Schools .. .. .		Sikhs ..	12
		Christian ..	1

(b) No.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M.L.As.**

**Mr. Speaker :** I have received the following applications from two honourable members of the Assembly asking for permission of the Assembly to be absent from its meetings.

(1) Chaudhri Sahib Ram writes :—

"I beg to state that I am not in a position to attend the Session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly because I have been detained under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. I regret my inability and I hope that necessary leave for absence will be granted to me."

(2) Sardar Chanan Singh writes :—

"I am being detained in the Old Central Jail, Multan, under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. Now that the Punjab Assembly Session is being held, I am unable to attend it. Under the circumstances mentioned above it is therefore requested that I may be granted six months leave from attending the sessions of the Assembly."

The question is—

That the permission asked for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS****IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT*****Irrigation Policy***

**Mr. Speaker :** Now the House will proceed to discuss the Budget.

**Pir Akbar Ali** (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural, *Urdu*): Sir, most of the points raised by my honourable friends over there have already been answered by Raja Sahib. However there are some points which have not been answered and which in my opinion do not require answer at all. For instance, an honourable member remarked that the Honourable the Finance Minister always disagreed with him and never accepted suggestions made by him. Let me tell him that practical and wise people accept only good suggestions. Bad ones do not find favour with them. Yesterday while speaking on the irrigation demand another honourable member suggested that Government should provide manures for the lands of zamindars. My submission is that if it had been a good suggestion, Government would surely have accepted it. But on the face of it it is absurd; for no government in the world take upon themselves the task of providing manures for the lands of zamindars. I ask, is this a good suggestion? I say it is not, and if the Honourable Finance Minister has not accepted it, he should

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not be blamed for it. (*Interruptions*). I may tell my friend that commonsense, which is perhaps most uncommon in the world, is a gift of nature. Some people possess it in abundance, others lack it. Had I possessed that much commonsense which my honourable friend possesses, in that case I would have also made a similar suggestion to the Honourable Minister. If such suggestions are to be made, then I am afraid the work of the Honourable Minister would be reduced to the supplying of manures to zamindars and nothing more. Well, Sir, I feel that if my honourable friend over there is very keen on making arrangements for the provision of manures to the zamindars, he could better achieve his object by approaching his constituents and advising them to grow crops of berseem and gawara with a view to using them for purposes of manures. I see no occasion or sense in asking the Government to arrange for the provision of manure to the zamindars. It is up to the zamindars to grow such crops as can serve the purpose of manure. I may tell him that in this respect Government have already adopted a very reasonable attitude by making a rule to the effect that water rates would not be charged for crops which are to be used as manure.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber has made a suggestion in regard to *kharaba*. I endorse the first part of his suggestion in which he says that estimates of *kharaba* should be prepared without loss of time. It is obvious that if it is not assessed by the patwari immediately at the time when the crop has been damaged, it may become impossible to check it and if the poor zamindar lets the crop stand, the result would be that he would not be able to grow his second crop, as in his efforts to get *kharaba* the time for sowing the second crop will have passed. But I cannot agree with my honourable friend to that part of his suggestion where he says that Government should recruit additional staff temporarily for the purpose of assessing *kharaba* at once. I fail to see any pressing need for incurring this extra expenditure by the Government. I think the present staff is sufficient to carry out the assessment of *kharaba*. I do however support him wholeheartedly that no time should be lost in assessing *kharaba* for the benefit of the poor zamindars. This is extremely necessary in the best interests of the zamindars.

Then I have to refer to the breaches that are caused or take place in the canals. I may point out that if breaches occur in a bigger distributary, then the damage caused to the zamindars may amount to lakhs of rupees. My submission therefore, is that strict vigilance should be exercised by the canal authorities to avoid breaches as far as possible. But if the zamindars are responsible for it, they should make it a point to refrain from doing so, as not only causing of breach in a canal, but also theft of government water, is considered a criminal offence punishable by law. But I have to sound a note of warning to the canal authorities as well. They should take pains to trace out the real culprits and also find out the real cause of the breach. Very often the zamindar is not responsible for such breaches. This can be proved from the fact that breaches work havoc with his valuable crops and bring red ruin to him. He rather deserves that *kharaba* should be granted to him for the crops which have been destroyed or damaged because of the flood of water brought about by the breach in the canal.

But what is done by the canal authorities is this. They impose a fine or *tapan* on the zamindar as if he was the perpetrator of that breach. This is a great hardship for the poor zamindar. On the one hand, he is hit hard on account of the loss of his crop and on the other the canal authorities inflict a fine on him for no fault of his. It is obviously a grave injustice on the part of the canal authorities to impose *tapan* on that zamindar whose land or the crop is found submerged under water. It is a pity that instead of giving him any relief for the destruction of his crops, he is penalised. I am, therefore, of the opinion that the rules governing the breaches in the canals require to be suitably amended and that the Government would be well advised to take immediate action in the matter to save the zamindar of the unnecessary hardship. But Government should take care that while amending these rules, they should not make them more stringent by making a provision for posting a punitive police at places where breaches occur. This method of tracing the offender and fining the zamindars for no fault of theirs is not the proper remedy for meeting the situation.

Then I want to bring this fact to the notice of the Government that on account of flood and heavy rains, the safety of Ferozepore City was jeopardized. The water from Grey Canals had entered the area so much, that the Deputy Commissioner and other public spirited officers had to move in boats for the purpose of affording relief to distressed people. This situation was mainly brought about by the defective administration of the Grey Canal authorities. Arrangements should be made to avoid the recurrence of such a situation. Besides, the canal banks of the Grey Canals in Ferozepore are not in good working order. I request the Honourable Minister to look into the matter and redress the grievance.

Then there is another complaint which deserves the particular attention of the Government. The Grey Canal authorities at Ferozepore fined 65 persons. But on appeal the Government ordered the refund of the amount realised as fine. It is a thousand pities that the Grey Canal authorities concerned have shown no respect for the orders of the Government and so far no refund has been made to these 65 persons. May I know if it is not the duty of the Government to see that orders passed by them are properly carried out? I am sure the Government will call for an explanation of the canal officers concerned for neglecting to carry out the said orders.

Now I would refer the honourable members to another matter. My honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan was very jubilant over the opinion expressed by Mian Nurullah to the effect that no reduction should be made in abiana and he supported this view with great vehemence. I have no intention to be dogmatic like him about this matter. I think when prices are reasonable, just as they are prevailing now, the zamindar never bothers himself about the reduction in abiana. In fact for him this question does not arise at all. But nobody can guarantee that prices would never fall. Hence if prices of commodities go down abnormally, it is obvious that some reduction in abiana must be made in order to enable the zamindar to keep his head above water. I, therefore, feel that some provision should be made and such conditions laid down under which it could be possible to reduce water rates accordingly.

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Besides, I would like to give expression to another grievance of the zamindars. It is about an old system of 'Ab-i-Zia' (wastage of water) which is the cause of great hardship to the zamindars. The canal authorities impose a fine on a zamindar for the water that is wasted in his lands as a result of the breach in the canal, no matter whether it has been brought about by some mischief monger or through the negligence of some irrigator. This is wholly unfair that the canal authorities should rob Peter to pay Paul. I request the Government to remove this anomaly.

Then comes the question of *warabandi*. This system is also very defective. I am of the opinion that the sooner it is set right the better. Under this system the poor zamindars are generally put to great trouble because the big zamindars in collusion with the canal officers usurp the right of the former in the matter of getting supply of water. But now under the rules *warabandi* has become optional and indeed its compulsory enforcement would prove detrimental. However, what I want to emphasise is that the poor zamindars should not be deprived of water supply.

Now I have to make a mention of the question of remodelling of outlets. We have strong grouse against the manner in which it is carried out by the authorities. Government undertake remodelling of canals (for instance, the Sirhind Canal) where it is not necessary. But where it is urgently required, Government take no action in the matter. I quote an instance to elucidate my point. In the Eastern Canal, the urgent need of the zamindars is that remodelling should be taken in hand by the Government. The reason is that the outlets near the head are not working properly. At the time of flood, the lands at the tail of the canal are ruined for abundance of water while little water is available at the outlets near the head. When it is represented to the canal authorities, the reply given is that when the bed of the canal gets raised as a result of the silt, the outlets will automatically begin to discharge water properly. But the point is that this process will take very long and the zamindars will remain under a perpetual suffering.

As generally crop on the tail is not satisfactory, I would request the Government to draw the attention of the canal authorities to the fact that they should not wait till the canal bed is covered with silt. It would be better if in the meantime outlets are enlarged. I may also submit that the remodelling of old canals should not be undertaken unless and until the zamindars of that ilaqa ask the authorities to do so.

My next point is that sometimes water of Ladhuka distributary is thrown into the river in order to save the harvest. May I ask why this water is not supplied to the Head villages where it can be utilised? One word more and I have done. The amount of earth put on canal roads is very little while it is reported in office papers that a large amount of it was put. I submit this is due to the negligence of local officers like overseers who do not super-  
 vise the work properly. They should be warned to be more careful and honest in their work.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Matters relating to corruption should be stated loudly.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** I may tell the honourable member that we do not conceal anything. We say what we feel. If we find there are defects in any department, we stand up in our seat to express them and we suggest the remedy to the Government. It is for them to remove those defects.

Then, Sir, something was said regarding communal proportion yesterday. In this connection I would like to say that the method adopted by the late Sir Fazl-i-Husain was most commendable. Whenever there was an appointment to be made an Indian would get preference over a non-Indian. It has been stated that the number of Chief Engineers is small. My submission, therefore, is that the Government should see to it that Indian officers are given their due share.

With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali** (Hafizabad, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I have been following very carefully the debate initiated by Mian Muhammad Nurullah on this cut motion and I presume that there is a good deal of truth also in what my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh has said. (*Hear, hear*). The position is that the *portfolio*, as it happens, is in the hands of one of our Ministers for whose efficiency, justice and righteousness I have the greatest regard, but things do happen behind the curtain which do not see the light of the day very often and it requires pointing out so that the disease may be cured. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh said that so far as the 'Grow More Food' campaign was concerned, there was something wrong with the Ministry and the Government itself. I do not agree with him on that point of view because there is no specific data before me on which I can base my conclusions, that is to suspect the *bona fides* of the Government. The Government is as keen and as alert to its duties as it has been since the day it took the reins of office into its hands but just as I said, there is one thing wrong, and if I do not say that this is wrong, then there is the possibility of its being wrong, and that is, that if the head of the department or the Minister takes it into his head that he has to support his department and support his subordinates through thick and thin, then I would take objection to that. I do not think this is the case in the Irrigation Department. As I have said, Chaudhri Sahib is looking to every detail which requires his attention. The Budget under this head was 1,19,28,500 rupees in the last year and now the figure stands at Rs. 1,25,68,500. Roughly speaking there is an increase of 6 lakhs over the last year's figure. The reason given for this increase is that it is due to the Reclamation Department as also due to the dearness allowance. That explanation *prima facie* seems to satisfy everybody concerned but so far as the last mentioned department, that is, the Reclamation Department is concerned I would like to say a word or two. As Sardar Sohan Singh Josh pointed out, the total figure provided is about 4 lakhs. He said that more money should be provided. My submission is that the provision of a particular amount on any particular head of expenditure is not a criterion by which we should judge the efficiency or otherwise of that particular department. The criterion is whether we are getting the value of our money which we are spending on a particular department and that alone is the criterion and that alone should be the duty of the Honourable Minister in charge of a particular department to see. So far as this department is concerned, it is claimed in the Memorandum

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of the Secretary that about 13 hundred cusecs of water are involved. The reclamation is to be effected on the Upper Bari Doab Canal, the Upper Chenab Canal, the Lower Chenab Canal, the Upper Jhelum Canal and the Lower Jhelum Canal. I would like to take one instance. So far as the Upper Chenab Canal is concerned, 250 cusecs of water are involved? What is the strength of the staff maintained to carry out this proposal? No. 1 is, one Reclamation Officer or Assistant Reclamation Officer per canal. No. 2 is, one Deputy Collector on each canal. No. 3, is, five zilladars who are supposed to supervise the work of five patwaris or mugaddams, each mukaddam or patwari in his turn supervising five cusecs of water. So, a zilladar is supposed to supervise the distribution of 50 cusecs of water. Then there is a Research Assistant per two zilladars and then come the items of stationery and peons with which I am not concerned. I for one do not understand the necessity of an unnecessary supervising staff with nothing to supervise. I do not understand why the patwari or the zilladar in the regular cadre of the Irrigation Department, who is working and supervising the work of his subordinates in the same particular area, is not himself efficient to look into the work carried out by the Reclamation Department. After all the water is given under two categories. One is supply category and the other is general reclamation. So far as the first is concerned, I have again some grievances and they are that Rs. 550 are being charged for each 50 cusecs of water and in addition to this Rs. 4-8-0 are to be charged per acre as land revenue in those fields where rice is grown. You should remember that rice is the only crop which will help to reclaim your land, meaning thereby that each and every acre, to which a drop of water is being extended by the Reclamation Department, means a burden of about Rs. 19 per acre. This is beyond all calculation of reason and propriety. The ordinary demand on one acre of rice is Rs. 11-8-0 inclusive of land revenue and *abiana*. But under the system of reclamation on contract basis the zamindar has to bear no less than Rs. 19 per acre. There is no justification for it. Again, the zamindar is required to employ or to compensate the Government for the pay of *mukaddam* from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 for the whole year. The water is to run only in kharif for the cultivation of rice, which is carried to the market in the middle of October. But that burden is put on the shoulders of the poor zamindar throughout the year. I do not see any justification or any reason for it. When he is supposed to work only for five months, why should he be paid for full 12 months? Then the second category of this reclamation is the general reclamation, which means that additional water should be supplied in the outlets from the channels. There the rate is Rs. 5-8-0 and the reclamation is carried out under the supervision of the Department itself. They have to dig channels, they have to provide extra pipes and extra outlets. There again, my objection is that the supervisor is unnecessary. Two research assistants are also ear-marked to supervise the work of zilladars. They have to do the work of research whether it is in the Department of Irrigation or in the Department of Public Health or for the matter of that in any other department, but this work should be given to laboratory assistants and technical people. What have they to do? They only send two bottles of water, say, from Kalabagh to such and such a place and two bottles from Ferozepore to such and

such a place. That also impairs efficiency as well as involves more expenditure. What I want to say in this respect is that the reclamation work is being carried out, no doubt, very successfully, generally speaking, but there are so many defects in the working of this Department that it requires over-hauling. Now, I have to refer to a matter of which I am afraid and that is with regard to the 'discretion' of officers. I want to say that no 'discretion' should be left with those officers. Hard and fast rules should be set up under which they should be required to work, because this 'discretion' has proved unfortunate wherever it has been placed in the majority of those officers. My submission is that some of the Heads of Departments and even the Ministers think it their duty to shield and defend their subordinates. Therefore it is all the more reason to say why the working of this department is defective.

Another thing which Sardar Sohan Singh Josh said was that those people are under the influence of the so-called big zamindars and that they are not fair to the ordinary zamindar or the actual tiller of the soil but they are under the thumb of big zamindars. Without going into the details, I must say that he is certainly wrong in his calculation. I do not claim to be a rich zamindar because I am not, but he should know that none of us has raised his little finger against this reclamation, although according to his calculation we are supposed to be more influential than the members of the Opposition. Therefore that theory falls to the ground.

As to the expenditure on the establishment charges under this head, I would like to say a word or two. In 1921-22 the actual expenditure on every acre of land irrigated, under the head Establishment Charges, was '83; it has gone down in 1938 to '79. Again the expenditure on the 'repairs and maintenance' of every acre of irrigated land was '60 in 1921, which has fallen in 1938 to '48. This means that very regular supervision has been maintained throughout this period over the working of the expenditure of this Department. But here again I would remind the Honourable Minister for Revenue, who has a long and vast experience over this work, that sufficient deduction in the expenditure has not been made. There are many outstanding features and I would not refer to the details mentioned in the Retrenchment Committee's report because that is not my business. The report is there and it is for the Government to see whether the time has reached when they should take action on that report or whether it is more proper for them that they should shelve it. I am not concerned with it. It is their duty. But as a layman I have to make one remark and that is that if they say that the report has been shelved because the Government was otherwise busy on account of war activity, then I would like to remind them that the only time when retrenchment is most needed is the war time and no other. Therefore if they cannot carry out that report in every detail, they should pick and choose and apply the process of elimination in every department. I would like to point out that the grievances of the people are that there are too many supervising engineers and that out of the Superintending Engineers two at least could have been reduced. Next come the Executive Engineers. It was pointed out that in 1931 one executive engineer was supposed to supervise no less than 3 lakhs of irrigated acres and 430 miles of channel. According to that calculation it was decided in 1938 by that very Committee that a good deal of those people could be easily reduced.



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Then come the sub-divisional officers. They are supposed to supervise no less than 119,000 acres and channel line of 190 miles. By simple arithmetical calculation you can count that they are doing much lighter work than was provided for them. Therefore there is every possibility to reduce the number of those demigods. I would not make remarks which may be too sweeping, but my complaint is that irrigation people are doing nothing. They do not think themselves to be public servants; they think that they are anything but servants of the public. What is required of them is a change of mentality, change of angle of vision and change of general outlook. This is the only thing which should be inculcated in them, that we poor mortals are their brethren, their kith and kin and their blood and bone. (*An honourable member*: But the past traditions are being carried out).

As regards my criticism I should like to say in the words of the worthy doctor that my knife is the surgeon's knife which cures but does not hurt. If I say anything I say it in a constructive spirit. I am not an iconoclast or an image breaker. It is a healthy criticism. As I have pointed out in the beginning of my speech, whatever grains are available from any quarter they should be picked up by the Minister for scrutiny and then action should be taken in whatever manner he deems proper and appropriate. I was speaking on establishment, but there are one or two things to which I would like to make a passing reference. We are passing through days of exceptional stress and strain and abnormal measures are required for abnormal times: that is only logical. Therefore we should not wait for a thorough scrutiny or report, but if there are outstanding features here and there, we should not be found wanting to take action immediately. There is one thing in this department known as jungle allowance, i.e., an allowance drawn by officers for residing in out-stations at the rate of Rs. 100 per mensem. There are 60 such places out of which 13 are such which can hardly be described as jungles as they are at headworks. These are palatial buildings situated on the river side equipped with electricity and gardens for which you and I will pay Rs. 20 daily to live in. They are in fact '*jungal-men-mangal*'; and yet canal officers draw this allowance for putting up there. I do not see any reason as to why the 'canal treasury' system should carry on and why there should be one daffadar and four barkandazes as personal assistants or retinue for each of the Sub Divisional Officers. There is no justification for it. The excuse for this is that it is difficult for the employees to receive pay in time otherwise. Why cannot they avail themselves of money order system by which people living far away in the villages get money? For this purpose I would refer them to the department of the Honourable Minister for Education, where teachers living in far away villages even where there is no post office, receive their pay throughout the Punjab through the agency of the district boards. I see no reason why these people should refuse to adjust themselves to the ordinary means of communications. That was justified in times when the means of communications were meagre, but now when everything reaches the remotest corner of a district the very next day through the medium of the post office, why should this be continued at all?

There is, however, one thing more to which I would refer. They have got the canal dak system which has outlived its usefulness. Now a man runs

carrying dak with 'gobi' and 'shaljam' and other things from one bungalow to another, for officers. They refuse to take their papers through the ordinary dak because the bag of a poor post office peon cannot contain all these things to which I have referred. These are antediluvian things and now there is no justification for them. I do not want to bother you, Sir, but I would just make a passing reference, as I would not like to commit the crime of being boring in my speech. The length of a channel is the only thing with which the overseers are concerned because they are engineers and not revenue officers. A good deal of them could be reduced and some of this unnecessary expenditure on establishment charges could be very fairly, justly and righteously brought down, if not to a minimum at least to a reasonable extent.

I would also like to make a passing reference in support of my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh to the fact that no reasonable action worth the name has so far been taken on the report of the Canal Enquiry Committee with which was associated my late esteemed friend, the late Nawab Sir Fazl Ali Khan, who adorned every chair that he occupied: that report has not so far been acted upon and there is no justification for our Government to sit over it. With these words I resume my seat.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh** (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, I am very grateful to Mian Muhammad Nurullah who had yesterday advocated very strongly the cause of the zamindars of the Bist Doaba ilaqa by telling the House about the subsidence of the water level in that area. Never has a chance been missed by me here in this House

or by the zamindars of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts, whenever the Revenue Minister visited those places, to bring to his notice this subsidence of water level and request him to remedy this evil. Sir, we had been told by the late Revenue Minister that he would give us a canal from the Beas river which will flow through these two districts and thus supplement the supply of water by raising the water level in the wells. Similarly our present Revenue Minister told us that whenever the Bhakra Dam is completed, these two districts will certainly have a canal which will remedy this evil. Unfortunately the War has come in and both these schemes could not be completed for want of material required which is to be got from the outside world. However, there is no doubt that the canal is the more efficient means of getting rid of this evil, but certainly that is not the only remedy. We have two Baians running on both sides of the district in which bunds could be constructed. One Deputy Commissioner, who had the interest of the zamindars at heart, with his meagre finances from the District Board and by asking the people to help, constructed a *bund* at Malsian, which was visited by no less a personality than our present Revenue Minister who saw for himself the good this Ormerod Bund is doing for the zamindars of the neighbouring area. Sir, I do not know why the Government somehow or other did not like that zamindars should be helped in that manner, and they very soon transferred Mr. Ormerod from the district, not only that but he was sent to judicial side from the executive. (Mian Abdul Rab: There are other reasons for that.) I am not here to explain the reasons but I am here to tell true facts, and the result is that no such interest has been taken by any Deputy Commissioner afterwards. People expected that similar bunds would be

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constructed and thus some sort of relief would be given to them—in that manner. But that was the end of it and the scheme was nipped in the bud by taking the sponsor away. It was no less a surprise to me when during the general discussion, the Honourable Revenue Minister while explaining how he was going to utilise the money from the Peasant's Welfare Fund, did not at all mention the construction of bunds in this ilaqa of Jullundar and Hoshiarpur districts. I really fail to understand why we are again being left in the soup and this little help is being denied to us. I do hope he will do justice to us. One thing I want to make clear and that is that the construction of one or two bunds will not be of any avail, and what is required is a series of bunds at different places in these two Baiaas and thus conserve all the rain water which will certainly raise the water level in the wells.

Sir, we are asked to grow more food. Had it not been for Heaven's mercy to give us plenty of rainfall both in summer and winter, we would not have had any crops because our wells have altogether refused to give any water. It is really a pity that nothing has been done by way of reducing land revenue, that is, *chahi* rates in this area. We sink the wells ourselves and spend so much money out of our own pockets to develop our lands, but the Government instead of appreciating our efforts increase the land revenue by charging ordinary land revenue rates into *chahi* rates; even after our wells have gone dry, the *chahi* rate continues as before. I am sure our present Revenue Minister will bear us in mind while utilising the Peasants' Welfare Fund and will construct as many bunds as he can and thus help this part of the ilaqa.

Then, Sir, with regard to the fruit gardens, I am absolutely at one with what other honourable members have said. They have spoken about the difficulty of water supply to fruit gardens. This gross injustice has been brought to the notice of the Government from time to time, also the double charge of revenue on the fruit gardens. It is a great injustice indeed to all the fruit growers, and no less to your good self, Mr. Speaker, who are the President of the Fruit Growers Association.

The last point that I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that on the Lower Chenab Canal for culturable area of one thousand acres, the Government gives water for 750 acres. But in the case of old proprietors of land on this canal this ratio is reduced to only 500 acres. Leaving aside the injustice to the old proprietors there is another difficulty. The zamindars who get more water supply are able to wash down the salts to a lower surface and thus are able to save their lands from turning into *thur*, while the difficulty of deficient water supply is felt by the old proprietors inasmuch as they are not able to wash down the salts to a lower surface and their lands are turned into *thur*. I do not see why the supply should not be the same in both cases.

With regard to the reclamation work, Sir, we are told that this Department has been reorganised and has been made a separate department. I would like to know whether the salts that this Department has been able to wash down to the underground level have been washed down permanently or whether there is any danger of their rising to surface again when the water supply would be less when the reclaimed lands are auctioned.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Faqir Hussain Khan** (Tarn Taran, Muhammadan, Rural), (Urdu): Sir, I very briefly want to submit something to the Government and particularly to the Honourable Minister of Revenue. I submit that the Canal Advisory Committees were formed by this Government, but they are not doing as much work as was expected of them. Their existence is only in name. I would say that they are doing very little useful work. Their work is such that it commands no appreciation. To-day I stand to speak something about these very committees which are formed under the regime of the present Government. I pray that the Government may please pay heed to my requests.

In 1938, a certain *rajbah* was remoulded by the canal officials for no reason whatsoever. There were protests against this action of the canal officials and as a result the outlets were closed. Representations were made to the Government, but all in vain. The late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan inquired into the matter through his Parliamentary Secretaries, Mir Maqbool Mahmood and Sardar Ujjal Singh. In their enquiry the Government agreed to refer all matters relating to the remoulding of the *rajbahs* to the Canal Advisory Committee, and if that committee cares to recommend this case, then the Government can take it for their consideration, otherwise no attention can be paid to the complaint.

Another complaint that I wish to make is that important matters and official business of the meetings of the Canal Advisory Committees are never put for discussion before the Canal Advisory Committees. Only those proposals that come from the members are placed on the agenda. Official proposals are not put in it at all. For instance, if the Irrigation Department wishes to transfer certain *halqas* like the Zilla-daries, no indication is given to the Canal Advisory Committee. The view point of the zamindars is not taken into consideration at all. If the official proposals are also included in the business of the Canal Advisory Committees, I am confident the Department will become doubly useful to the public. At present several complaints arise out of the official decision which are arrived at without consulting the Canal Advisory Committees. An example is not far to seek. The Canal Department reserves certain roads as the Inspection Roads. I agree that Inspection Roads are essential for the touring officers of the Irrigation Department. But sometimes they reserve certain banks of the canals which cause a considerable dislocation of public traffic. The zamindars have to go a long way to cross the canal, although their destination may be only a few yards. But as they are not allowed to use the Inspection Road, they have to abandon the short cut to their villages. Now if the question of reservation of certain banks of the canals were to come up before the Canal Advisory Committees, the public view would be presented by the members of the Committee and a suitable selection would be made with regard to the reservation of Inspection roads. At the time of reserving Inspection roads, it should be seen as to how many paths leading to various villages are obstructed by the road. This can only be done if the views of the members of the Canal Advisory Committees are also taken at the time of making the final choice. It will be doubly useful. On the one hand, no inconvenience will be caused to the public.

[Ch. Faqir Hussain Khan]

On the other hand, inspection roads will continue to be reserved and used by the Canal officers.

With these few words, Sir, I close my speech.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (Gurgaon South-East, General, Rural).  
(Urdu): Sir, it is generally believed and claimed that the Irrigation Department is under the control of a Minister who is a staunch supporter of the zamindars, and who used to make several proposals for the reconstruction and reform of this department before he assumed charge of the Department or before his becoming a Minister. As a member of the Opposition in the old Council and even as the Leader of the Opposition he used to say that *chahi* rates should be abolished, *kharaba* rules should be amended, and *abiana* should be reduced. But now that he himself has held the charge of this portfolio, he has done nothing in this behalf. Neither have the *chahi* rates been abolished nor has *abiana* been reduced. Even *kharaba* is not granted more liberally than before. Nay, *kharaba* is granted even less than previously. One naturally asks: "What has become to the enthusiasm of the Revenue Minister?" Has he no sympathy with the zamindars now? The zamindars are still paying the *chahi* rates. No relief is given to them. They are still groaning under the heavy load of taxation. In spite of the sympathy of the Revenue Minister the poor cultivators continue to be oppressed by the Irrigation Department as before. The condition to-day is even worse than before. Previously the Government used to say that there were no funds to grant relief to the zamindars. But now there has been a series of surplus Budgets. The present Budget shows a surplus of Rs. 50 lakhs. Why is the surplus not used to grant concession to the poor zamindars? It is the duty of the Government to use this surplus for lightening the burden of the zamindars.

Again, the Irrigation Department is too heavy. Big salaried officers are employed at the cost of the poor cultivators. They do not work according to their salaries. Their salaries are out of all proportion to their utility. The present system is very defective. It must be improved immediately. Furthermore, the *kharaba* rules ought to be amended so as to make them more useful to the zamindars. The present system of granting *kharaba* is very defective and it is not conducive to the welfare of the cultivators.

The question of Bhakra Dam is hanging fire for the last 20 years. Every now and then we are assured that it is going to be constructed very soon. But every time its prospects seem to be receding. Every new year brings us hope. But when it closes, we see that nothing has yet happened. After all what is the obstruction? If the Government is willing to carry this scheme into effect, who thwarts its will? The time has come when this Bhakra Dam Scheme should really be completed, so that the people who have been suffering for so long may receive the promised blessings.

There is yet another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government. Our district of Gurgaon is irrigated by a canal which comes from the United Provinces. The *abiana* imposed in that area is neither charged at the rate of the United Provinces nor according to the rates fixed by the Punjab Government, but at rates higher than both the provinces. When this canal was constructed, the rates were charged according to the United Provinces, but these rates were lower than the Punjab. The Punjab

Government then moved the United Provinces Government to charge according to the Punjab rates. United Provinces Government accordingly raised their rates to the standard of the Punjab. Later on, when the Punjab Government reduced its rates, the United Provinces Government did not reduce its rates of *abiana*. Now the anomaly is that different rates are charged from the people of Gurgaon, while the people of the Punjab pay *abiana* according to the rates imposed by their own Government. We are thrown at the mercy of the United Provinces Government. Either the Government of the United Provinces should be asked to reduce their rates or the Punjab Government should take charge of that area on a contract system and charge *abiana* from us at the Punjab rates. The discrepancy between the Punjab rates and the rates of the United Provinces Government may be paid by the Punjab Government. We should be required to pay the same rate as is imposed by the Punjab Government. If the Punjab Government takes charge of this canal on a contract system, a double advantage will accrue. On the one hand, the Irrigation staff which is at present under the United Provinces Government will come under the charge of the Punjab Government. The dyarchy will end. On the other hand, the people will be benefited. Besides extension should be made in this canal. That can be done only if the Punjab Government agree to increase the supply of water to this canal. So long as that is not done, irrigation facilities on this canal cannot be extended. The supply of water in this canal is already insufficient to meet the necessities of the zamindars who are getting water from it and therefore it is all the more necessary for the Punjab Government to give more water in the Jumna on the clear understanding that out of this water, the United Provinces Government will supply more water to the cultivators of Gurgaon district.

Then, Sir, if Government sink tube wells in Sahibi and Khaddar chaks that will provide irrigation facilities to many more zamindars of that *ilaga*. If that is done it will go a long way in bettering the lot of the zamindars of this *ilaga*. I can say without any fear of contradiction that Gurgaon district is the most backward in the whole of the Punjab and so far Government have not paid any attention to this *ilaga*. This does not in any way redound to the credit of the Government that they should allow one of their districts to remain backward. I may tell the Government that if they continue to neglect it, it will act as a positive hinderance in the way of the progress of other districts of the Punjab.

Now I would like to say a few words in respect of the consolidated statement about services. Previously this statement was supplied to the honourable members in the beginning of January every year. But this year it has not been made available to us. Probably it will be made available to us on the 31st March by when the Budget session will have ended, so that honourable members may not be able to ventilate their grievances in regard to injustices done to different communities in the matter of recruitment. Anyway so far as the Department of Irrigation is concerned, I can say that the Hindu zamindars are not getting their due share in services. Now when the Irrigation Department is under the control of a Hindu Jat Minister, we hope that he would see that the Hindu zamindars get their due share in services according to the formula enunciated by Government.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** According to what formula ?

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** According to the same formula to which my friend is in the habit of referring, i.e., 50, 30 and 20 per cent. for Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, respectively.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** That relates to Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs only and not to the Hindu zamindars.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** What I mean is that according to that formula 66 per cent. seats have been reserved for zamindars. The Muslim zamindars get their due share in this department, but Hindu zamindars do not. I want that they should also be given their due share.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** First get them necessary training from Rurki.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** My submission is that the Hindu agriculturists have not got their fair share of services in this department which under the formula referred to above they deserve. If this grievance of the Hindu agriculturists cannot be redressed in the time of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, then it will never be removed at all. I hope he will take suitable action in the matter. With these words I resume my seat.

**Mahant Girdhari Das** (South-East Multan Division, General, Rural), (Urdu) : Sir, I want to say a few words in regard to the hardships of the zamindars of my *ilaqa* which they have to experience in respect of irrigating their lands from non-perennial canals. But before I do so I should like to point out that I have all along been under the impression that the Ministers were here only to protect their departments and were unwilling or unable to carry out any reforms in them. But since the time Sir Chhotu Ram has taken charge of this department, hope has begun to kindle that something would be done for ameliorating the condition of the poor zamindars. It is this thing which has encouraged me to get up and ventilate the grievances of the zamindars of my *ilaqa*. Besides, there is another reason which has induced me to make a speech to-day. I have seen that when the honourable members were making speeches, Chaudhri Sahib was noting down their grievances and from this I have concluded that he wants to remove them and in their light would try to bring about reforms in his department. As he is a well-wisher of the zamindars, it is expected of him that he would do something to help the zamindars. Anyway I have risen to lay before him the grievances of the zamindars of my *ilaqa* which they have in respect of non-perennial canals. The southern part of district Montgomery and some parts of Multan district are irrigated by Depalpur and Khadar non-perennial canals. These canals irrigate lands situated in old *abadis* only. We were promised that we would get water supply for full six months, i.e., from 15th April to 15th October. Actually these canals begin to supply water not from the 15th April, but from the 1st of April and the supply is continued till the 20th June by rotation or "wara bandi". During this period of two months and twenty days the zamindars only get water for thirty days and that too is a share supply. By 20th June two-thirds of the cotton growing season passes away. After the 20th of June zamindars are given sufficient water to grow cotton crop and the crop is always a late sown crop. From 20th June up to 15th September these canals flow for two months and twenty-five days with full supply. From 15th September to

15th October there is a shortage of water in the river and the canals are generally run below share supply and the distributaries are supplied water with rotation. In this way during this period water is supplied only for ten days in all to each zamindar. Now just think, how is it possible for the cotton crop to mature which is sown in June, but does not receive any water in the end of October? During the last year only we have been supplied water up to 25th October instead of 15th October and Providence was also kind in that year for there was plenty of water in the river, and the result was that the average yield of crop amounted to eight maunds per acre. During the last ten or fifteen years the average yield has been five or six maunds. My submission is that if Government want to better the lot of zamindars of my *ilaga*, they should supply water in these canals up to the 1st of November by rotation.

Besides, it is extremely necessary that the cotton crop should receive an abundant supply of water after the 15th of October. But as the canals are closed by that date, adequate irrigation facilities cannot be made available to the cotton crop. Consequently for lack of proper water supply, the yield per acre is reduced from seven maunds to four maunds only. Government can well realise the loss which the zamindars have to sustain owing to the closure of the canal. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to take steps to provide adequate water supply to the zamindars of my *ilaga*. In this connection I would like to make a suggestion. As you are aware, Sir, Government have set up a fund known as the Peasants Welfare Fund for the benefit of the zamindars. My submission is that Government should spend a few lakhs of rupees and convert the present canals into inundation canals. I think the expenditure involved would amount to Rs. 2 Lakhs at the most. If the Government undertake to execute this suggestion, the financial and economic condition of the zamindars would become secure and the money so utilised would be well spent. Again, it is a well-known fact that water flows abundantly in the rivers from June to September. During this period there is sufficiently surplus water in them and I think this surplus water should be diverted to irrigate lands of our *ilaga*. Government should construct inundation outlets to supplement the existing ones. As a result of conversion of the existing canals into inundation canals, zamindars would be able to grow sufficient fodder and rice crops. These crops will bring prosperity to the zamindars on the one hand and enhanced income to the Government on the other. Hence undertaking of this scheme would prove useful to both the parties, the Government and the zamindars.

Then, Sir, zamindars of my *ilaga* have a long standing grievance to which I want to draw the pointed attention of the Government. It is the *khush harsiyati* tax which they are required to pay over and above the land revenue and water rates. In this connection I may submit that when fifty or sixty years ago these canals were first contemplated to be opened, the Government demanded of the zamindars that water supply for irrigation purposes could be made available to them provided they were prepared to pay *khush harsiyati* tax to cover a part of the expenditure. At that time the zamindars stood in need of irrigation facilities badly, they readily consented that in the event of improvement in their financial position, they would pay this tax also. Now a period of 50 or 60 years has elapsed, since this tax was



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levied and the zamindars have been regularly paying it. Since 1925, when remodelling of these canals was undertaken, the water rates have been enhanced and there seems no justification of continuing his *khush harsyat* tax now. Zamindars consider it a sort of penalty. They have paid an enormous amount of money over and above the cost incurred on these canals, to the exchequer by way of this tax. Now the point is that when Government charge only water rates from zamindars in other canal irrigated areas, why should zamindars of my *ilaqa* be made to continue to pay the *khush harsyat* tax. I submit that as it causes great hardship as well as heart-burning to the zamindars of my *ilaqa*, Government will be well advised to abolish it.

Now, Sir, I would like to refer the Government to the question of grant of kharaba. Previously the method adopted by the Government was to the effect that if the crop was 8 annas in a rupee, they would realise only half of abiana and similarly if the crop was 4 annas in a rupee, water rates to the extent of one-fourth would be charged. For some time back Government have changed their mind. They assess full abiana even if the crop is estimated to be four annas in a rupee or in other words no kharaba is granted. I happened to meet some collectors and zilladars and had a talk on the subject of granting kharaba, to the zamindars whose crops were damaged. One of the zilladars remarked that they had the power to grant kharaba to the extent of 5 per cent. If they grant more than the fixed limit, they run the risk of inviting the wrath of and investigation by higher officers, because the amount of land revenue is cut down. Then an enquiry is held by the higher authorities to ascertain whether kharaba has been rightly assessed by the subordinate officers. Thus the officer recommending kharaba would be called upon to explain the reasons leading to the grant of kharaba at an increased percentage. Besides, he told me that as the subordinate officers had to bear all the expenses of the investigating officers, and had to accompany them to the fields and thus waste their time and suffer the inconvenience of journey, they preferred not to bother about the grant of kharaba. Hence it would be clear to the honourable members that for reasons of personal convenience and fear of incurring displeasure of their officers, the zilladars refuse to recommend the grant of kharaba to the great detriment of the zamindars. Now as the prices of commodities have gone up abnormally, the zamindar does not care for the kharaba because he gets a handsome price for his yield, even if the crop is damaged partially. For instance, now cotton fetches 20 rupees a maund and wheat Rs. 10 per maund. But there was a time when the prices had gone as low as Rs. 2 per maund in the case of wheat and Rs. 5 per maund in the case of cotton and it had become very difficult for the zamindars to pay Government dues and make his both ends meet. Even then kharaba was not granted according to the damage caused. I am of the opinion that Government should revert to the old method of granting kharaba according to the extent of damage caused to the crop. That is, the old system of 8 annas should be restored.

Then, Sir, red-tapism is given full play in the matter of dealing with papers concerning remodelling of outlets. Papers move from one officer of the Department to another in a very tardy manner, and it takes very

long before sanction is granted. I can prove this fact from my personal experience. I had applied to the Canal authorities for remodelling an outlet and this work was executed after 8 years. I feel that the grievances with regard to the reduced quantity of water, discharged by the outlets, should be redressed with reasonable promptitude; one year is more than enough for this. I may point out that the long delay caused in dealing with such matters is due to the fact that the incumbents of the department unnecessarily indulge in noting, reporting and meaningless criticism. I would elucidate my point by relating a story. A retired clerk of the Canal Department found that life was becoming insipid and uninteresting due to absence of that kind of work in which he used to make criticism of the reports for grant of *kharaba* or approval of expenditure in regard to certain matters. He told his wife that since he was unable to get the kind of work he used to have during his service, she should regularly prepare the monthly family budget and get it passed and checked by him. Again, if she had to make a demand for new expenditure, she should ask for it in writing. Once the salt in the house was consumed before the expiry of the month. The wife wrote that she wanted to purchase salt worth two pice. He asked her to report whether the amount budgetted for the purchase of salt was fully exhausted. If so, why was salt consumed earlier? She replied that as children had eaten certain vegetables with salt, it was consumed before the month came to a close. He then demanded the explanation for allowing the children to take vegetables like cucumber, etc. She said that the children being unmanageable had their own way. The result of all this reporting and noting was that he passed orders that the amount of two pice could not be sanctioned as there was no provision for contingency charges in the budget. (*Laughter*). Hence they had to go without salt! In other words, he took a long and laborious course to deal with such a small matter. This story aptly applies to the Canal Department. The Canal authorities take very long to come to a decision. When a complaint about an outlet is made, I think they should try to remove it without any avoidable delay. They already maintain a register which gives full details about the discharge of the outlet. They can find out the details directly from that register and also can dispose of the matter in a short time by personally inspecting the site in question. But they would not do like this. They would ask for a report whether the discharge was really on a small scale. Thus the matter begins to move in a round-about channel which is long and weary. It goes from the patwari right up to the Sub-Divisional Officer. I deprecate these dilatory tactics adopted by the Canal Department and I appeal to the Honourable Minister to take steps to remedy this evil. Orders should be passed to the effect that Canal authorities should expedite the work in hand and that they should take only that amount of time which is reasonably necessary for its disposal and the files should not keep lying in one office for months and months.

Now, Sir, I want to say a word or two with regard to wastage of canal water. I put a question to an Executive Engineer in a meeting of Canal Advisory Committee regarding cut cases, as to how many cases challaned by the police got conviction. His reply was "not a single case". I suggested to him to form committees of zamindars on important distributaries to help the Canal administration in regard to cut cases and *warabandi* cases.

[Mahant Girdhari Das]

Regarding cut cases, the zamindars could have no sympathy with those who played mischief with the distributaries because when cuts are made above stream, they suffer heavily and so naturally enough they would do their best in bringing the culprits to book. But this suggestion was not appreciated by the Executive Engineer, simply because he thought that in doing so the concerned Canal officers would lose their importance and power. Is this not an injustice, Sir, that when there is a cut or a breach, the zamindar whose land is at the 3rd or 4th place beyond the place of cut or breach and unfortunately the canal water happens to flow into his land and even damages his crop, is made to suffer the penalty for no fault of his and is made to pay the *tawan*? Many times breach cases are made out to be cut cases and there is no one to ask the Canal authorities as to why this is being done. No one listens to the cries of the zamindars in these matters.

These were the few facts which I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government, and I do hope that the Minister for Revenue would be kind enough to take them into consideration and would try to remove at least some of the long-standing grievances of the zamindars.

With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan** (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, after having heard with rapt attention the speeches made from both sides of the House regarding this demand, I have arrived at the conclusion that no one in the House has real sympathy for the poor. As to the Opposition, they have not shown the slightest sympathy for the poor which they profess on the floor of this House. So far as the provisions for irrigation facilities are concerned, different submissions have been made to the Honourable Minister for Revenue by different honourable members. For instance, some have asked for the provision of large supplies of water for gardening purposes, as they do not get good malta oranges on account of insufficient supply of water which makes them sour. Then it has been asked by some of the honourable members that outlets should be remodelled. Some have submitted that as canal water is available to lands situated on one side, it should be also made available to lands situated on the other side. Let me point out, Sir, that these submissions made by the honourable members regarding the provision of irrigation facilities make me only feel sorry for the miserable plight of my district where even drinking water is not available for us. Not only are some people not content with their huge orchards of malta oranges, with their rich harvests of sugarcane producing hundreds of maunds of *gur*, with their cotton crops worth crores of rupees and with thousands of maunds of grain, but they are still demanding more and more water. Really that demand amazes me much as we, on the other hand, have been suffering from acute scarcity of water for a long time. Government is well aware of the fact that I have been crying hoarse for the last six months for the provision of water supplies in my district. But it pains me to say that nothing substantial has been done so far to redress our complaints. I for one do not understand as to why we are being deprived of this blessing, while Government is providing to others all the possible facilities for irrigation on as wide a scale as possible. I think the Thal Project Scheme has been under consideration

since the advent of the British Government. I remember the spade work was started a few years back. It is said that the headworks might have been completed by now, had the war not broken out, and the necessary material is now not forthcoming on account of the war. I am at a loss to understand this argument of Government. Since I am of the opinion that the construction of the Thal Project has been stayed for want of money, the war conditions should also have affected the finances of the whole province and not only the completion of Thal project.

**Minister of Revenue :** No. It has not been stayed for want of money.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan :** It is a matter of gratification that it has not been stayed for want of money. Let me, therefore, submit that as the money has been fully provided for by the Finance Minister, Government should construct at least one branch of the Project for the time being. So far as the Sind dispute is concerned we have every hope of going to our beds happily one evening. But, as I have already submitted, meanwhile at least one branch of the Project should be completed, so that Government may be able to say definitely as to what will be the amount of the yield by one branch. Again, I would appeal to the Honourable Minister for Revenue to do something practical in this respect. By so doing, I am sure, he will be earning the gratitude of the poor public and the down-trodden zamindars of my district who have put such high hopes and confidence in him. I may also point out that this Project would prove a boon not only to the zamindars of the districts of Mianwali and Muzaffargarh, but the zamindars of Sargodha and a small number of respectable people of Lahore district would also be greatly benefited. So we were under the impression that as now the interests of various districts had become common, the Honourable Premier helped by the well-known generosity of the Finance Minister would like to expedite this scheme in the interests of zamindars. But it is lamentable that complete silence has been observed in our case. Unfortunately the honourable members who were keenly interested in this matter are now conspicuous by their absence. For instance, my friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani is not here. Another member Sardar Habib Ullah who was quite enthusiastic in the old Council days has not been returned. However, with the help of the honourable lady member, Begum Shah Nawaz, who has fortunately just come back from overseas, I might be able to persuade Government to expedite this scheme. Otherwise what effect could a solitary voice of mine produce on the ministerial benches, as it would only be a cry in the wilderness? Before I resume my seat I would like to ask my honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan to urge upon the Minister for Revenue, in his capacity of Parliamentary Secretary, to remove the hardships which the peasantry in my district is suffering due to the scarcity of water. Again I request the Honourable Minister for Revenue to go into the grievances of the people of this backward and poor part of the province and thereby earn their blessings.

With these words, Sir, I close my remarks.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah (Ferozepore East, Muhammadan, Rural) :** Sir, I am obliged to you for having given me this chance to say a few words, although I have been standing for quite a number of times since yesterday.

[Sayed Amjid Ali Shah.]

My honourable friend, Mian Muhammad Nurullah in his speech yesterday raised a rather novel argument in support of his contention that the water rate should be decreased and he said that since the Government were making a large sum of money on Irrigation Head, therefore the Government should be in a position to reduce the water rate. He is an economist and I do not want to cross swords with him, but I would ask him to examine this matter from other points of view as well. If the contention is that Government should only receive from the zamindars, what it actually spends in harnessing the water, then I would ask him to apply his mind to the position of coal and gold as well. Where coal is found in large deposits, would the Government only sell the coal at the price which it has spent in excavating that coal? Similar is the position of gold and salt, etc. All these commodities to which I have referred, are the property of the State—water, coal, gold, minerals, and hydro-electricity, and therefore, Government while selling them to the people of the province should in addition to recovering the cost, make some profit. I would have agreed with my honourable friend, if he had suggested that this proposition should be a commercial one and the rates should be economical. For instance, if the Government sells water at, say, Rs. 5 an acre and the zamindar from that one acre only receives Rs. 10 by way of produce, then it will certainly not be an economical proposition from the zamindars' point of view, and the Government should bear in mind when they fix the rates that whatever price they fix for such State-owned commodities as water, etc., it should be economical to the producer, whether he may be a grower in the case of water, or a coal miner in the case of coal, or gold miner in the case of gold, or manufacturer in the case of electricity.

Now, Sir, I would refer to a few figures in this budget with regard to this particular demand. The gross receipts of irrigation are Rs. 7,24,71,000. Out of these, the working expenses including interest on capital are Rs. 2,41,02,000, leaving behind a balance of Rs. 4,83,69,000, which the Government receive on account of Irrigation. If you take away Rs. 1,27,41,000 spent by the Government by way of establishment charges, then the net receipt from these seven crores of irrigation revenue is only Rs. 3,56,28,000. Actually the net receipt to the Government from this very important head of revenue is only Rs. 3,56,00,000 and not rupees 7 crores, as some honourable members think.

Another thing which I would like to mention in this connection is the point made by Sardar Lal Singh. He said that the Government are trying to find an excuse on account of war and that they do not want to help the zamindars or devise ways and means to provide water for the zamindars under the cloak of war and that on account of war they cannot get certain material. He suggested why the Government should not get hold of certain engines for the uplift of water. I may only draw his attention to the fact that perhaps he does not know that all these things are controlled by the Government of India. No one can import steel, cement and smaller articles of iron, unless he applies to the Government of India, who do not release this stock till such time as it is directly needed for war supplies. Therefore, it is not that the Government does not want to help the zamindar but because on account of war it is not possible for the Government to undertake these

projects. Secondly, Sir, the cost also comes in, because a thing, which cost before the war, say, Rs. 5, now has gone up to as much as Rs. 45, as in the case of iron or certain other articles. Therefore, it is not the intention of the Government to shelve those issues but on account of war, it is not possible to undertake them.

Now, I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to my constituency where we have a system of Grey canals. There certain villages, which are on the left bank of the river Sutlej, have suffered very much on account of floods. These villages have often had the misfortune of being devastated by floods, I have written to the district authorities and I have also approached the irrigation authorities to make some *bund* to prevent these havocs which occur every now and then. As my honourable friend, Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, was saying the other day, where there is joint responsibility involved, for instance, if the railways have something to do with it, then it takes months and years before the railway authorities are moved to do anything. We also have a bridge there and this bridge has a *bund*. This bridge belongs to the Railway Department. The *bund* sometimes on account of floods is damaged and the railway authorities do not pay much attention to its repair. The consequences are that when the river rises, the water comes into those villages and the poor people live in lakes and ponds and they cannot cross and go out of the villages unless they go through this water. In particular I am referring to the villages of Alewala, Asafwala, Bagguwala, Roadewala, Talwandi Naepolan, Burtewala, Mallanwala, Hastekke, etc., which have suffered a great deal on account of these floods. I also put a question with regard to this matter but the reply was that the answer was not ready and I have not yet received that answer. The second point which I want to urge is with regard to another village in my constituency. Its name is Qadirwala. There the outlets without any rhyme or reason have been closed altogether. This is rather highhanded on the part of irrigation authorities, because without giving any other alternative outlets they have stopped those outlets which have resulted in great hardship to the people of this village. With these words I resume my seat.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns, Muslim,

2 p m

Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have been hearing during the last six years that Bhakra Dam, for which the zamindars of the Ambala division had been clamouring for a long time past would be taken in hand in the very near future. Prior to 1940 I and a good many other people too believed that in reality no such scheme existed and that the Government was merely humouring the zamindars. But when in 1940 the Government sent a few engineers to the United States of America for acquainting themselves with and acquiring knowledge about the construction of dams of a type which was proposed to be constructed here, we were convinced that after all there was some scheme under the consideration of the Government. On the return of these engineers even the Honourable Minister for Finance considered it necessary to refer to them in the course of his Budget speech and we were told that they had done much preliminary work in respect of the proposed Bhakra dam. Since then no satisfactory information has been given to the public which could allay their fears about the shelving of this scheme. I am afraid I do not share the view expressed

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by my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh that no such scheme is under the consideration of the Government, and the public is being befooled by false promises and the scheme is merely a farce. I am perfectly sure that this scheme is under the consideration of the Government and the step taken so far by the Government in this connection is enough for dispelling the anxiety from the minds of the people. So far as the Indus Commission is concerned we have been told by the Honourable Finance Minister that they have given their decision which was not favourable to the Punjab. The Government should try their level best to approach the higher authorities and vigorously represent the case of the Punjab. It is very regrettable that evasive replies are given to our questions on this subject. In reply to one of my questions the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the Indus Commission has not decided the issues before it and the Finance Minister has stated in his budget speech that the view of the Commission on various issues has not been favourable to the Punjab and the final decisions have not been taken and we are representing our case to higher authorities. Any way, the fact remains that the replies have been very disappointing indeed. Even if the official information is to be relied upon it cannot be gainsaid that it is extremely necessary for further negotiations in respect of the Bhakra dam to continue uninterrupted. I would urge upon the Honourable Minister of Revenue and other cabinet Ministers to make every effort in their power to get their share in the waters of the Indus to which five rivers of the Punjab are tributaries and to give a practical shape to the scheme. They should not feel satisfied with the feeble efforts they have so far made nor should they resign themselves to the decision that has been given, as many irrigation schemes of the Punjab would fail. They should not lose sight of the fact as to what benefits are going to accrue from this scheme if it is put into practice. It will not only save the zamindars from the constant danger and the miseries that follow in the wake of famine but will also relieve the Government from endless worry and the burden of an enormous expenditure and there shall be a marvellous increase in the revenue of the Province. They can also make a real headway in the matter of extensions to the Western Jumna Canal with the saving thus effected. So far very little has been done in that direction. The little that has been accomplished is too insignificant to do much by way of giving relief to the zamindars. It is a matter of great regret that nothing is being done for the Hissar district which has been in the vortex of the famine and where there has been no crop for the last 8 years and where the famine was in the most acute form. The people of this unfortunate ilaqa are rendered homeless every year and are obliged to seek their livelihood in the neighbouring and distant districts. Even the distribution of nearly Rs. 8 crores by way of famine relief has done no permanent good. If the Government had struck upon the idea of spending this amount on making extensions to the Western Jumna Canal earlier, it would have not only given employment to the famine stricken people but would have provided a thing of permanent benefit to them and such an enormous sum would have been utilized in the right way. It was long after the famine conditions had been brought under control, that Government thought of making these extensions. I do not deny that what has been done in this connection so far has made a good deal of difference to the poor zamindars of that area

but I will not hesitate from saying this as well that selfishness has played its part in the making of these extensions. The House is aware of the fact that the devastation wrought by the famine was the greater in Hissar than in Rohtak and other adjacent districts, and it stands to reason that any extension which was to be made should have been started from Hissar district. But it was not done in that way. The operations were taken in the first instance in the tahsil of the Honourable Minister of Revenue. A look at the reply to my question last year will show that the number of villages in each tahsil that will benefit from the irrigation facilities thus made available to them would disclose the inequity of the procedure adopted in the matter. The Jhajjar tahsil has 115 villages while Hansi which is the tahsil of the Honourable Minister's lieutenant Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal contains 69 villages and tahsil Bhiwani has only 6 villages. Let it not give the impression that I am saying all this because I grudge the benefit of irrigation to those who have been fortunate enough in getting it. Nothing is far from my mind than this. I merely want to show that an injustice has been done to the Fatehabad tahsil and other dry territory of Hissar district where not even an inch of land is irrigated, in not giving them preference in the matter of irrigation facilities over other more fortunately placed tahsil, viz. Hansi. I admit on the floor of this august House that Jhajjar tahsil was also deprived of the blessings of irrigation but Hissar district as stated above should have been given preference over all other districts. There is not a single village in tahsil Jhajjar in which Mussalmans do not predominate. A minor passes by a village called Tusham but very little part of this Muslim village has been irrigated and the remainder of it is left unirrigated. It is because in that part which is purposely left unirrigated, Mussalmans are living. What an indiscriminate treatment! Still they say they are doing justice! What has been done to the major portion of village Balyali? I tell you that Balyali is that Rajput village which has given 1,800 recruits to the Army but great injustice is being done to it in the matter of giving water. Does our Government reward those villages which are doing their utmost in the war-effort in that manner? There is a certain minor named Bhutana which passes at a distance of 4 miles from Balyali. This minor cannot be of much advantage to Balyali. Another minor is running by mauza Balyali. The zamindars of mauza Balyali are not allowed to irrigate their lands by this minor. The people of mauza Balyali are thus experiencing immense difficulties in the matter of irrigation. They are not getting any water; whatever minors there are, they are not of any use to the people of that village. The minor running at a distance of four miles, cannot serve any useful purpose for the zamindars of mauza Balyali. One can only say so much that might is right in the matter of getting water. The rich and influential zamindars can get water through their influence, but the poor are not cared for much. Government cannot imagine the difficulties which the poor are experiencing by not getting any water. Such is the fate of that village which is supplying the biggest number of recruits!

Now I say something about the Western Jumna Canal. For the construction of this canal, immense land has been acquired from the zamindars but they are not given any compensation, not to speak of price. Some of the zamindars have suffered much on account of the construction of this



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canal, and they are entirely rendered destitute. Their lands have been acquired and no compensation has been given to them. Last year I inquired of the Government through a question in this House, as to how much compensation had been given to those zamindars whose lands have been taken away by the Government for the construction of this canal. The Government as usual replied that they are considering this question and that compensation will certainly be given. I do not know whether so far any compensation has been given to them or not. I do not know even so much as to whether the Government has taken any step for giving them any compensation. The fact is that the Government have taken possession of most of the lands so haphazardly, that some of the helpless zamindars have been deprived of a greater portion of their lands and thus their lands have become useless and they have been deprived of their very means of existence. The canal officials and contractors deputed for extending Western Jumna Canal showed no sympathy with the landowners and abused their powers. They acted so mercilessly and so dishonestly that their actions have thrown most of the zamindars in the pit of starvation and poverty. All the contractors employed upon construction work belonged to the northern and central Punjab. They acted malignantly and thus destroyed most of the pieces of land. No contractor from Ambala division who could have any sympathy with the residents of the southern Punjab was employed on this work. Here is an instance which will show inadvertence and indifference on the part of the canal officials and contractors to the prejudice of a land owner. One Haji Jamal-ud-Din of Dojana had 50 bighas of land. The canal officials, if they had so wished it, could have constructed the canal on one side of his land, but they passed it right through the middle of it. The owner of the land suffered much by this action of the canal officials. His whole land has been destroyed. No compensation has been given to him so far. The loss sustained by him is really incommensurate with the advantage he will reap by this extension. He told me that he can hardly live a life of bare existence by cultivating this land. Out of his 50 bighas, now he has only seven bighas in his possession. Is this not an act of dire injustice?

Sir, there is a stream in town Sadhora which does extreme damage and destruction to the lands and to the people of that town and even to the neighbouring villages. The attention of the Government was invited to the ravages of this stream. The Government magnanimously started the construction of a *bund* over this stream. In the first year Rs. 18,000 were sanctioned, and the work was entrusted to the District Board. It was in their charge up to 1939. But unfortunately the District Engineer and the contractor misused the money and they constructed a wall of sand which they named *bund*. It could not naturally withstand the overflow and flood of water from various hill torrents meeting at a place near the so-called *bund*. Soon after the construction finished, the rainy season commenced and the *bund* gave way to the storm water and there were big breaches in it and again the stream began to do damage and destruction to the villages and the town. For the construction of this *bund* the estimated cost was Rs. 82,265 in the budget of 1942-48. The demand allotted for this *bund* was 28,700 rupees and that in 1948-44 it is Rs. 9,300. No pacca *bund* has

been constructed so far. The work was entrusted to Public Works Department in 1940 or 1941. No action worth the name was taken by the Public Works Department at the proper time, who instead of putting the work on a permanent basis used to effect repairs to the *bund* a little before the rains had actually set in. There were excessive rains, and there were so many floods during the last year that the *bund* could not withstand the rains and the floods. So consequently most of the villages were washed away, people were rendered homeless and destitute. There was huge destruction all around. When I enquired of the Government about the state of affairs, they replied that the amount of damage was small. I have seen with my own eyes that the amount of damage is so great that it cannot be described. No one has escaped the fury of that stream.

Sir, after 1940, the Public Works Department as stated above, took the charge of constructing the *bund* over the stream, but they too were negligent in their duties and hence no work could be started last year. You can well imagine the amount of destruction and annihilation that it did last year. Woe be to such negligence which is the cause of unparalleled destruction! This year in the Budget, the sum of Rs. 9,800 has been sanctioned. I suggest to the Government that the work of construction should be undertaken as soon as possible, otherwise the rains will start and again there will be floods and hence all-round destruction. Sir, the honourable members are talking of little mogas and of big mogas. I happened to go to Hissar very recently. The people of Hissar complained that in their villages, the Government have constructed small mogas. They are insufficient. They cannot water their fields and this is why they cannot get good harvests. They are suffering very much on account of insufficiency of water. During my last visit to Hissar numerous zamindars have complained to me that they have not got water for the last 2½ months. The mogas are so small, that the water does not reach them. (*Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan*: perhaps the mogas in Rohtak are of bigger size.) Yes, the people say so, because there is Jat Raj at Rohtak.

Sir, yesterday Sardar Lal Singh said in the course his speech that under the regime of the present Government the canals have been diverted from one *ilaqa* to another, and the *ilaqas* where they were running previously are rendered waterless. Raja Sahib contradicted him. I doubt him very much for his statement belies the truth.

Sir, in the district of Karnal, tahsil Kaithal, zail Sewan, there is an *ilaqa* where the rain water used to gather in a certain pond called Jhil which used to do a lot of good to the crops, because the fields were irrigated by that water. It was an asset to the zamindars of that village. The zamindars used to irrigate their lands from the water of this lake. But now the Government have diverted the flow of the water of Jhil into Sarusati Canal and thus oppressed the people. This is a sheer tyranny and high-handedness, of the canal officials who have deprived men of certain *ilaqa* for the benefit of others. You will be surprised to hear that the men of the deprived *ilaqa* are still paying the revenue *abiana* at previous rates.

Again, in connection with the work of reclamation, Chaudhri Nek Alam, Assistant Director of Agriculture, was doing very useful work in the Ambala district but before he could complete his programme, he has been transferred

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to Multan. The transfer of so popular an officer who had given a fresh impetus to the 'grow more food' campaign in the Ambala district and made it a success, indicates lack of foresight on the part of the superior authorities. (*The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye*: He will prove useful in Multan as well). Yes, he will. But the question is that he has not been given a full chance to develop and complete his scheme in the Ambala district. He has left his task half-accomplished. It would have been conducive to the welfare of the people of Ambala if he had been allowed to stay in Ambala to crown his work with complete success. His sudden transfer from Ambala is sure to give a set-back to the excellent work started by him. His good work had been inspected and praised by His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab and the then Honourable Minister of Development, the Deputy Commissioners, the Commissioner and other officers. I am sure he will make his mark in Multan as well. But his services were wanted in the districts of Ambala division. I very much condemn the action of Government in transferring this officer of outstanding merit from the Ambala district against the wishes of the downtrodden people of the *ilaga*. I had also the honour to inspect the lands re-claimed by him with the Honourable Minister for Development and found that barren lands which were affected by erosion caused by torrents from various nallahs had been turned into fertile lands.

I will now pass on to the question of granting kharaba concessions to the zamindars. It is a thousand pities that even though the provincial budget has risen from 11 crores to 15 crores in recent years, no reduction has been granted in revenue and abiana and even the kharaba rules have not been amended to the advantage of the small zamindars who are hardly benefited by the existing rules of kharaba. Granted that the Government has established Special Development Fund and the Peasants Welfare Fund for the so-called benefit of the zamindars and these funds will rise from year to year, the question is that up till now no reduction has been made in the abiana, although the income has increased to the extent of four crores. We do not know when the zamindars would be benefited by the Special Development Fund and the Peasants Welfare Fund. These schemes are being dangled before the eyes of the poor zamindars who are in the grip of poverty. The remedy is out of their reach and it reminds me of a Persian saying which runs as follows:—

تا تریاق از عراق آزرده شود مارگزیده مرده شود

The late lamented Premier (May his soul rest in peace!) had promised that after imposing the then proposed taxes such as Urban Immovable Property Tax, etc., on the urbanites, the burden of the zamindars would be lightened by reducing the Government demands of land revenue and *abiana* owing to the increase in Government income. It was confidently to be hoped that a substantial reduction would soon be announced in these demands of the Government. But I am sorry to say that no relief is yet in sight.

There is no arrangement for the proper irrigation of lands in the Ambala district. The level of well water is very low and it is extremely expensive and beyond the means of zamindars to sink wells there. I was yet a child reading in school when it was said that water of the choes running in this

district as well as in the district of Hoshiarpur would be made available for irrigation purposes in these districts. But now a good many years have passed and even in my old age I have not seen that scheme put into practice. That shows the speed of Government in carrying out the much needed schemes for ameliorating the condition of the people. In the Ambala district the Government was thinking of constructing a big pond (jheel) in ilaqa of Morni hills (Ambala district) by which the Ambala district had to be irrigated but nothing has so far been done. If the present Government would exploit the water of the choes by collecting it in a lake and then distributing for irrigating the lands of the Ambala district, it will remain as a befitting monument to its memory. The posterity will remember the regime of this Ministry with gratitude and loyalty. But perhaps my cry will prove a cry in the wilderness. The House will be surprised to hear that the two big canals, viz., the Western Jumna canal and the Sirhind canal are flowing in Ambala district for construction of which lakhs of bighas of land were acquired from the poor zamindars but only 52,000 bighas of land of Ambala district are irrigated as stated by Minister for Revenue in reply to my question.

Coming now to the question of communal proportion in the Government services in the Irrigation Department, I may submit that 50 per cent share has been reserved for the Muslims, 20 per cent for Sikhs and 30 per cent for the Hindus and others. But when we look at the actual position of the Muslims in the Irrigation Department the demand for which is under consideration to-day, we find that the representation of Muslims in the high offices is equal to zero. There is no Muslim Chief Engineer in this Department. I may confidently assert that there are several efficient Muslims in this department who can fill with credit and eminence the post of Chief Engineer. All that is wanted is the will on the part of the Government to appoint a Muslim. There are several senior Muslim officers who are from every point of view fit to hold this exalted office. A number of articles have appeared in the Muslim press inviting the attention of the Government to the necessity and propriety of appointing a Muslim Chief Engineer, but the Government has turned a deaf ear to the unanimous demand of the Muslims. I strongly appeal to the Government to fulfil this popular demand of the Muslims in making which they are perfectly justified. Furthermore, out of 10 Superintending Engineers 9 are non-Muslims, and out of 55 Executive Engineers only 5 are Muslims. This is a hopeless position and the Muslims of the province can ill-afford to take this lying down. This is an insult to them, besides being a national loss to them. Why are their rights being thus trampled upon? The spirit of the Muslims rebels against this policy of the Government. They are being robbed in the broad day light. When the government notification has clearly laid it down that 50 per cent share will be granted to the Muslims, why is it that they are being denied their due share even in fresh recruitment? We have been constantly crying that 50 per cent formula should be applied in all grades of services and in all departments. I can say that in the branches of the various departments the Muslim element is less than 10 per cent. No other community should be recruited until the deficiency of Muslims is made up. If the present state of affairs continues and the speed at which the Muslims are being given their proper quota in the services continues at this rate, there is

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absolutely no hope of Muslims getting their due share within the coming thirty years. The formula of 50 per cent is merely an eyewash. As all key posts are held by non-Muslims and the majority of officers in charge of the offices and the departments are non-Muslims, the formula cannot prove a success. As long as this formula is not given effect to properly, not only in the matter of fresh recruitment but also in the case of promotions, the grievances of the Muslims cannot be redressed. In fact, nobody cares for Muslims. Even in departments where Muslims are heads, Muslims do not get their due share. Non-Muslim heads of departments do see that the ratio of their community is maintained in their departments but they do not care for the rights of the Muslims. Sir, to-day in answer to my question, it has been pointed out that out of 37 posts of lady welfare workers only 12 have been given to Muslims, i.e., 33 per cent. Have the provisions of 50 per cent formula been complied with? Not at all. I should be glad that Muslims would be enlisted in the Irrigation Department in the same manner as the Minister of Development has done in the case of lady welfare workers, viz., members of no other community should be enlisted.

**Minister for Revenue :** What has this to do with the Irrigation Department?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Sir, I am citing an instance to show how injustice is being done to Muslims, that even in the matter of fresh recruitment they are not given their due share. Reverting to the subject proper, I may point out that during the period between 1922 and 1940 no overseer was ever promoted to the rank of an Assistant Engineer, even though there were many amongst them who had qualified from the British universities. In the year 1940 it was decided that henceforward deserving overseers would be promoted to the rank of Assistant Engineer. During the year 1940 four non-Muslims were promoted to the rank of Assistant Engineer. But the rights of one Muslim, who, although he possessed qualifications from a British university, was not promoted to the rank of Assistant Engineer, were ignored. Now this year the Honourable Minister has very kindly promoted him to the said rank and we are thankful to him for that.

Now I would like to say a few words in respect of Irrigation Research Institute. It is my special subject and every year I say something in regard to it. I regret to say that the Director of Irrigation Research Institute is a chemist. As a matter of fact an expert in hydraulics should have been made the director of this department. But nobody cares for such things, and Mr. Mackenzie who does not know anything about hydraulics has been appointed as the Director of this Institute. The result has been that for departmental work he had to depend on his subordinates who did whatever they liked and he acted as a tool in their hands. His subordinates happened to be all Hindus who had no sympathy for the Muslims. Consequently whenever any vacancy occurred in that department, they recommended the names of their relatives or friends. Whosoever they recommended was appointed in that department. The result has been that no Muslim has

ever succeeded in getting employment in the Irrigation Research Institute. Last year five vacancies occurred in the post of Assistant Research Officer, class II. But they were not given to deserving candidates and thus the principle of communal representation was ignored. Let me tell you, sir, that promises were held out that Muslims would be given their due share, but those promises have not been fulfilled. Rather the Muslims who were candidates for these posts have been adversely affected inasmuch as they have become juniors now. Then Mr. Mackenzie proceeded on military duty and in his place Dr. Bose was appointed as the Director of the said Institute. During his stay in the department two vacancies occurred which were advertised. Many applications were received and out of them he selected two. Sir, he was an expert in hydraulic matters. He found that previously many irregularities had been committed in the said Institute. He tried to remove them. Had he remained in the Institute longer he would have removed all the irregularities which had been committed by Mr. Mackenzie. But as ill-luck would have it, Mr. Mackenzie returned after four or five months and undid what was done by Dr. Bose. Now he has again to proceed on military duty. But before leaving he tried that one of his subordinates should take his place as Director of the said Institute. But due to the wisdom of the Chief Engineer Mr. Kunwar Sen has been appointed as the Director of this Institute for which we are very much obliged. We hope that he would do justice to the Muslims and redress their grievances and remove the irregularities already existing in the Department. I pray that God may give him the strength and power to discharge his duties honestly and without any communal bias.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should wind up his speech.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Very well, Sir. Another very important thing which has recently happened in this Research Institute is that the Public Service Commission recommended the name of a certain candidate for a particular post in this Institute. But the Director thinking that the said selection had been made against his wishes persuaded the Chief Engineer to write to the Public Service Commission that the selection be made again and that the name of any other candidate be recommended. The President and the members of the Public Service Commission took it ill and returned the papers to the Chief Engineer with the remark that the selection which had already been made was perfectly all right and that they were not prepared to hold the selection once again. This case has not yet been decided and we will see whether the Honourable Minister accepts the recommendation of the Public Service Commission or that of the Chief Engineer. Then, Sir, another post carrying a salary of Rs. 700 was created. It was advertised and as a result one Harbans Lal Uppal has been appointed direct to it. In this way the rights of many senior persons in the institute have been ignored. That is what is happening in the Irrigation Research Institute, and nobody cares to take any notice of such matters. I would request the Honourable Minister to see that such irregularities are not committed again and the past ones rectified.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** May I know the source of information of the honourable member ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Is the honourable member prepared to disclose the source of his information ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :**

نہیں کے ماند آن رازے کرو سازند محفلہ

Well, Sir, this matter has become a table talk with the public. I may inform my honourable friend that my Muslim friends from Lahore frequently see me and I often attend social meetings where I am invited. I tell him that Muslims are no longer asleep and are now quite wide awake. They feel when their rights are trampled upon and hold meetings to raise their voice of protest against the injustice that is being done to them in the matter of services. On every Muslim platform such matters are discussed threadbare. If the honourable member or the Honourable Minister doubts the veracity of this statement, it is open to him to refute it. As regards myself, I have fully satisfied myself about the correctness of the matter, and that is why I have stated it on the floor of this House. I may make it clear that I fully realise my responsibility and I always ascertain facts before I state them here. With these words I close my speech.

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (Urdu) : Sir, I feel very grateful indeed to honourable members who have spoken on the demand under consideration. It is a matter for gratification to me that all these speeches were free from any wild and carping criticism — that is, criticism made for the sake of criticism. I am also glad to note that, barring a solitary case, all the honourable members who participated in the debate spoke in good faith to give expression to their views and did not say anything out of sheer personal animosity or spirit of partisanship. If some of them made wrong statements, it was, I think, due to insufficient or incomplete information available to them. Again, I must express my gratitude to the honourable members for their endeavour to make useful and constructive suggestions.

In the course of this debate many things have been said which are relatively of minor importance inasmuch as they relate either to purely local grievances or to trifling things. Hence it will not be possible for me to reply to all such matters. However, I can assure the honourable members that I will endeavour earnestly to give careful consideration to whatever they have said here and try to bring their grievances to the notice of the officers concerned for such action as is desirable and practicable.

On the other hand, many members have raised questions of greater and more general importance, some of which have received attention from more honourable members than one. I propose to confine my remarks to answering these questions.

Two or three honourable members accused Government for having failed to formulate any comprehensive or well-defined policy in regard to irrigation. They suggested that the Government acted in a haphazard manner in the matter of providing irrigation facilities to the zamindars. Let me tell the House in unmistakable terms that so far as irrigation is concerned, Government have set before themselves a clear cut and definite policy which they are determined to pursue both in letter and in spirit. In the election manifesto issued by the Unionist Party it was

made quite plain that every effort would be made by the Party to provide irrigation facilities to places where they did not exist and where it was practicable to do so. This declaration has been repeated more than once both in this House and outside. The programme in this connection is to do all that is possible to increase irrigation facilities by every means in our power, for instance, construction of canals from rivers, schemes of storage, bund irrigation, tube-well irrigation and promotion of well-irrigation by the advance of *taccavi* to zamindars, are all contemplated in this programme.

I now propose to cite facts and figures to show how far we have succeeded in our object in this connection. I am sure that this recounting of facts will set at rest any apprehensions that may be exercising the minds of the honourable members. So far as the construction of new canals is concerned, the position is this. The Haveli Project was undertaken in 1937 and was finished in a remarkably short time. Out of the culturable area of 456,908 acres commanded by the project, 278,405 acres are actually being irrigated by the Haveli canals. Then comes the construction of the Pakpattan Link. The Link is an accomplished fact and commands an area of 44,495 acres of land. The third project undertaken and completed is the Western Jumna Canal Extensions. Out of the area of 342,646 acres commanded by this canal, 114,215 acres are designed to come under irrigation annually, although in 1941-42, the first year of the working of one of the two branches of this canal, supplies were available for 27,654 acres only. Lastly arrangements have been made to irrigate 15,000 acres of new land on the Dabwali Distributary. In the year 1941-42, 5,000 acres of land were actually irrigated by this channel. This finishes the account of the canals which will be fed by waters flowing in rivers and is an achievement of which the Punjab Government can legitimately feel proud.

Now, let us come to the schemes of storage which we have in view and which can only be undertaken by impounding the water of rivers in reservoirs. We have a number of such schemes on our list, the Bhakra Dam Scheme being the most important of them. Unfortunately this part of our programme has received a set-back as a result of certain difficulties over which the Punjab Government has no control. A dispute has arisen over the withdrawals of water from the Punjab rivers. The Sind Government have objected to certain storage schemes of the Punjab Government on the ground that these schemes, when completed, will adversely affect Sind inundation canals. The Government of India Act clearly provides that if a province raises objection to another province taking water from a river from which the former has also a right to draw water, then the dispute must be referred to the Governor-General who will appoint a Commission to make a sifting enquiry into the matter. It is not in the power of the Governor-General to refuse an enquiry by a Commission. So, in accordance with this provision of law, the Governor-General appointed a Commission to hold an enquiry into the Indus water dispute. That Commission has submitted its report to the Governor-General after completing the enquiry. But the objections which the Punjab Government propose to take against the proceedings and findings of that Commission are yet to be placed before the Governor-General. A similar representation



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will naturally be made by the Sind Government. After receiving objections and representations of the two parties, the Governor-General will forward the Report of the Commission along with his own recommendations to His Majesty in Council. The judgment of His Majesty in Council will be final and binding on the two Governments. Thus, the fate of the Bhakra Dam scheme and also the Thal Project as well as other allied irrigation schemes hangs in the balance. We have done all that lay in our power to defend our claims. The present position may be summarised by saying that if the Punjab wins the case, there will be enough water to go round and meet the requirements of all the areas such as the Ambala Division, the Bist Doab and the Nili Bar Colony. But if the case is lost, then obviously the Government will be helpless in the matter of affording to any of the areas concerned irrigation facilities which the Province has been looking forward to for the last 20 years and more.

Many members who have not studied the Government of India Act and are unacquainted with the past history of the rights and claims of non-Punjab areas to the waters of the Punjab rivers, have complained either here or in informal conversations that Sind should not have been allowed to come in the way at all. All that I can say to this criticism is that I feel as strongly on the subject as they do and if the Punjab had been an independent sovereign state, not bound by the present constitution, we would have sent an ultimatum to Sind. It is most painful to find that for withdrawing water from the rivers which rise in our province, flow through our lands, erode our soil and destroy our forests, we have to wait for the consent of Sind Government. However, as things are, our rights and claims are guided and controlled by the Constitution under which the Punjab Government and the Punjab Legislative Assembly work and the decision of the mutual rights of the Punjab and Sind rests not with ourselves but with a higher authority. Another complaint made by certain members was that certain non-riparian states were being admitted to a share in the waters of the Punjab rivers. Well, we are not writing on a clean slate. Claims for such share rest on agreements which were entered into before the Unionist Party came into power; in fact, even before it came into existence. The present Government cannot be held responsible for those agreements. Nor is it open to this Government to make any change in those agreements. These are the stern and undeniable facts with which we are face to face and which I am disposed neither to under-rate nor to exaggerate.

I am also cognizant of certain whisperings that the Government of India being financially interested in the welfare of Sind the decision of the present dispute may be influenced by that factor. I do not think that it is fair to the Government of India or desirable in itself to give credence to such reports. There is yet another factor to which my attention has been drawn by a very large number of intelligent and responsible individuals. They suggest that the Punjab Government has been remiss in not pressing vigorously upon the Government of India the tremendous services which the Punjab rendered in the last war and is rendering in the present war. They wonder why a province, the young men of which have

been enlisting in the army so ungrudgingly and have shed their blood so freely in the service of their King and country, should receive a step-motherly treatment from the Government of India. I may assure the honourable members that the Punjab Government will put forward every legitimate argument to strengthen their case and I feel so sanguine about the merits of the Punjab claim that my conviction is that we are bound to win the case ultimately. Some of the recommendations are so patently unreasonable, even perverse and ridiculous, that this conviction of mine is further strengthened. For instance, one of the recommendations is that even though our withdrawals may not exceed our share we must release out of our impounded waters a sufficient supply, when needed, to raise the water level in the Indus to a pitch which will enable a system of irrigation, which is admitted by the Commission themselves to be anachronistic and most wasteful, to function to the satisfaction of Sind. Another recommendation relates to the Punjab contribution for the construction of two barrages. This recommendation fixes arbitrarily the amount of the contribution at two crores of rupees in the absence of any data.

There is one more argument which, I understand, was addressed by one of the members while I was away from the Chamber for a few minutes, to which I must reply. The argument was that, in order to expedite the decision of the case, an amicable settlement with Sind might be more fruitful. My reply is that any move made by Sind, directly or indirectly in this behalf will not fail to evoke friendly response on our part.

The third method of promoting irrigation is the sinking of tube-wells. But as honourable members are aware, owing to the conditions created by the war, it is extremely difficult to import machinery and plant for this purpose. However, an experiment of tube-well irrigation is being made near Shalamar Garden. The experiment is still in its initial stages and we cannot judge what measure of success we shall have. However, we shall be able to see our way more clearly during the next two years and, if the experiment proves successful, we shall not fail to apply the results of this experiment in other areas.

The fourth method of promoting irrigation is construction of *bunds* at suitable sites. In this connection also an experiment is being undertaken in the Gurgaon district. In that district *bunds* have existed for the last 30 or 40 years, but as they were under the management of the District Board, they were not properly maintained. However, they have now been taken over by the Irrigation Department and a special sub-division has been created. If the experiment proves successful in the Gurgaon district, the practical experience gained there will be applied in other districts where *bund* irrigation is found to be practicable.

Lastly, I come to ordinary well-irrigation. We have given every encouragement to zamindars in this line also. In the two districts, namely, Jhelum and Gurgaon, settled recently, the Punjab Government have been very generous. Wells will be exempted from the payment of any *chahi* rates for 40 years in the Gurgaon district and for a similar period in two of the *tahsils* of Jhelum district, while in the third *tahsil* of this district the protective period of the lease will be 30 years. I do not think that even

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uncharitable critics will venture to suggest that the Punjab Government has not been sufficiently liberal in this matter. Besides this, in certain other areas interest-free loans have been made to cultivators for sinking wells.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** Is the Honourable Minister of Revenue aware of the fact that wells run dry after ten years in my district (Jullundur)? What would be our position at the time of the next settlement in regard to *chahi* rates?

**Minister :** My honourable friend will, I am sure, know that *chahi* rates are remitted according to the rules governing such cases. If an irrigation well runs dry or if it is out of use for 5 years, *chahi* rates are remitted.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Is it a fact that the rates of revenue assessed on *chahi* lands are higher than those assessed on *barani* lands? Is the *Khush haisiati* kept in view while assessing land revenue?

**Minister :** I know that the honourable member has the interest of Gurgaon very near to his heart and his question has been prompted by that feeling. I may tell him that the rates of revenue assessed on the *chahi* lands are the same as those assessed on *barani* lands for the simple reason that the period of protective leases in the Gurgaon district coincides with the term of the settlement.

**Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan :** What about my complaints? The Honourable Minister has not said a word about them so far. Will they be redressed?

**Minister :** Sir, may I submit that it is very difficult for me to reply to every word uttered by honourable members regarding irrigation facilities or lack of them in the constituency of each and every honourable member? I know that the honourable member belongs to a district where the system of bunds can possibly be introduced. My observations about Gurgaon in this respect ought to satisfy him.

Some of the honourable members voiced their grievances not only in regard to the absence of irrigation facilities in their districts, but also in regard to the scarcity of drinking water which they urge can be set right by the Thal Project. They also suggested that the delay in the construction of the Thal Project was due to lack of funds. While the delay in the execution of the Thal Project is regretted, it is not correct to say that the delay is due to lack of funds. The Honourable Minister of Finance was able to find funds for starting the construction of headworks. About two crores of rupees have already been spent on headworks, work on which had to be stopped not for lack of funds but for our inability to import steel wire ropes from England owing to war conditions. As soon as we have disposed of Hitler, we shall be able to resume construction of the Thal Project.

Yet another complaint was that corruption and bribery were rampant in the department. I am free to admit that unfortunately this evil still exists in most of the departments in varying degrees. The Irrigation Department is no exception. But can the responsibility for the continued

existence of this evil really rest upon the Government or upon its officers alone? My contention is that the people themselves are more to blame than Government or their officers. The Punjab Government are very keen to suppress corruption. They have given the fullest possible proof of their anxiety in the matter, but the public fails to co-operate. I receive many complaints both oral and in writing from various quarters. A number of complaints are found to be pseudonymous and when those by whom complaints purport to be signed are approached, they say that they never made the complaint and that the signatures on the complaint are not theirs. In some cases where illiterate people are concerned, they go to the extent of saying, when enquiry is addressed to them, that they put their thumb-impressions to a petition for a fresh outlet. I take action even on anonymous petitions if the allegations are clear and specific. But when an enquiry is started no evidence is forthcoming. I have even come across cases in which responsible persons have brought forward allegations of corruption against Government officers or subordinates, but when questioned whether they will produce evidence they shrug their shoulders and say that they cannot make themselves responsible for adducing evidence to substantiate their allegations. In these circumstances, is it fair to blame Government or their responsible officers for the existence of corruption in the Irrigation Department? Speaking for myself, I may assure the honourable members that I am out to eradicate all corruption if public-spirited gentlemen will only co-operate with me. I may also assure them that I have taken action in a number of cases. In some cases, where there was a reasonable proof, I have dismissed subordinates as well as provincial service officers. In cases where sufficient evidence was not available to justify dismissal but I was morally convinced that the official concerned was in fact corrupt, I have got rid of him, whenever permissible, by retiring him compulsorily before his normal time. I have also resorted to recording censure, conveying warning or holding up at the efficiency bar where the facts justified this course. I do not know what more could be expected of Government or of myself.

Another complaint made by some of the honourable members was that, although a canal committee was appointed and it made its report more than two years ago, no action has been taken by Government on that report. Some action of a minor kind which could be taken by issuing executive instructions has been taken. But I am free to admit that the main recommendations for which legislation is necessary are still pending. The reason for this delay is that there has been a considerable depletion of officers in consequence of the demand for engineers made by the Government of India in connection with war service. As honourable members are aware legislation requires a good deal of work in the Administrative Department. After this work has been done, a reference has to be made to the Law Department. With a depleted irrigation cadre, it was not found practicable to undertake legislation. I assure honourable members that as soon as conditions ease, the recommendations of the Canal Committee will be taken up. But this does not seem to be practicable while the war is still in progress.

Another question on which my honourable friends showed great concern was that of additional supply of water for gardens. They suggested

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that with a view to improving the hard lot of "poor zamindars" gardens should be supplied with an additional quantity of water and that certain other concessions including the remission of abiana should be made. In this connection, may I ask my honourable friends as to where these poor zamindars acquire as many as 18 acres of land, which is the minimum fixed for gardens entitled to a special supply of water? The cry of "poor zamindars" is a mere slogan, a clever slogan, which has been adopted only with the object of exploiting the name of the poor zamindars. It is only the rich and big zamindars who can set apart 18 acres of land for gardens in a province where the size of an average holding is only 6 acres and, so far as this class of zaminadars is concerned, they do manage to get additional supply by their personal influence. Any further concessions for this class will only mean taking away the water of the poor zamindars for the benefit of the rich which I am not likely to agree to. I am all for poor zamindars and I am prepared to do all that I can to promote their interests in the matter of helping fruit culture. But let not their name be exploited by the bigger people.

Further, it has been suggested that the rate of Rs. 11 per acre charged to garden areas is not fair and that it should be lower than the rate of Rs. 11 per acre which is charged annually in respect of only one crop — the sugarcane crop. But may I remind my critics that the profits from garden produce are very much higher than those from sugarcane? I understand on very good authority that the income from a square of garden even two or three years ago was from Rs. 5,000 to 7,000 a year and that now there have been cases in which this income has risen even to Rs. 12,000 and 15,000. In these circumstances, I feel that a complaint against garden rates being high has no substance. The poor zamindar who sows sugarcane does not get any additional supply of water; he has to use the water to which he is entitled on the basis of the area owned by him and has to divert to his sugarcane crop a good proportion of water from his other crops.

However, I may take my honourable friends into confidence and disclose to them that in the course of a talk with the Chief Engineers I have been apprised of certain aspects of the supply of water to gardens which bear hardly on garden owners. I propose to examine these aspects closely at no distant date. (*Interruption*). My honourable friend need not worry. He knows that I am receiving a deputation of garden-owners to-day. We will get the advice of Government officers as well as the expert opinion of the members of the Fruit Development Board which will help us in deciding whether fruit-growers have any legitimate grievance.

The Reclamation Department forms another target for the attacks of my honourable friends. They have complained that nearly 3 lakhs of rupees are being spent annually on the department but that nothing of any consequence has so far been accomplished by this department. Before I give details of the work done by the department up to date, I should like to make a reply to the objections raised by Mian Muhammad Nurullah that as compared with the big landholders, the small landholders have to pay a higher rate for water for purposes of reclamation. If he had suggested

that the poor zamindars experience greater difficulty in getting water for reclamation purposes than the bigger people, I would have been inclined to agree with him. But to say that the poor zamindars are being charged *abiana* at higher rates than the big landholders, is far from the truth; in fact, it is the very reverse of truth. Everyone ought to know, and certainly Mian Muhammad Nurullah ought to know, that where the small land-owners are charged only a flat rate of Rs. 4-8-0 per acre the big land-owners have to pay double or even higher price for the supply of water at contract rates. Moreover, while the big land-owners have to pay the salary of a Muckaddam, the ordinary zamindars have to pay none. As for the complaint that big landholders get water easily and in excess of their quota as compared with the small landholders, I may take this opportunity of informing the honourable members that a revised procedure has recently been adopted which should remove this disparity. It is now proposed that the work of reclamation should start from the head of a distributary irrespective of the fact whether the lands there belong to small land-owners or big land-owners and gradually reclamation should reach the lands situated at the tail. Similarly reclamation operations will now start from those fields — without any distinction as to whether they belong to the poor or big zamindars — where the quantity of *thur* is the greatest.

It would interest the critics of the Reclamation Department to know that the additional income which has accrued to the zamindars from the reclaimed lands is exceedingly encouraging. The figures which have been supplied to me reveal that in 1941 no less than 1,479 acres of land came under rice cultivation in connection with the reclamation operations. The figures for 1942 are incomplete. Yet even on these incomplete figures we find that more than 20 thousand acres were taken over by the Department. Again, in 1943 the land which is going to be reclaimed is 30 thousand acres, while in 1944 the land to be taken over for reclamation is estimated at 50 thousand acres. Now, let me detail the figures for the income that has accrued from the produce of lands under reclamation. In 1942, 8 lakhs of maunds of rice were produced. If the talk I had with an intelligent producer from a rice producing district is to be relied upon, the price of the ordinary quality of rice ranged from Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 8 per maund and that of better quality rice which is commonly known as *Begmi* was Rs. 9 per maund. Even if we calculate the price at Rs. 7-8-0 per maund, this crop was worth 60 lakhs of rupees. Besides rice, the next crop sown on these lands was gram which in 1942 totalled 5 lakhs of maunds. At 7 rupees a maund this crop was worth 35 lakhs of rupees. Thus, the total income derived from the lands which had been taken over for reclamation in 1942 amounted to 95 lakhs of rupees. These figures reveal the absurdity of the charge that the Reclamation Department is doing practically nothing.

The complaint that sufficient water is not being made available for reclaiming *thur*-stricken land is well-founded and, having regard to the fact that roughly 50 thousand acres of land are being thrown out of cultivation annually by *thur*, the prospect is certainly gloomy. However, if our dispute with the Sind Government is decided in our favour, I am confident that we will not only reclaim the land that has already been ruined by *thur*,

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but will also be able to save the land which is laid waste annually. But, as I have already submitted, everything depends on the outcome of the Sind Water Dispute.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** May I know to what districts the figures for 1941-42 refer ?

**Minister :** The reclamation work has mainly been done in the Lower Chenab and the Lower Bari Doab areas.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Thank you. I only wanted this information in case the Honourable Minister possessed it ; otherwise not.

**Minister :** My honourable friends further complained about kharaba. They said that kharaba remission was not granted to deserving persons unless they wielded some influence or could afford to give bribes to the subordinates of the Department. I confess that there is some truth in this complaint. The problem of kharaba is so vexed that every effort so far made to solve it has ended, more or less, in failure. Even the members of the Canal Committee failed to agree upon the recommendations to be made in this connection. One of these recommendations is that an average of 5 per cent should be adopted for kharaba and reduction to that extent made in the water rates irrespective of the fact whether there has been any kharaba or not or whether kharaba has occurred in excess of 5 per cent. But the difficulty that this proposal presents is that, in the case of big landholders who possess hundreds of acres of land, if a crop fails in any year and no kharaba is granted to them, it does not make much difference, whereas in the case of small land-owners who have only 4 or 5 acres of land, if no kharaba, when justified, is granted, they would be utterly ruined whatever the rates of abiana. This is the greatest objection against this proposal. It is not possible to change human nature. It is true that rich zamindars, as a result of their prestige or influence or by means of bribing the subordinates, succeed in getting kharaba while poor zamindars fail to get kharaba even when they deserve it. But all this is due to individual human factor which it is not practicable to eliminate. If any honourable member of this House can suggest to me any remedy for this evil, I will certainly consider it most carefully and sympathetically and undertake any legislation which may be found necessary.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** May I know whether he himself is considering the question ?

**Minister :** Yes, I am seriously considering the question, but as yet I have not been able to arrive at any conclusion.

Another sore point of complaint is that kharaba is not given even in cases where the cultivator is unable even to get a produce which will compensate him for seed and Government dues. Here, again, the complaint has some measure of truth in it but the reason is not far to seek. Normally, kharaba can be allowed only in cases where the estimated produce falls below four annas in the rupee. This scale of four annas in the rupee is based on estimated yields adopted at the time of settlement. Now, as those who are acquainted with revenue matters and revenue practice

will know, estimated yields adopted at the time of settlement are notoriously low and there is a very good reason for it. Land revenue is primarily based on these yields and land revenue once assessed will last for the whole period of settlement. The normal term of a settlement now is forty years. Settlement officers are naturally very cautious in their estimates of yield because, if full yields are adopted, the burden of land revenue may prove easily disastrous, particularly in the case of small owners. The consequence is that yields adopted at settlement are notoriously low. These yields being low, a four-anna scale is bound to be very distinctly lower than would be indicated by normal produce which a cultivator expects and on which his own estimate of a four-anna crop is based. The cultivator finds himself between two stools. If full yields are adopted at the time of settlement, he stands to suffer for forty years. If full yields are not adopted, as they are not, at the time of settlement, he fails to get kharaba where he feels he is entitled to it. If I were to have a choice between these two evils, I would decidedly accept the lesser of the two which is loss of kharaba remission rather than the greater evil of having to pay a larger amount of land revenue from year to year for the whole term of the settlement.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah had, during the course of his speech, put forward three or four proposals which deserve notice. One of these proposals was that the budget of the Irrigation Department should be separated from the general budget as is the case with the Railway Budget in the Central Government. But what is the object of this separation? From his speech it would appear that the object underlying the proposal is that the pointed attention of honourable members may be drawn to the fact that the capital of 40 crores or so which has been spent on canals has already been paid several times over. According to his view this phenomenon would make out an irresistible case for the lowering of abiana rates. But I maintain that this proposition of lowering of rates is not practical politics. Let us not forget that the water supplied by means of canals is the property of the Province as a whole and the Government of the Province is entitled to get as much revenue from this property as it can in reason and fairness. Moreover, the capital spent on the construction of canals was the property of the whole Province and was raised on the credit of the general revenues of the Province while the benefit of this expenditure has gone entirely to those areas where these canals fertilise the lands of irrigators. The irrigators cannot, therefore, claim that the capital having already been recovered several times over, they should not be required to make any further payments or to make payments on a very much reduced scale. The inhabitants of those portions of the Province which are outside the sphere of these canals are equally entitled to a recurring income from the investment of that capital. In this connection, it requires constantly to be borne in mind that the Irrigation Department is a commercial concern and the State which owns these canals on behalf of the community at large has a right to expect a recurring income from the investment of its capital. Further, let us not forget that the amount of abiana which is charged from irrigators is only a fraction of what a cultivator would have to spend if he were to irrigate his land by lifting water from wells. The highest rate of abiana for canal water is Rs. 11 per acre



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on sugarcane while in the case of other crops it comes down to as low as Rs. 2-8-0. On the other hand, lift irrigation from wells costs anything between Rs. 15 and Rs. 25 per acre.

May I draw the attention of the honourable members to the fact that the Government has to maintain a number of essential and beneficent services most of which either bring no return or bring only a negligible return? For instance, we have to maintain a large police force, a number of courts and such departments as Education, Public Health, Medical, Agriculture, Veterinary and Industries. How are these departments to be maintained if the earning departments, such as those of Irrigation and Land Revenue, are run on a basis of income therefrom being equal to or slightly in excess of expenditure thereon?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah was pleased to suggest the analogy of the Railway Budget for his proposal of separation, but he seems to have missed the fact that from this year the separation of the Railway Budget from the General Budget is, I understand, to be discontinued. This being so, we should learn a lesson from the experience of the Government of India who propose to revert to the old system of having one combined budget.

**Mian Abdul Aziz:** Will it not be advisable to consider the commercial departments on the commercial basis?

**Minister:** It is all very well to suggest attractive theories, but practical considerations preclude the possibility of Mian Sahib's theory being acted upon. I have already stated my reasons for the view which I hold.

The case of unproductive canals has also to be taken into account. There are certain canals which are not productive, which are being run even at a loss. And yet for various reasons these canals are essential and cannot be closed. The canal system of the Province must be viewed as a whole.

Another suggestion made by Mian Nurullah was that we should introduce the system of collective farming in the Punjab. I know that this system is in vogue in Russia, a country the very name of which used to produce a fright until two or three years ago. But during the last two years or so Russia has come in as our ally and Russians have fought so valiantly without any sign of treachery in their own camp that there has been a reaction in favour of Russia. The fact that there were no Quislings to be found in Russia seems to suggest that the general population of that country is satisfied with the economic structure of which collective farming is an important item. This favourable reaction has had the effect of turning the attention of many Indians towards collective farming. The suggestion was made last year also and in replying to the suggestion I referred to the strong individualistic tendencies which are ingrained in the nature of the Punjab peasant. In view of those tendencies I expressed last year my doubt about the practicability of introducing collective farming in this Province. My doubt still lingers in full strength. But I will consult the Honourable Premier and my other colleagues of the Cabinet whether it is desirable to set apart one or two chaks in the Haveli Project for trying an experiment of collective farming in our Province. In this connection I may mention that five years ago I suggested that an area of five thousand

acres should be reserved for trying the experiment of co-operative farming. The advice which I received from our expert officers was that the experiment was not likely to succeed. I feel that if co-operative farming is not likely to appeal to the Punjab peasant, collective farming will appeal to him still less.

The third proposal put forward by Mian Nurullah was that we should quicken the pace of consolidation of holdings. According to him this will result in the more economic use of canal water. Mian Nurullah will, I am sure, be glad to hear that more than a million acres of land have already been consolidated and it is expected that  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of acres annually are likely to be consolidated in the next few years and the pace is likely to be further quickened as time passes. I may add that I am speaking only from memory with regard to the figures which I have just quoted.

The observations of the communist member, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, have already been replied to by Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan. I need not take much time in repeating the arguments used by my Parliamentary Secretary. However, I may add a few figures. The main argument of Sardar Sohan Singh Josh was that the "Grow More Food" campaign of the Punjab Government had not been a success. I emphatically differ with Sardar Sahib. Facts and figures are against him. In the last kharif an additional area of 110,258 acres of land was placed under rice. Similarly 76,556 additional acres of maize, 171,077 additional acres of bajra and 261,014 acres of pulses were sown in excess of the area sown in the previous year. This means that our area under these crops exceeded that of the previous year by 5 lakhs of acres. This was the direct result of the 'Grow More Food' campaign of the Punjab Government. Again, the figures of the present Rabi crop up to December 1942, show that the area under wheat, gram, barley and mixed grains exceeds that of the previous year by 220,552 acres. These figures relate to the areas already booked. Another increase of about 2 lakhs of acres is expected when final figures become available. Thus, the total area placed under irrigated food grains alone during the kharif and rabi crops of 1942-43 is a million acres more than in the previous year. Figures about *barani* areas are in addition to this area. This is an achievement for which great credit is due to the 'Grow More Food' campaign.

Some of the honourable members imported the question of price control into the discussion. They pointed out that it was a great hardship on the zamindars that any control on prices of food-grains should have been imposed at all. Although price control has no connection with the Irrigation Department, yet as reference has been made to it by some honourable members, and my silence may be misconstrued, I would like to clear the position of the Punjab Government in regard to it. Let me assure my honourable friends that the Punjab Government has spared no efforts to oppose the imposition of any price control. At the first Price Control Conference I used all the arguments which have been used in this House against price control and put forward a few more. Like my honourable friends here, I suggested that there being no control on the prices of the requirements which the zamindars have to purchase from the market, there should be no control on the prices of food-grains. Like my honourable

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friends of this Assembly, I also drew the pointed attention of the Price Control Conference to the fact that during a long spell of years when the cultivator had to part with his produce at a price lower than the cost of production or barely in excess of it, nobody came to his rescue, and that the Government of India had no moral justification for imposing control on the price of wheat when the time came for a natural rise in that price. I also drew attention of the Conference to the fact that the minimum price suggested for adoption under the scheme of control in the United States was to be not less than the average price for the years 1919 to 1929. The average price for wheat during this period at Lyallpur was Rs. 5-5-0 per maund and I pressed that the control price should, in no case, be lower than this. However, in spite of my protests, the price was fixed at Rs. 4-6-0 per maund at Lyallpur. At the second Price Control Conference, when the case came up for reconsideration, I repeated my arguments and pointed out the increase which had occurred in the price of the zamindars' requirements during the interval. I also made use of the argument that it was not proper to control the price of wheat at an unreasonably low figure and to cause discontent in a Province the agricultural classes of which were also the martial classes and were supplying a very heavy proportion of combatant recruits. I went even to the extent of giving an indication that if any serious dissatisfaction and resentment followed in the Province as I feared, it would be most difficult for the Punjab Government to enforce price control on a resentful peasantry. This was in a way an indication of *nim baghavat* (half revolt) on the part of the Punjab Government in the matter of implementing the proposals of control. However, the price was again fixed at Rs. 4-6-0 per maund. The only effect of my vigorous protests was that the Honourable late Premier was summoned to Delhi, and, as a result of consultation with him, the price of wheat was put up to Rs. 5 per maund at Lyallpur. The Punjab Government had also expressed its reluctance to price control and made strong representations against the fixation of a low price. Thus, it would appear that neither the Punjab Government nor its representative at the Price Control Conference was remiss in the discharge of their duties towards the peasantry of this Province.

I share to the full the resentment of the representatives of agricultural classes in this House against the control of the price of wheat. There is no reason why the Punjab should be expected to feed the people of Madras, Bombay and Bengal and even that at cheap rates. There is no control on the price of rice in those provinces. However, I admit that we have been very unlucky in the matter of price control. Famine-stricken areas of the South-East were able, after a long period of scarcity, to produce large quantities of bajra and would have been able to obtain good prices for their surplus but for the action of the Government of India. The Central Government have imposed a restriction on the export of bajra from the Province except under a permit. There is neither sense nor justice in these restrictions. But these restrictions having been imposed, we have had to submit to them. We are a subordinate Government under the Government of India Act which it is not within our power to amend. The zamindars were prepared to sell their surplus of bajra at reasonable rates. The Government of India

ought to have purchased it. But they had not. Instead, they have placed obstacles in the way of free movement of bajra. I do not know whether the Government of India realize that bajra is a food grain which cannot be stored and for which there will be no demand after the middle of April. Moreover, this restriction will result in depreciation of the price of bajra which will, in its turn, react on the price of wheat at the time of the next harvest. I maintain that the true remedy was to give reasonable dearness allowance to low-paid employees of Government and local bodies, to raise wages of labour and to open cheap grain shops for the poorer sections of the community if and where practicable. But this has not been done. (*An honourable member*: Amend the Government of India Act). If I had the power I would have amended the Government of India Act not in one but in several respects.

An honourable member enquired whether the Government would not commandeer the stocks of zamindars. To my knowledge, no such action has been taken. No complaint has come to my notice and I do not think that any commandeering will be resorted to in future. The zamindars will certainly be allowed to keep with them stocks which will be required by them for their needs of domestic consumption and seed and these stocks will, I presume, be allowed on a generous scale. But if any zamindar starts trading in foodstuffs and, instead of having a normal stock to meet his requirements, begins to accumulate large stocks, the Government of India may possibly intervene, particularly if such stocking is resorted to on a large scale and by a number of zamindars. However, in the case of ordinary cultivators Government have no intention whatever of commandeering their stocks. Moreover, if zamindars are offered a reasonable price for their produce, there will be no motive or temptation for them to lay by stocks of wheat and I have no reason to think that reasonable prices will not be offered to them.

Yet another suggestion is that canal water should be supplied according to what is known as volumetric system. The suggestion is good in itself, but there are several difficulties in the way of adopting it. While the big zamindars can take water in bulk supply and pay for it at agreed rates, the smaller zamindars will not be found ready to take canal water on these bases. In the first place the zamindars are very conservative and are averse to any change in old methods, even though the change may be beneficial. But the practical difficulty arises from the fact that although the Irrigation Department can supply a fixed quantity of water at the head of the outlet and make a charge according to the quantity supplied, the internal distribution of the water supplied cannot be solved unless zamindars agree to farm on a co-operative basis and share the produce as well as the amount of *abiana* paid on a co-operative basis. If, however, the zamindars owning land commanded by any particular outlet agree to co-operative methods in cultivation and sharing of water and its *abiana*, the Government will consider their request for volumetric supply with care and sympathy.

Yet another complaint is that the Irrigation Department employs a large number of people on a temporary basis. So far as the engagement of temporary engineers is concerned, it has certain advantages which induce engineers to accept the terms of temporary employment. But presumably

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the complaint refers to the case of a number of clerks, draftsmen and other subordinates who are engaged on a temporary basis and remain unconfirmed, although they may have put in 10, 12 or 15 years of service. While they receive increments admissible to them under the rules, they cannot look forward to any pension or bonus at the time of retirement. The question of improving the prospects of these temporary subordinates without offering them permanent employment is under consideration, and if the finances of the Province permit and the Finance Department are found agreeable, it may be possible to grant special bonuses or special pensions to the members of temporary cadres at the time of their retirement. It is expected that a reference will be made to the Finance Department during the course of the present financial year.

Some honourable members have complained that many outlets are not functioning properly and do not discharge the amount of water to which the lands served by them are entitled and that these outlets should be remodelled immediately. It will be remembered that a few years ago the complaint was that outlets should not be remodelled too frequently. After careful consideration Government made a rule that no remodelling should be undertaken for a period of 5 years without the special sanction of Government. However, if any cases of defective functioning of outlets are brought to the notice of the Chief Engineers and they are satisfied that remodelling is necessary, remodelling before the normal period of 5 years can be sanctioned by Government in those special cases. Any instances brought to the notice of the Chief Engineers will, I assure the honourable members, be sympathetically considered.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Sir Allah Bakhsh drew my attention to the grievances of the inhabitants of Pind Dadan Khan about the running of the newly constructed canal having been unduly delayed. Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, my Parliamentary Secretary, has also brought this grievance to my notice. The file of the case is pending with me and early steps will be taken to remove this grievance.

Further, my attention has been drawn to glaring disparities which exist between the intensity of irrigation sanctioned for adjoining chaks. I have not been able to understand why this should be so. There may be some special circumstances justifying this disparity. However, I will look into the matter and if Mian Muhammad Nurullah, who pointed out this discrepancy, will kindly give me the names of the chaks where this disparity exists, I will make enquiries and, if practicable, remove the grievance.

Pir Mubarik Ali Shah made a complaint that while colony chaks were given a higher intensity of irrigation proprietary chaks were allowed a much lower intensity. He suggests that the difference in the two categories of chaks is approximately 20 to 25 per cent. He considers this an invidious distinction which, in his view, cannot be justified. However, I cannot agree with him. Although I have made no enquiries, I can easily guess the reasons which account for this distinction. In order to make any project financially sound a certain proportion of the Crown area covered by the project has to be set apart for public auction. In order to obtain good prices a more liberal supply of water has to be ensured for the land to be auctioned.

If this were not done, the project might not be undertaken at all. I do not think that, if a project fails to be undertaken in consequence of a more liberal supply of water not being secured for areas meant to be auctioned at good prices, the owners of proprietary areas will be gainers. I am sure that if the zamindars were offered a choice between getting an intensity of 50 per cent, or no irrigation at all, they would decide for a lower supply than for no supply at all. It is obvious, therefore, that the complaint of Sayed Mubarik Ali Shah is not justifiable.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh :** Is it not a fact that, due to large quantities of water being supplied to colony area, the level of sub-soil water is rising, bringing up salts from beneath and the proprietary lands surrounding these colony areas cannot wash down these salts because their intensity of irrigation is only about 40 or 50 per cent ?

**Minister :** The question raised by my honourable friend is not really relevant to the point which I was discussing. That question is entirely different. I may, however, assure the honourable member that if it is proved that as a result of an excessive supply of water to surrounding colony areas any proprietary lands are becoming *thur-stricken*, I will look into the matter carefully and adopt such remedial measures as are possible.

**Sayed Mubarik Ali Shah :** May I know from the Honourable Minister of Revenue if Government is prepared to stop differential treatment meted out to old colony areas as compared with new colony areas in the Jhang district in the matter of providing irrigation facilities ?

**Minister :** I am afraid, I cannot reply to the question of the honourable member off-hand. If he has in view the case of those areas which are to come under irrigation now as compared with the case of those areas which were receiving irrigation previously, I am prepared to justify what he calls a differential treatment. Probably he will remember that from the owners of new colony lands, we are charging 20 per cent of the capital value of their lands for providing water from the Thal Project and we passed a special Bill for this purpose. The honourable member will surely agree that men who have to part with 20 per cent of their land or to pay by instalments a levy of 20 per cent of the capital value of their agricultural property, have a perfect right to obtain a greater intensity of irrigation for their lands than the owners of old colonies who pay nothing beyond ordinary water-rates for the benefits of canal irrigation. The complaint about charging the same rate irrespective of intensity of irrigation has not much force. On the Western Jumna Canal, where the average intensity of irrigation is only 25 per cent, rates charged are the same as those in other parts of the province where the intensity of irrigation is as high as 70 or 80 per cent. But let us not forget that these rates are charged on lands which are actually irrigated and while the pitch of rates is the same the total amount paid will naturally be different, as the area irrigated in tracts of higher intensity will be larger than the area irrigated in tracts of lower intensity.

The question whether a capital levy will be made on other projects which may be undertaken in future is not easy to answer. If it is necessary that such a levy should be made in order to make any particular project productive, the levy may be made. If such levy is not necessary, irrigators may escape the levy. However, I do not propose to pry into the distant.

**[Minister of Revenue]**

future. Who knows what changes may take place in the economic and social structure of various countries as a result of the new forces which may come into play after the present war terminates.

**Sayed Mubarik Ali Shah :** Is it not a fact that water was increased in a distributary of Lower Jhelum Canal a few years ago on an experimental basis and an assurance was given by the Government that the increased supply would be continued if the experiment proved successful?

**Minister :** I am sorry I cannot answer this question. It is not possible for any Minister to carry in his head all the information relating to minor matters dealt with by the various departments under him at various times. All that I can say is that any assurance given by Government will be fully honoured, unless it is physically impossible to give effect to that assurance. I may also assure honourable members that if additional water is available and supplies can be increased anywhere, Government will consider the question of increasing supplies.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh has ventilated the grievances of his constituency. He complained that irrigators of Gurgaon have to pay higher rates for their supplies from the Agra Canal than the rates which Punjabi irrigators have to pay for supplies from Punjab canals. I am sorry to say that the Agra Canal belongs to the United Provinces Government and not to the Punjab Government. We made repeated representations to the United Provinces Government pressing upon them the advisability of bringing their rates into line with Punjab rates. Even while a Congress Government was in office in the United Provinces, we represented matters to them twice or thrice, but each time the United Provinces Government turned down our request. However, while we have not succeeded with the United Provinces Government, it cannot be said that the Punjab Government has not reimbursed the zamindars of the Gurgaon district for higher rates which they have to pay to the United Provinces Government. The approximate amount which the zamindars of Gurgaon pay to the United Provinces Government in water rates in excess of what they would have paid if they had been receiving canal water from the Punjab Government is Rs. 20,000. The Punjab Government places an amount of Rs. 20,000 annually at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner for being spent for the benefit of Gurgaon. A further complaint of Gurgaon irrigators in this connection is that while water rates are paid by the zamindars of only irrigated tracts, this amount of Rs. 20,000 is spent for the benefit of the district as a whole. My reply is that Gurgaon as a district loses nothing, and the zamindars of irrigated areas should take a reasonable view of the manner in which this amount is spent. After all there are certain tracts in the Gurgaon district which suffer from famine or draught much more frequently than the tracts protected by canals and if a little money is spent upon Bewari and other portions of Gurgaon, which are more liable to famine or drought, the lucky people of irrigated tracts should not grudge this expenditure.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** It is given in the budget that this amount has been spent on the improvement of co-operative movement in the district.

**Minister of Revenue :** Yes, the honourable member is correct. The Deputy Commissioner was instructed by Government to spend this amount in as profitable a manner as possible. As the condition of co-operative movement in the district was going from bad to worse, it was decided to spend this amount to rehabilitate that movement. It is a matter for gratification that to-day the co-operative movement is on a firm footing and is flourishing, so much so that some of the tahsils of the Gurgaon district can now be compared with the best tracts of the Central Punjab. Consequently, it is now open to Government to divert this amount to some other purpose. If the honourable member is in a position to suggest a more profitable way of spending this money, I will give his suggestion a very careful consideration.

The honourable member representing the Palwal sub-division has also complained of deficient supply of canal water. Apart from the fact that the Agra Canal is administered by the United Provinces Government, there is another factor which should be borne in mind. After all, supply in canals depends upon supply in rivers. The supply in rivers, in its turn, depends upon the amount of rain and snowfall. If rainfall or snowfall is more plentiful, the supply in canals will also be more plentiful and irrigators will get more water. If rainfall or snowfall is scanty, supply in rivers and canals and to irrigators is also bound to be scanty. All that I can do is to pray for a higher rainfall and higher snowfall.

I shall not be doing justice to Government or to myself or to my honourable friend, Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad, if I fail to reply to the criticism which he thought fit to indulge in. He complained that the Bhakra Dam Scheme had not materialised. I have already explained in detail the circumstances which hampered the Bhakra Dam Scheme. But he has made two other complaints. In the first instance he insinuated that in consequence of my partiality for my own district—*khud garzi* was the expression used by him—the Extension Scheme work was started earlier in Rohtak than in Hissar. This is entirely wrong. It is the reverse of truth. The construction work was first started in Hissar which received its irrigation a year earlier than Rohtak. Secondly, he complained that villages mostly populated by Muslims have not been included in the scope of these extensions, while the villages populated mostly by Hindus have been particularly favoured in this respect. These allegations are most irresponsible. A man who is so narrow-minded as to deprive Muslim villages of canal water and favour Hindus on the ground of religion is not a fit person to occupy the position of a Minister and only those persons are capable of attributing such unworthy motives to Ministers whose own souls are so deeply darkened by bigotry as to be impervious to any light or charity or good will to others. To prove that these allegations are as baseless as they are malicious, I can only refer to the fact that the complaints which were received in this connection were referred for enquiry to local officers,—of whom, according to my memory, two were Muslims—and were found to be devoid of truth.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*



**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,33,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

*The motion was carried.*

## SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND QUESTION HOUR

**Premier :** I have an announcement to make about the sittings of the Assembly. It is proposed that the Assembly should not meet on Friday the 19th March. The necessary motion about this will be made on Thursday the 18th. It is also proposed that the question hour be dispensed with both on Thursday the 18th and Monday the 22nd of March. I have come to this agreement with the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. If necessary on Monday we will sit a little later provided the debate is not finished. The Supplementary Estimates (Third Instalment) which were to be presented on Friday, will also be presented, under these circumstances, on Thursday the 18th of March. Necessary motions will be made on Thursday next when the necessary approval of His Excellency the Governor is received. Questions will not be asked at the next two sittings. As I have said, on the 22nd, if need be, we will sit a little later in order to accommodate the Leader of the Opposition. This is being done because of the change of the day of appearance of the Moon.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to ask a question with respect to the proposal just made. I want to know whether the time which is already fixed for the Budget discussion is going to be curtailed by this proposal.

**Premier :** Regular motions will be made on Thursday. Further the honourable member may ask the Leader of the Opposition. I cannot deal with individuals.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Already so many days have been cut with respect to the discussion of the Budget. Is this a proposal to cut more time ?

**Premier :** I have already said that I have settled with the Leader of the Opposition. I cannot deal with individuals.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I have a right to get information as to whether the time is being reduced.

**Minister of Finance :** Approach your Leader.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,26,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of General Administration.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,26,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of General Administration.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 42,000 on account of A—Heads of Province—H—Ministers—Pay of the Premier, be reduced by Rs. 41,999.

My purpose is to discuss the general policy of administration of the Punjab Government.

**Mr. Speaker :** This motion is out of order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** No, Sir, it is not out of order. I want to submit that the mere fact that the item is shown as a charged item in the Budget does not mean that it is a charge on the revenues of the Province. There must be legal sanction for it. I want to refer you to the proceedings of the Punjab Assembly regarding the Salary Bill of the Chair.

**Minister of Finance :** The salary of the Premier is a charge on the revenues of the Province by virtue of the Government of India Act.

**Mr. Speaker :** Sub-section (3) of Section 78 of the Government of India Act, 1935, says—

(3) The following expenditure shall be expenditure charged on the revenues of each Province—

(c) the salaries and allowances of Ministers, and of the Advocates-General.

Therefore both the amendments of the honourable member are out of order.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal** (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour) (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I have moved this out with a two fold object. I propose, first, to offer some constructive suggestions to the Government and, secondly, to sound a note of warning to them where, in matters of policy, they have deflected from the right path. Before doing so, I would criticise the general policy of the Government during the past six years. These six years have seen many acts of highhandedness on the part of the Government. I intend to take up first the hardships that the people of this Province have suffered during the period under review.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 18th March 1943.*

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Thursday, 18th March 1943*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the Clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

## QUESTION HOUR

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat) : I move—

That the question hour be dispensed with to-day, the 18th March and on Monday, the 22nd March 1943.

**Mr. Speaker** : Motion moved is—

That the question hour be dispensed with to-day, the 18th March and on Monday, the 22nd March 1943.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : I oppose this motion. My objection is that this is a very important question and there is hardly quorum in the House.

**Mr. Speaker** : The House is in quorum.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : There is bare quorum in the House and this question is a very important one.

**Mr. Speaker** : Why cannot the business of the House be transacted when there is quorum ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Since the question relates to the amendment of the Rules of Procedure.

**Mr. Speaker** : There is no amendment of the Rules. Question is—

That the question hour be dispensed with to-day, the 18th March and on Monday, the 22nd March 1943.

*The motion was carried.*

## ADJOURNMENT

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat) : I move—

That this Assembly at its rising this day be adjourned till Monday, the 22nd March 1943.

As Budget business is involved, the formal orders of His Excellency the Governor have been obtained.

**Mr. Speaker** : Motion moved—

That this Assembly at its rising this day be adjourned till Monday, the 22nd March 1943.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Rule 132 of the Rules of Procedure lays down that 15 days can be allotted by the Governor for discussion and voting of Demands for Grants. This year only 6 days have been allotted.

**Mr. Speaker :** What is the point of order ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** These days have been fixed by the Governor and it is mandatory that on all these days this business should be transacted. Why is this one day being taken away ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is being done under the orders of His Excellency the Governor.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** My submission is that it is not a fact, as the statement of the Honourable Premier the other day was that it was being done in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Speaker :** He did not say that the Governor was not to be consulted. To-day he has stated on the floor of the House that His Excellency the Governor has given sanction.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That is a different matter altogether. My point is that it was done on the initiative of the Leader of the House and there is nothing in the Rules that authorises him to make such a proposal.

**Premier :** I will make the position clear, Mr. Speaker. This change was proposed in consultation with my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, and we both agreed so that it might enable honourable members to adjust their programmes. It was merely a proposal that day, and I said that I would make a formal motion to-day. As it involves Budget business, the formal orders of His Excellency the Governor have been obtained. The trouble is that I cannot discuss all such matters with individual members and free-lancers like my honourable friend ; I consulted the Leader of the Opposition.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I want to know the reason why it is being done.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is not a point of order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I will explain to you, Mr. Speaker. It is a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow any further discussion. Question is—

That this Assembly at its rising this day be adjourned till Monday, the 22nd March 1948.

*The motion was carried.*

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (THIRD INSTALMENT)

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : I present the Supplementary Estimates (Third Instalment) 1942-48. I have to intimate that the demands made thereunder are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

#### DISTRICT BOARDS BILL

**Minister of Public Works** (The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan) : I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Punjab District Boards Bill.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now resume discussion on Demands for Grants.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal** (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour). (Urdu) : Sir, the other day when I had just started to make a speech after moving my cut motion, the House adjourned. To-day before I proceed with my speech, I would like to make it clear that I have not the slightest intention to deliver an attack on the Government for their policy underlying this demand. I rather intend to offer constructive criticism while making a dispassionate review of the general administration of the province during the six years' regime of the Unionist Government. My object in doing so is to point out certain defects in the administration and also to bring certain grievances of the public to the notice of the Government, so that it may take suitable action to set matters right. Well, Sir, since this Government came to power, successive taxation measures have been brought on the legislative anvil victimising a particular section of the public. Communal bitterness has been rampant in the province and is on the increase and there has been no change for the better. Then various local bodies and municipal committees have been superseded and have not been restored as yet. Besides, during this period there has been a progressive deterioration in the efficiency of the Punjab Government and their departments. Above all unparalleled hartals were observed by the trading community out of protest for the vindictive policy of the Government towards it. These are hard facts. May I enquire from the Honourable Premier if he can deny them? Is it not a fact that Lahore Municipality and several others have been under supersession during the regime of the Unionist Ministry? Is it not true that there have been hartals of unprecedented nature in the province lasting for 1½ month?

**Minister of Education :** Through your kindness.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** It is through the kindness of your colleague. Well, Sir, this has been the general situation. But I particularly want elucidation of two points from the Honourable Premier. I am sure he will throw light on them while replying to the debate on this demand. The first point is whether he agrees with the observations made by his colleague, the Finance Minister, to the effect that he is not in favour of imposing any more taxes. He should unequivocally state his taxation policy and tell us as to how he will reconcile the conflicting opinions of the Finance and Revenue Ministers. The Finance Minister boldly stated that he would stick to his opinion even at the cost of parting company with his colleagues. But my friend, the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, the Revenue Minister, is reported to have said that he intended to raise taxes to the tune of Rs. 4 crores. I want the Honourable Premier to tell us in unambiguous terms whether he endorses the policy of fresh taxation as enunciated by his deputy and whether it is his intention to levy fresh taxes.

**Minister for Revenue :** I will tell you in due course.

**Premier :** Do not worry. These taxes are proposed to be levied after the war.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** The Honourable Premier is talking of the remote future. He should bear this fact in mind that after the war, new elections are to be held. There is no knowing who will be at the helm of affairs, and which party will come to power. Hence he cannot say with any amount of certainty that taxes will be levied after war. However, the second point about which I want a categorical statement of the Honourable Premier is whether he still stands by the Sikandar-Baldev Singh Pact and is determined to honour its provisions. I am asking this question with a view to allaying the doubts that have arisen in the minds of the public. This Pact was considered at length by the Party and approved at the time when the Government known as the Sikander Government was in power, but what is the policy of the Khizar Government towards this ?

Then, Sir, it is during the budget session that a government can be adjudged for its work. I would, therefore, like to mention a few points which are considered to be the touchstone of a good government. It is adjudged by the fact of its treatment accorded to the backward classes like Harijans and other rural classes ; whether it treats them fairly and has done something for their uplift with a view to bringing them on equal footing with others.

Then we have to see whether the decisions of the Executive Government are based on justice and equity and whether even-handed justice is being administered to all without any distinction of caste or creed. In other words, the rule of law is to be the watch-word of a good government.

The third test by which a good government is adjudged, is the amount of interest that it takes in the beneficent activities calculated to ameliorate the condition of the masses.

The fourth test is whether it has done anything substantial in the domain of industrial development; whether any measures have been adopted by it to encourage industries in the province.

The fifth standard is the establishment of communal harmony. We have to see whether any effort has been made by it to bring about communal accord among the different communities inhabiting the province.

The sixth test is the efficiency of its administration and the measure of prosperity enjoyed by the people of the province under its regime.

I feel that any government that comes to power, should endeavour to take the blessings of the people and not the curses.

Now I will deal with these points seriatim and show whether the Government comes up to the mark. As I have already stated, the rule of law should be the acid test of any good government. In this respect, I am constrained to remark the Unionist Government has been found wanting. In every Bill it presented to the House, it took meticulous care to do away with the jurisdiction of the courts. It made a provision in every Act to debar the public from seeking justice in courts of law. It has all along endeavoured to delegate powers to the executive authority with judicial powers and oust the jurisdiction of even the highest tribunal in the province. It has not stopped at that. It is alleged that it interferes with the decisions of the executive officers as well. It is no wonder that an impression is gaining ground with the public at large that interference by the Government in

the decisions of the executive officers as well as certain courts, is so great that justice is becoming scarce in the provinces. Although I do not agree that that is the case, yet it is unfortunate that the public should carry such an impression and begin to despair of even-handed justice at the hands of the Government. I ask, what is the use of setting up courts if their duties are to be entrusted to the executive authority? I am of the opinion that courts should be free to do their job and no restriction should be placed on their jurisdiction.

Then, sir, whereas it is our duty to enact laws, it behoves us to see that the working and administration of these enactments is left in the hands of the executive authorities and judicial courts as the case may be. The Government should keep a vigilant eye and see that the laws are properly administered. The Judicial Department or courts are formed for the purpose of administering justice which object is not achieved.

In this connection I have to make a suggestion to the effect that a committee consisting of legal luminaries like Malik Barkat Ali, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, Mir Maqbool Mahmood, Dr. Alam, Sheikh Karamat Ali, with Legal Remembrancer should be appointed and entrusted with the task of scrutinizing all the laws that have so far been enacted. The committee should go into these legislative measures with a view to removing these defects in them and suggesting suitable amendments, if necessary, to improve them. This would go a long way to satisfy the public. Again, my object in making this suggestion is that it would be more expedient for the Government to amend the laws on the advice of the honourable members of this House, rather than be forced by circumstances to effect changes in them. In this connection I have to draw the attention of the Government to that regrettable incident which was the result of their persistent refusal to accept the reasonable and fair amendments suggested by Khawaja Ghulam Samad to raise the taxable limit in the General Sales Tax from five to ten thousand rupees. These amendments were supported by me, Sir William Roberts and Mr. Guest, who sit on the Ministerial benches. The Government were adamant and did not care to pay heed to the advice of the aforesaid members. But the dire consequences which followed their stubbornness, forced them ultimately to incorporate these amendments in the Act. Honourable members are aware of the long hartals which were carried on on an unprecedented scale by the traders with a view to getting the General Sales Tax Act amended in certain respects. It is an open secret that Government had to make those changes in that Act. So what I want to drive at is that it would have been much better for the Government if they had accepted the sincere advice of the honourable members of the House and quietly amended the General Sales Tax Act. They would have been saved the worry and botheration to quell the agitation and put to an end to the chaotic conditions into which the province was plunged.

Now I come to the efficiency of the administration. I am of the opinion that there should be some principle to which the Government should adhere with a view to maintaining the standard of efficiency of the general administration at a high level. In this connection I may refer the honourable members to the appointment of the Public Service Commission of the Punjab. I wish to point out that the said Commission is a hoax that is being played



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by the Government on the public. It was constituted with the object that the efficiency of the personnel recruited by it for running the machinery of the Government, should not be impaired. In other words, it was intended, to entrust the selection and recruitment of persons for Government service to such a body as may be guided by the principle of merit as the sole criterion. Now I would like to quote an extract which clearly states the object with which this body was brought into existence.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** The honourable member is discussing the Public Service Commission. I may point out that the appointment of the members of the Public Service Commission is in the individual discretion of the Governor and, therefore, the honourable member cannot discuss it.

**Premier :** I am grateful to the honourable member for pointing out this. No reference should be made to the Public Service Commission.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** I am not at all going to attack the members of the Public Service Commission. As a matter of fact I have the greatest respect for them. I am not in the least concerned with the members constituting the Commission. I simply want to point out the background and the object of the creation of this body. My honourable friend should have the patience to hear me first and then criticise my remarks.

**Premier :** I must point out again that the honourable member is trying to infer that something has not been done by the Public Service Commission, but which should have been done. The honourable member can criticise us but not the Public Service Commission itself or its working.

**Dr. Sir Gokal Chaud Narang :** Let us first hear what he has to say. He probably wants to say that the Government is trying to interfere with the decisions of the Public Service Commission.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** I have no desire to criticise the Public Service Commission or its working, nor am I concerned with the members constituting that body. I want to say something which has a direct bearing on the Government.

**Premier :** Let him make the Executive Government the target of his criticism but he should refrain from saying that the Commission has done this thing or that thing wrongly.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** My friend the Honourable Premier may rest assured that I will do nothing of that kind. I simply want the Government to mend their ways in regard to their dealings with this body. That is what I am going to point out. Again my object in referring to the extract, which I will just read out, is to point out the background leading to the appointment of this body.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** The honourable member insists on saying something which he is not entitled to say in this House.

**Mr. Speaker :** What is that "something"?

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** Sir, the extract referred to by me runs thus :—

*Section 264—The case for a "Public Service Commission" was thus set out by the Lee Commission of 1924 :—*

Wherever democratic institutions exist, experience has shown that to secure an efficient Civil Service it is essential to protect it so far as possible from political or personal influence and to give it that position of stability and security which is vital to its successful working as the impartial and efficient instrument by which Governments, of whatever political complexion, may give effect to their policies. In countries where this principle has been neglected, and where the 'spoils system' has taken its place, an inefficient and disorganised Civil Service has been the inevitable result and corruption has been rampant. In America a Civil Service Commission has been constituted to control recruitment of the services, but, for the purposes of India, it is from the Dominions of the British Empire that more relevant and useful lessons can perhaps be drawn. Canada, Australia, and South Africa now possess Public or Civil Services Acts, regulating the position and control of the Public Services Commission, to which the duty of administering the Acts is entrusted. It was this need which the framers of the Government of India Act had in mind when they made provision in Section 96-C for the establishment of a Public Service Commission to discharge "in regard to recruitment and control of the Public Services in India such functions as may be assigned thereto by rules made by the Secretary of State in Council".

It will be clear now why the appointment of the Public Service Commission was brought about. I submit the intention was that in the matter of recruitment it should recommend persons purely on the basis of merit. But firstly the Government have introduced communal proportion here as well. That is, the selection made by the Commission is carried on strictly in accordance with the communal ratio fixed by the Government. Besides this objection, I object to another order of the Government. Supposing two vacancies are to be filled. What the Commission should normally do is to recommend the names of two candidates who top the list. But what happens is this. Government issue instructions to the Commission that instead of sending up two names, they should recommend five or six names without indicating the order of merit. This procedure helps the Government to appoint persons after their own liking. But the possibility is that injustice may be done to the persons whose name is placed first in order of merit. This shows that merit, which is considered to be the corner stone of efficiency, is no longer taken into account by the Government.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** The Public Service Commission is working under certain rules which are framed by the Governor and, therefore I think, the honourable member is not entitled to criticise the observance of the rules by the Public Service Commission. He can say that the Commission is going beyond the rules. If the Commission is not working within the rules, then he is entitled to discuss it, otherwise not.

**Mr. Speaker :** I think the honourable member is in order.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** My submission is that the method adopted by the Government reduces the Public Service Commission to a farce and also undermines the efficiency of the administration to a great extent. Is this fair on the part of the Government? If this is the policy which the Government are determined to pursue, then they should better do away with the Public Service Commission and save the tax-payers' money for being utilised in some judicious manner.

Now I would like to deal with the beneficent activities of the Government. We are told time and again that the beneficent departments are receiving their special attention and that increased amounts are being expended on them. During the general discussion of the budget, the

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Honourable Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries mentioned with great pride that this year a further increase had been made in the amount allocated to the beneficent departments. But let us analyse the position. In the year 1936-37, while the revenue receipts stood at 11 crores, the expenditure incurred in respect of beneficent departments amounted to Rs. 287 lakhs. Then in the year 1942-43 the corresponding figures for provincial receipts and expenditure on beneficent departments stood at Rs. 1,577 lakhs and Rs. 366 lakhs, respectively. If we just work out the percentages, we find that whereas the proportion between the expenditure on beneficent activities and the provincial revenue receipts in 1936-37 comes to 26 per cent, the proportion for the year 1942-43 stands at 23.41 per cent. It will be crystal clear that although apparently there has been a steady increase in the provision made for the beneficent activities, actually the percentage of expenditure has decreased by 3 per cent. Then if we take this fact into consideration that the population as shown by the Census has increased more in proportion than the annual income of the Government, then the percentage of expenditure per capita on beneficent activities is still further lowered. This drop in the expenditure does not redound to the credit of the Government. May I know if the Government are in a position to explain away this falling of expenditure? I would request the Government to enhance the provision earmarked for the beneficent departments to such an extent that the percentage of expenditure on them may become at least equivalent to that of the pre-autonomy days. If they can exceed it, I would be the first to congratulate them.

Then, under the head 'Beneficent Activities' I would like to refer to the Medical department with a view to bringing certain deficiencies in its administration to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Education, so that he may take necessary action to rectify them if I am correct; otherwise I would be glad to hear a satisfactory reply. Well, sir, we find that about Rs. 55 lakhs are being spent on this Department out of which only a paltry sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided for the purchase of medicines. The remaining amount is to be swallowed up by the salaries paid. In this connection I also draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education to the expenses of hospitals existing in 1923 in Hissar and Rohtak districts, the home districts of the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram. As figures for 1941 are not available, I will compare figures for the years 1923 and 1940. In the Hissar district the position is as follows :—

Year			Number of hospitals	Patients treated	Expenditure
					Rs.
1923	..	..	10	145,353	16,450
1940	..	..	36	491,792	17,503

The figures show that whereas in 1923 there were only 10 hospitals to cater to the medical needs of the population in the Hissar district, in 1940 their number was increased to 36.

**Minister for Revenue :** That is really creditable.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** True, but he will realise the gravity of the situation when he takes into consideration the amount provided for the purchase of medicines. He will then agree with me that in spite of the lapse of two decades, no appreciable change has taken place in the amount provided for medicines. Well, sir, in 1923 no less than 145,353 patients were treated while the number of patients who received medical aid in the year 1940 rose up to 491,792. But as regards the supply of medicines, the provision made for their purchase in 1923 has been enhanced in 1940 only by a few hundred rupees; the expenditure on medicines was Rs. 16,450 and in 1940 it stood at Rs. 17,503. Now if we take into account the facts that the prices of medicines have gone higher than before, that the number of hospitals has been increased and that the population has grown enormously, it really looks ridiculous to make a provision of such a small amount as Rs. 17,500. In other words the budget for medicines has remained almost stationary.

**Minister for Revenue :** That is true. I also say that the medicine supplied to the patients there are no better than the canal water.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** I am glad that the Honourable Minister for Revenue has admitted that the patients get no medicines worth the name in the hospitals at Hissar. He himself has exposed the Government in the matter of supply of medicines in the hospitals in Hissar district. Similarly if we refer to the figures for the Rohtak district, the same story is to be recounted. We find the same conditions prevailing there. The figures for Rohtak are as follows :—

*Rohtak*

Year	Number of hospitals	Patients treated	Expenditure
			Rs.
1923 .. .. .	16	166,999	11,598
1940 .. .. .	24	375,316	12,774

So, this is the achievement of this Government about the beneficent activities. I am sure the Honourable Minister for Education will give his careful consideration to what I have said and will take steps to set matters right.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** May I inform the honourable member that it is the district boards which bear the cost of medicines supplied in the hospitals and rural dispensaries, while the Government is responsible for the payment of salaries to the doctors?

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** I am talking of the medicines the purchase of which is mentioned in the official reports.

Now, sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the view expressed by the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram in 1939 about the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme. He remarked confidently that the Hydro-Electric Scheme was expected to yield profit the next year. I would just quote his actual words—

After this I may be permitted to make a mention of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme. The remarkable success which the Unionist Government have achieved in working this scheme efficiently, can be gauged from one bare fact. Previously it had been estimated that this scheme would result in a loss of 26 to 27 lakhs of rupees a year for an indefinite period, perhaps for ever. But we have managed the affairs in such a manner that this scheme is expected to yield a small profit next year. In view of these facts can any person, with a grain of sincerity and respect for truth in him, say that we have no achievements to show ?

This is what he said in 1939. But this prediction never came out true. Not only the next year but two years later, i.e., in 1941, the Honourable Finance Minister mentioned in his budget speech that he saw no prospect of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme yielding any profit. Let me quote from his speech—

The position in the current year has been particularly unsatisfactory because while the gross receipts have fallen, the establishment charges have increased. On the present working it may be said that on an average the net income of the scheme falls short of interest charges by Rs. 17 lakhs and even if we were to ignore the amount appropriated for depreciation, and that would not be justifiable business accounting, the gap will remain at about Rs. 6 lakhs. I see at present no prospect of the gap being substantially bridged over, much less the interest charges being completely met from that income, not to speak of there being a net return on the whole working of the scheme.

What an irony ! On the one hand, the Mandi Hydro-electric Scheme is considered to be an achievement by one Honourable Minister, while on the other misgivings about the scheme proving lucrative are expressed by another Minister.

**Mr. Speaker :** Do not opinions differ ?

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** I am simply stating facts and not discussing the opinions. Sir Chhotu Ram was sanguine that the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme would yield profit in a year's time. But I say let the Government show any profit accrued from it, even after the lapse of two or three years. I think it would be a red letter day when the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme would become a paying proposition.

Then so far as industries are concerned, I have no mind to discuss them at present. I would deal with this subject separately when the demand for Industries comes up for discussion.

Besides, there is one important matter which needs elucidation at the hands of my Honourable friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. During the course of his speeches, inside or outside the House, he has always laid stress on two points. First, his aim in imposing fresh taxes is to equalise the burden of taxation on the urban and the rural classes. Secondly, he emphasises the fact that the amount so realised would be utilised for the amelioration of the poor zamindars. Since the enactment of the taxation measures, much water has flowed under the Ravi bridge. But it is a pity that Government has not been able to put forward any specific proposals for the utilisation of the increased income with a view to affording relief to the

zamindars. It is extremely necessary that the Government should take the legislature into confidence and apprise the honourable members of the object for which the taxes have been levied. We should be told unambiguously whether better use is being made of the money realized through taxes ; if so, in what form it is being spent to better the hard lot of the zamindars. The information sought by me is essential to satisfy the people. They will naturally feel no pinch while paying a tax, when they know how the money is going to be utilised. May I ask the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram if he has formulated any definite programme for affording relief to the zamindars? What we find is that Government are bent upon imposing more and more taxes, while they give no inkling to the use to which they put the money thus realised. In this connection the only little information that we have been able to get is that which has been supplied by the Honourable Finance Minister in his recent budget speech of 1943-44. It is to the following effect :—

The most striking features of this year's finance are—

- (i) a further addition of Rs. 20 lakhs to the Special Development Fund ;
- (ii) the transfer of Rs. 60 lakhs to the Peasants Welfare Fund ;

We find from this that certain funds have been constituted, but it has not been stated how the zamindars are going to be relieved of the much-talked of burden. I may point out that satisfaction can only be brought about if actual relief is given, mere book entries cannot alleviate the distress of the people. Whenever measures regarding the imposition of fresh taxes were introduced in the House, it was invariably stated by the Government that they could not postpone the Bills, although they had not yet any such concrete proposals to put forward, on which the money was to be utilized. Let them now allay our doubts in this respect.

We also want to know from the Honourable Minister for Revenue if he has worked out any figures or calculated the equalization of taxes between the urban and rural people, a plea which he used so vociferously to put forward.

Then, Sir, you are aware that some understanding was reached in the Sikander-Baldev Singh Pact regarding the Hindi-Gurmukhi question. This year the Finance Minister mentioned with pride that an amount to the tune of Rs. 10,000 has been set aside in the budget for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi. I feel that this paltry sum is too small to achieve the desired end. This sum for which the Government must have been put to inconvenience is not even sufficient to meet the expenses of a few classes of Hindi and Gurmukhi. If this is to be the outcome of this Pact, Sardar Baldev Singh might have paid this amount himself. I know that public have many grievances in regard to this burning question, but at present I have no mind to enter into details.

Now I would like to draw the attention of the House to the item of war publicity. Honourable members are aware that Government are spending annually an amount to the tune of 2½ lakhs of rupees on this item. In this connection I may make it clear beyond any doubt that I have not the slightest intention to attack the programme formulated by the Government in regard to war publicity. I am, rather, of the opinion that if they require more money for this purpose, we will be quite glad to sanction it. But as I am

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fully conversant with the various methods of publicity, I feel that the Government have not been able to make the best use of the money that is being spent on a certain sub-item of war publicity. I am referring to the amount of Rs. 60,000 which has been provided by the Government for the publication and free distribution of the weekly "Jang". My objection is mainly directed against this item, which is not being properly utilised. I am told that people do not care to read this weekly 'Jang' but throw it away without even perusing it. The reason is that neither the matter contained in his newspaper is interesting, nor is its get-up satisfactory and attractive. To my mind the expenditure of such a huge amount on a paper which finds its way direct to the waste-paper basket, tantamounts to sheer waste of money and labour. In this connection I may point out that the war publicity carried on by the Government of India is commendable in many respects. It appears that they take keen interest in publishing their monthly or weekly newspapers containing information about the war. The get-up of their newspapers is excellent. The information contained in them is up to date. The articles given therein are of absorbing interest and instructive. As a matter of fact their journals are so attractive and nice that people relish to read them with great interest. What I, therefore, want to emphasize is that either there should be some improvement in the weekly 'Jang' or if that is not possible, the Government should at least copy most of the information from the newspapers brought out by the Central Government with a view to making it full of interest, and thus justify the expenditure of Rs. 60,000.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Then how would other newspapers get money ?

**Rai Bahadur Lala. Sohan Lal :** I do not know which are those newspapers and what amount everyone of them is getting. Mian Sahib might be in the know of facts. (*Mian Abdul Aziz :* I know the names of the newspapers). However, I take no objection even to the money received by a newspaper. I think, if some newspapers help the Government in carrying out their programme regarding the war publicity and the Government remunerate them for this work, no reasonable person should grudge the amount paid to these particular newspapers. Well, sir, this matter is beside the point. What I want to drive at is that the amount of Rs. 60,000 should be utilized properly and in a businesslike manner, so that the object in view may be commensurate with the expenditure. My object is only to bring this aspect to the notice of the Government and I have done my duty. It is entirely up to them to accept my suggestion or not.

After this I want to make a mention of the treatment that is being accorded to the Hindus in the matter of their representation in the Government services and bring this grievance to the particular notice of my honourable friend the Honourable Mian Abdul Haye, the Minister concerned and Honourable Hindu Ministers who are expected to safeguard the interests of the Hindus. I will cite one or two cases from the Medical department to show the trend of recruitment now in progress. If my information is wrong, the Honourable Minister for Education can correct me. I speak subject to correction. We find that in 1937, when recruitment was made in the cadre of Provincial Medical Service, 9 Muslims, 2 Hindus and 2 Sikhs.

were appointed by the Government. That is 9 Muslims and 4 non-Muslims. The ratio for the Muslims works out to be more than 50 per cent. Similarly in the following three years the position of recruitment is like this—

Year	Muslims	Hindus	Sikhs	Christian
1938 ..	3	1	..	..
1940 ..	6	5	3	..
1941 ..	6	2	3	1

In other words, out of 43 posts 24 went to the Muslims and only 19 were given to non-Muslims. My submission is that if they have worked out a formula on the basis of which recruitment is made to the Government services they should rigidly adhere to it. For instance, Government have decided that the representation of different communities, namely Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs should be in the ratio of 50 : 30 : 20 per cent ; if this is to be followed then why should there be variation ? I only lay stress on the fact that when they have agreed to a certain formula, they should act upon it in letter and spirit. It should be strictly observed.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** On a point of order. The honourable member has already spoken for an hour. Are you not going to fix any time limit ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I have no power to fix time limit. The House alone can fix it unanimously.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** It is regrettable that my honourable friend Sayed Amjad Ali Shah has unnecessarily created a flutter in the House. I was drawing the attention of the Government to the need of communal harmony. Two years ago I congratulated the Government for their intention to establish it in the province. But as I have already stated, communal harmony is not a commodity which can be purchased for one lakh of rupees. It requires something big to be done by the Government before it can be achieved. Efforts should be made to bring all the communities on one platform. Leaders of different communities should sit together and chalk out a common plan for composing differences among the communities amicably. Besides, joint electorates should be introduced by the Government in local bodies. This will go a long way to enable the communities to come to an understanding. Then, sir, every year an amount of one lakh of rupees is earmarked for this purpose in the budget but more or less the amount lapses as it is not utilised. If we peruse the budget estimates, we find that amount is proposed to be spent in purchasing loud-speakers, etc. Obviously loud-speakers cannot bring about communal harmony.

One thing more and I have done. As you are aware, sir, we, the representatives of the people, meet only for a short period of 1½ months in a year. Naturally the honourable members cannot remain in touch with



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the administration of the Government. I am of the opinion that Government should appoint certain committees consisting of members representing all parties in the Assembly, on the pattern of Public Accounts Committee. In Bengal such committees exist and the Government of Bengal take the members of the Legislative Assembly into confidence. My object in making this suggestion is that the Punjab Government should also take the honourable members of this House into confidence. These committees should be allowed, to meet frequently to interest themselves in and keep in close touch with the working of the different departments and thus remain in touch with the administration. In this way Government can take advantage of the advice offered by these committees. Besides, the efficiency of the administration will be increased very much as a result of the vigilant watch kept by these committees. I hope the Government will consider the matter carefully. With these words I resume my seat.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Mrs. Duni Chand** (Lahore City, Women, General) (Urdu): Sir, I had no intention of attending this session of the Assembly, but the events that have taken place during the last seven months in the country have made it incumbent upon me to come and speak about them. These are the very events which compelled Mahatma Gandhi to undertake a three weeks' fast and to put his life in jeopardy. I am forced by these circumstances to raise my feeble voice in an effort to open the eyes of the Government which seems to have forgotten altogether the canons of humanity. It is gratifying that Mahatmaji's fast has helped in disproving the false charge levelled against him and the Congress that they had abjured the policy of non-violence and the responsibility for the unpleasant happenings of the past few months rested with them. It has made crystal clear that Mahatmaji is still steadfast in his creed of non-violence because the very foundation of the Congress organisation is laid on this high principle and every true Congressite is, and always will be, loyal to that creed. No power on earth can make him deflect from that path nor can it create any doubts in respect of it in his mind. Now the question arises, if such is the case, how is it that widespread disturbances of this nature shook the country? I assure the House that it is not because the Congress had changed its policy, but because the Viceroy had incarcerated Gandhiji and other prominent leaders without giving them any chance to remove misunderstandings. It is his action that has resulted in spreading disaffection among the people and they were provoked into doing what came to their minds. No true follower of the Congress can view these events with equanimity and without being pained at the murders of Government servants and burning down of Government buildings. I personally believe that followers of Mahatma Gandhi cannot like or lend their support to such violent outbursts of human frenzy. Nevertheless I cannot refrain from saying that the entire responsibility for all that has happened lies at the door of the Government. I am positive that if the Government had not put the leaders in jail without even affording them an opportunity of explaining themselves, these disturbances would never have taken

place. It was to do penance for the sins of these misguided people that Gandhiji had to stake his own life. But the attitude adopted by the Government during the fact and even after it, is such that it makes one hang one's head in shame. You are aware of the fact, Sir, that Mahatma Gandhi is held in very great esteem in this country. Barring a few persons who seem to have sold their faith and patriotism in exchange for a few pieces of silver, even his opponents look at him with great reverence. The young and old alike consider him as their father. Thus the entire responsibility for these disturbances rests with that Government which played with the life of this great leader and not with the Congress.

Another submission which I want to make in this connection is that whenever this Government takes recourse to repression it puts forward this plea that it is doing it in order to prevent bloodshed in the province. May I know in what manner was the existence of this Government being threatened that there has been such a crop of arrests in the Punjab? You cannot even deceive a child by your pretensions that you have been obliged to do so for keeping law and order in the province. In reality the Government wants to terrorise the Congressmen by effecting their arrests in large numbers, and their concern for the peace of the country is a mere excuse. The limit of patience is exhausted. The Government is doing every possible cruelty to every congressman irrespective of whether he is an old person or an invalid. What a height of cruelty it is! The pity is that the Government does not pay any heed to the lamentations and complaints of the afflicted people. The Government does not care for anybody. It cares only to know so much, whether any particular person is a congressite or not. If he is a congressite, he must be imprisoned. I am just reminded of a story. In the reign of a certain Raja, everything was sold at the rate of two pice a seer. No distinction was made as to whether any particular commodity was costly or not, but that must be sold for two pice a seer. Hence this very old maxim:—

اندھڑ نگرى چوپٹ راجہ

تکے سیر بہاجی تیکے سیر کھاجا

applies to our Government. This Government of ours says that every congressman must be imprisoned whether he is guilty of any fault or not.

Mr. Speaker, I just ask your permission to narrate another story. It tells us that in the reign of a certain Raja, cruelties, torments and afflictions were the rule of the day. Our Government likewise strives every nerve to imprison every congressite, without caring to act in accordance with any law. Once upon a time in the reign of a certain Raja, a theft was committed somewhere. The police officers, after searching a good deal for the thief, caught hold of a thin and lean person and brought him before the court. He was ordered to be sentenced, but by chance the rope of the pillory did not fit his neck. Thereupon the officials ordered his release and further ordered the police officials to get hold of some fat person, so that he might be hanged instead of the other.

Our Government boasts of putting the innocent people into jails and then inflicting tortures upon them. Our Government is always in the habit of boasting that it is prepared to let go thousand guilty persons when the

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proof of guilt is not established against them. It will not punish anybody, howsoever guilty he may be, but against whom the proof of guilt is not established. But alas! to-day our Government is belying its own law; it is acting contrary to the law. It is putting in jail indiscriminately every innocent person on the plea of his being a congressman.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that to-day I have come to the House with the intention that I may be able convey my feeble voice to other countries and to the people of India. I wish that my voice may particularly reach President Roosevelt and his wife, Mr. Churchill and his wife and Marshal Chiang Kai-shek and his wife. They may know that our Government the so-called democratic Government, under the disguise of dictatorship is playing a most dishonourable part. It is doing to the congressites every possible cruelty that is conceivable. Its actions are unparalleled in the history of any civilized country of the world. The people of India look askance at our Government, whether it is dead to the feelings of the masses, whether it thinks that indulging in cruelties is its creed. What a pity!

Mr. Speaker, most of the members of the Opposition,—may the majority of them—have been thrown into jails. Even now off and on they are being sent to jails upon mere baseless pretexts. Since the outbreak of the present war, our Government has compelled many people to suffer the hardships of jails. For instance, among the luminaries, Sardar Hari Singh, Master Kabul Singh, Sardar Harjab Singh and Sardar Rur Singh are suffering the miseries of jails. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar, who has spent many years of his life in jail and who is fortunately now sitting in his seat, was not allowed to attend the meetings of this House for many years. Sardar Kishen Singh suffered from paralysis, hence he was released; otherwise he would have rotted up till now in the jail. One of his sons was released on account of his ill health.

The English people are in the habit of saying that they are not cruel to anybody. Until a man is declared guilty, he is not sentenced. But to-day, why are the innocent Congress people imprisoned? They are not prosecuted in the law courts, they are not even allowed to engage lawyers. The fact is that the Government to-day is breaking law after law; it spares no effort in violating its own laws. I ask the Government to tell this House to-day, where has it buried its laws; why does it not act in accordance with its laws? To-day everybody knows that the Government is habituated to act in contravention of the terms of the laws. It is very indiscriminate and merciless in jettisoning the fragments of laws.

Mr. Speaker, a hundred years ago, there existed a *Habeus Corpus* Act. In the civilised countries, it is respected even today. By virtue of this Act, they administer justice, but in the Punjab the application of section 129 of the Defence of India Act is universal. The law of the land is held in abeyance. Someone has described section 129 in the following terms :—

نو اپیل - نو وکیل - نو دایرل

What a pithy definition!

Mr. Speaker, you will kindly observe that the Government has devised a novel way of imprisoning people. Within the span of a few years, the Government has put innumerable persons in jails. The local police officials, without consulting the Deputy Commissioners of their districts, order their subordinates, the police constables, to get hold of every congress man and put all of them in jails without any rhyme or reason. The police officials have given blank sheets of papers which are signed by them, to the sub-inspectors and they have ordered them to put the name of anybody on the list whom they want to arrest. Consequently, they have arrested innumerable Congress people taking the shelter of section 129 of the Defence of India Act. They think that section 129 is the panacea of all evils.

Mr. Speaker, you might be knowing that when the Police Superintendent came to the Lajpat Rai Bhawan for arresting the congressmen, he had in his hand a list of those persons whom he wanted to arrest. May I know from the Government, whether it knows astrology? How could it predict? You may please judge it for yourself, how far it is justified in arresting congress people indiscriminately. Did the Government know before hand the names of the people whom they wanted to arrest. The police officials arrested people one by one in accordance with the names written in the lists. Just imagine that the names of the patriots are entered in the list of offenders even before they have committed any offence and the police is ordered to arrest them. In this connection it is noteworthy that the Superintendent of Police had first arrested Lala Duni Chand of Ambala but then on second thought let him go as his name was not included in the list. But his name was also there in the list after some names and he was therefore arrested again. This shows that the Superintendent of Police did not know why a certain person was being arrested. Had he known this he would not have made such mistakes. All that he knew was, that he had to arrest those persons whose names were there in the list irrespective of the fact whether they had committed any offence or not.

Mr. Speaker, you know that Lala Duni Chand of Lahore is an old man and was taken ill before being arrested but he too has not been released so far. The Government has spread terror in the country but claims to be the custodian of peace and order. Its pretension that it is trying to maintain order in the country is a big hoax. Let it just imagine how long it will continue perpetrating these atrocities. Repression can never crush national movements. On the other hand it injures the feelings of the people who become indignant and furious. Thus the hatred becomes deep rooted in the minds of the people. In this connection it would be worthy of note to mention the cases of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Mrs. B. L. Nehru who are such personages as humanity might well be proud of. But the treatment which the Government is meting out to them as well as the honourable members of the Opposition is an irremovable blot on the fair name of the Government.

My husband's case also deserves mention in this connection. He had come to Lahore on 6 days' leave but after three days he was ordered to return in spite of the fact that he had had three severe attacks of illness which had endangered his life. Even the Surgeon-in-charge of Shahpur Jail had advised him to remain near his surgeon. Upon this he had sought

[Mr. Speaker]

permission to proceed to Bombay for consulting a specialist. But I do not know if that concession is being granted or not. It is the duty of the Government to provide facilities even to a condemned prisoner who might be guilty of murder to maintain his health before he is actually hanged. But the political leaders of this country are not allowed even this much justice as to avail themselves of a competent doctor's consultation and treatment. Let alone justice, even humanitarianism is lacking in this Government. It is killing the very sentiments which go to make humanity and it is banishing justice from its territory. It is stated here in this House on behalf of the Ministry that Hitler is very cruel, and gets his opponents shot dead. I too condemn this action of Hitler. Just look at the Hitlerite methods of our benign Government who are not satisfied with less than shutting up patriots for an indefinite period. Their incarceration is meant to be air-tight so much so that even their near relations are not allowed to approach them. Peaceful and peace loving citizens are *lathi*-charged. Fire is opened upon them indiscriminately. Tyranny stops at nothing. We wonder what further tyrannies may be in store even with a tyrant like Hitler. Recently Government have supplied statistics about the war casualties abroad. But the casualties as a result of our Government's firing are not less than those inflicted by the enemy. The number of those shut up in prison cells has to be considered separately.

Now I want to enlighten the House as to the treatment meted out to those who have been placed behind the bars. In cells ordinarily meant for ten prisoners, as many as fifteen are huddled up and the doors are bolted. There are no arrangements for the discharge of necessary functions. All the men are obliged to use the same lavatory. How dirty! Then, they are not allowed to see visitors. Respectable people are handcuffed. They are not permitted to send out more than one post card in two months. Their relations are also not allowed to write more than one card to them during the same period. In certain cases prisoners passed away and the next of kin were not informed. Persons convicted of offences involving moral turpitude are freely permitted to see their relatives. But look at the bad luck of our patriots that they are not considered even deserving of those concessions which are freely given to criminals.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is the lady member reading a written speech ?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** She has been quoting figures from the paper. How can figures be quoted orally ?

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** It has been reported that as many as 123 prisoners were injured as a result of the *lathi* charge in the Multan Jail. This shows the magnitude of repression in the jails.

At present those poor people are locked up in jails where very bad treatment is meted out to them. Besides, Sir, you are aware of the fact that women folk are by nature peace loving but even they had not been spared. The cruel treatment to which they had been subjected in the female jail at Lahore is pretty well known to the public at large. My sisters Begum Shah Nawaz and Begum Rashida Latif Baji can throw a flood of light on the treatment that has been meted out to them. Anyway such things have helped in spreading all sorts of rumours in the

country. I may tell the Government that it is these rumours which harm them more than anything. I would therefore request them to hold an independent inquiry into the excesses that have been committed in respect of innocent persons and thus they should give positive proof that they fully realize their duty.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please wind up.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** Sir, I request your indulgence for a few minutes more as I have to make some very important observations. Anyway my submission is that foolish friends of Government have caused them to believe that they have silenced the people by repression. But I may tell them that such silence of the people often proves very dangerous and harmful. Nobody can be silenced by repressive measures and such measures cannot befit the dignity of Government. The honourable members over there when doing such things should also bear one fact in mind and that is that they are the elected representatives of the people and that they should not do things which are against the public interest. They should also remember that there is another power over them in respect of which neither section 144 nor section 129 can be promulgated and nobody can silence that power by repression. Let them take that power into consideration as well. I am of the opinion that those people who preach good things to the public are the leaders of men and such leaders cannot be rubbed out of existence. A poet has well said :

جہاں سے راہبروں کو یوں مٹایا جا نہیں سکتا  
قلہ یہ رہے قدرت کا جو ڈھایا جا نہیں سکتا  
وہ مٹ جاتا ہے خود ہی جو مٹانا انکو چاہتا ہے  
خدا دوزخ کی بھی میں سدا اسکو جلاتا ہے

He who tries to crush them gets himself crushed and such leaders are always victorious in the end. It is the height of foolishness to try to crush the leaders of men because so far nobody has succeeded in crushing them and nobody ever will. Let them drive this idea out of their minds that they would succeed in silencing the leaders who preach good things to the public and are engaged in liberating their country from the thralldom of the foreigners. It will never happen. Sir, anybody on seeing the Opposition benches vacant will say that although constitutional Government is functioning here in name yet in reality martial law is the rule of the day and these Ministers are the agents who are enforcing that martial law. I ask whether any Government in the world can take such action? Can this in any sense be termed justice? In this connection I want to draw the attention of Government to an important matter. And that is that in the *Tribune*, dated 12th March, 1948, a leading article under the caption "Whose responsibility" has appeared. On the one hand the Premier of the province has announced that the Punjab Government was carrying out the policy enunciated by the Central Government and that so far the arrests which have been made have been made at the instance of the Central Government and the responsibility for their arrests rested with them. But at the very moment when the Honourable Premier

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made that announcement in this House the Hon. Member of the Government of India stated in the Central Assembly that the Central Government have given ample freedom to the provincial governments inasmuch as they can mete out whatever treatment they like to the people in the matter of arrests and interviews and so on. Now I ask which of the two statements is correct? Moreover the Honourable Premier stated in the course of his speech the other day that if the congressmen give this much assurance that they would not interfere in matters concerning the successful prosecution of the war he would be prepared to consider their cases for release. Sir, I was very much surprised to hear that from the Honourable Premier. Let me tell him that the Congress has never issued any such declaration that it would harm the Government by interfering in the war effort. On the contrary Congress has always expressed the opinion that it would not side with the Dictators. Rather I know it for a fact that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad declared it in one of his presidential speeches that if any foreign country, whether Germany or Japan, invaded India, he, although an ardent supporter of the policy of non-violence, would oppose the invader tooth and nail. This is the principle of the Congress. Then it is claimed on behalf of Government that this war is being waged for freedom and democracy. The Congress says: "We agree to these principles and are prepared to render maximum help for upholding the cause of freedom and democracy. But our demand is only one and that is that a national Government should be established here. If a national Government is set up here we will be in a position to participate in the war effort with zest and enthusiasm because we think that if we have our own Government here the Indian nation will make a very good response to our call." The fact of the matter is that Congress is prepared to render every help for the successful prosecution of the war but the Government do not want to take that help. They have become so very miserly that they do not want to part with anything. There is a Punjabi adage:

تک نہ دیندی سنگیاں سارا جاندی چہ

I am afraid they may not have to do so. Anyway I advise them not to be misled by the opinions of their foolish friends. They are not their true friends. Their true friends are those who direct them to the right path. My submission is that if national Government is established here then in that case we would be prepared to render maximum help to Government for winning the war. We as a matter of fact do not like the government of Dictators. We also desire that India should be treated like other democratic countries. We do not want that in the name of democracy we should be subjected to Hitlershahi rule. We tell the mistakes of Government to their very face and that is the correct sign of a true friend. Somebody has well said that "a wise enemy is hundred times better than a foolish friend." At least we do not mislead the Government by telling them wrong facts. Gandhiji has often expressed the opinion that he does not regard anybody as his enemy. On the contrary he treats everybody as his friend. Rather it is his principle that we should live like brothers. Consequently we treat all like our own brethren. We have given good advice to Government. Now the enemy is at the doors of India and it does not

behave the Government to act in a miserly manner at this stage. Let them act a bit more liberally and do things with open eyes. In this way they can win the sympathy of the Indian people. I may tell them that they cannot win the sympathy and help of the people of India by casting them in prisons and by subjecting them to cruel treatment. The Government say that they will give freedom to India after the war. But the time for giving freedom is this. A Punjabi adage says :

وقت پر تندائی ہووان

A *land* given at the proper time can satisfy people but after it even if an *atti* is given that would not give them as much satisfaction as a *land* would have given them. Then it is said that freedom can not be given when no settlement is reached between different classes of India, that is, Hindus and Muslims do not come to a settlement among themselves and so long as they do not do so freedom cannot be given to them. This is merely an excuse for withholding freedom. Sir, you are aware of the fact that there are two ways in which cards are played. There is one method in which four men play cards and there is another in which only three men play and the fourth is made a dummy. The cards of the dummy are exposed. But the cards of the dummy are played by another person. Similarly the reason why an agreement is not arrived at is this that when three parties come to discuss the matter and find out a solution the Government hires the fourth, a dummy, who spoils the whole matter. It is due to this dummy system that no agreement is arrived at between the various communities. Abolish this dummy system and you will see that an agreement will be reached between Hindus and Muslims in no time.

**Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz :** Sir, with your permission I should like to put a question to my sister. When His Highness the Aga Khan, my father and Mr. Jinnah were talking to Mahatma Gandbi at the Ritz Hotel in London where was the third party? Why was not a settlement arrived at between the two communities then?

**Mrs. Dani Chand :** The question of questions is that it is this dummy system which spoils our efforts. Abolish this system and you will see that an agreement is reached between Hindus and Muslims. My submission is that everybody loves freedom in this world. There is not a single individual who does not love freedom. I know it for a fact that even the members of the Unionist Party love freedom. Once on my inquiry Sir Chhotu Ram told me that he also loved freedom as ardently as anybody loved it. If everybody loves freedom then is it difficult to arrive at an agreement for attaining it? Not at all. The whole truth of the matter is that it is due to the dummy system that no agreement is arrived at. Rather it spoils the matter. Anyway I think that a great responsibility lies on the shoulders of the Punjab Government. I request the Honourable Premier, who is not in his seat, to show to the world by his acts that he is fully capable of discharging his responsibility.

My submission is that sincere and immediate efforts should be made for the removal of the atmosphere created in the country. I am of the opinion that this is high time for the maintenance of law and order in the country and the Government, therefore, should not incur the displeasure of the masses.



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But they should please them and earn their gratitude at this abnormal time. As to the Congress demand I have nothing to add to what I have already stated. However I am constrained to remark that the cause of the lack of compromise between the Hindus and Muslims is that at the connivance of the Government the parties who are to compose their differences do not come to an amicable settlement. Now if such people are not included in the parties concerned but level-headed persons are consulted on this matter, I do not see any reason for their not coming to an amicable settlement. I would again ask the Government to make a compromise with the Congress as it would be better for them to achieve their common goal with the co-operation of the latter.

With these words, Sir, I close my remarks.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan** (Parliamentary Secretary) (Urdu): Sir, I have heard the last speech made by the honourable lady member sitting opposite, with rapt attention and I do not think there is any member who has not been moved by it. She has mentioned, in the course of her speech, such facts as deserve careful consideration of everybody. I am of the opinion that every Indian will agree with her so far as the principle adhered to by the party to which she belongs, is concerned. But concerning details, we may have certain differences with her. This is a different thing. But so far as freedom is concerned we also feel the same intensity of love for it as is felt by my honourable friends sitting opposite. Hence it will not be incorrect to say that to-day my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh and I are sailing in the same boat as he and his friends are one with us in the matter of war efforts.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: No, no.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan**: The Communists have now lined up with us in the anti-aggression front. In other words it can also be put like this that they have now joined forces with us in order to crush and vanquish the Axis powers. I think our goal is the same though our methods are different. It is not only our intense desire but the desire of the Communists as well that in order to achieve freedom the Axis powers ought to be crushed. As I have never been able to understand the principles of the Communist Party, I may be excused if I do not take it very seriously. However, I must point out that the Punjab Government is not to blame for what has been said from the opposite benches in regard to the Congress party. In fact, the Punjab Government has nothing to do with the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi and his subsequent fast for which the entire responsibility falls on his own shoulders. These arrests, as a matter of fact, were made in the country in pursuance of the policy laid down by the Central Government and hence the Punjab Government, as I have said, is not to be held responsible for that. Now, in connection with allegations of inhuman and differential treatment accorded to the Congress detenus, I would like to say that I am in complete accord with the lady speaker that the Congress detenus, national leaders and Congress M. L. As., should be treated nicely and humanely. The honourable lady member sitting opposite should take it for granted that the arrests of these distinguished people of the province at this critical time, have shocked us to a very great extent.

So I can make bold to say that no self-respecting Indian can ever be happy over Congress detenus being arrested and treated badly as they are our kith and kin belonging to the same soil. In addition to that it goes without saying that they are patriots to the core and that only for political reasons and not for any moral crime they have been put behind the iron bars.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** If you cannot release them for some reasons why not treat them humanely ?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Quite true. I entirely agree with my honourable friend Mian Abdul Aziz and I have no hesitation in saying that it is most lamentable if their friends in jail are not treated well. Although it is for the Government to reply whether they are treated humanely or inhumanely yet my honourable friend who has interrupted me may rest assured that I as one will ask the Honourable Premier to look into this matter immediately. This is what justice demands that decent treatment should be accorded to the national leaders who are not guilty of any moral crime. Again, I may point out for the satisfaction of my honourable friends sitting opposite that the Government deem it their duty to give careful and sympathetic consideration to this matter and if some complaint is found to that effect it will be redressed in the interest of our brethren. This is all what the Punjab Government can do for the Congress detenus and, Sir, as their arrests have been made in this province in pursuance of the policy laid down by the Central Government we are helpless to go further. Now, in this connection, let me make it clear that a Government generally speaking, can meet emergent situations in two ways. One is to wait till it arises and the other is to adopt precautionary measure to prevent it, as it is said, prevention is better than cure. But there is one danger involved in adopting the latter method. It is obvious that one cannot definitely judge what shape the things would take as one has to depend simply on mere conjectures and presumptions. Therefore one cannot decide what step should be taken. So naturally we thought that it was very likely to happen here what had occurred in other provinces like those of Bengal, United Provinces and Central Provinces. While this was the condition prevailing in other provinces the Punjab Government became more active and alert lest some emergent situation of that nature should arise here affecting the peace and tranquility of the province. Though fortunately nothing happened in the Punjab, yet Government took action as a preventive measure which, as I have said, is always better than cure. I quite admit that possibly some innocent persons may have been put behind the bars as a number of arrests were to be made in the province. Now if sabotage, arson, incendiarism and murder were committed in the province and a number of innocent people had fallen victim to these disturbances in the country we would have been condemned by the same. Opposition who is now asking us the reason for making these arrests in the province. Then my honourable friends sitting opposite would have asked us as to why the Government was sleeping over this matter. I think now I have made it clear that actions taken honestly by the Government are always commendable and never condemnable.

The reason for this adduced by the honourable lady member, I may be excused for saying is not correct. She says that the main reason is the desire on the part of Government to crush the Congress movement

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in the province. But I want to ask whether any Congress movement worth the name existed in the province that the Government should have taken the trouble of going so far as to "crush" it? Congress has existed only as a very weak organization in the province during the last four or five years and I assure the honourable lady member that no one troubles himself with the idea of crushing it. Congress has never been such a force during the last three or four years as to strike terror in the heart of the Government. The Congress in the Punjab, has been weakened, as everybody knows, on account of its internal dissensions and also on account of the presence in its hold of a large majority of persons who have nothing in common with what the Congress organization stands for. The result has been that the Punjab Congress existed only in name and the Government has never attached to the Punjab Congress any more importance than it actually deserves. The question, therefore, of crushing it has never arisen. Most probably the jailing and interning of individuals has been construed as attempts on the part of Government to crush the Congress. But such an idea is grossly incorrect. This idea has nothing in common with truth; it may, however, be described as "wishful thinking".

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** What do you think about the Muslim League?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I have not understood so far the exact party allegiance of the honourable Mian Sahib. I cannot say whether he belongs to the Congress, or any other organization.

I have not been able to catch the exact implication of the expression "dummy" used by the honourable lady member, Mrs. Duni Chand. But I will make only one or two observations about her speech before reverting to the subject under discussion.

So far as the question of freedom of India is concerned, our leaders unfortunately, seem to have greater confidence in outsiders than in themselves. Mrs. and Mr. Churchill, Mrs. and Mr. Roosevelt, Madame Chiang Kai-shek and Marshal Chiang Kai-shek are constantly looked up to in this connection. But will these people help India in being free? Just consult any history of the world. Do you find any man or woman coming from outside with a gift of freedom for any slave country? I have no doubt that freedom depends upon our own efforts alone (*Interruptions*). I was saying that if we had full confidence in our own efforts and if we were conscious of the necessity of freeing our land, we would have long shed our petty prejudices and unanimously rallied round the banner of freedom.

The honourable lady member in the course of her speech said that the position of the Muslim League was that of a dummy. But I may inform the lady member that it is not so. In fact the word dummy can be attributed to any organization which fails to arrive at an understanding with other organizations and thus strengthens the hands of the British in keeping India under their heels. So long as no settlement is arrived at between the two major communities there can be no hope for our country gaining her independence even for one thousand years. However, I say it as a Muslim on the floor of the House that no settlement can be arrived at except through Qaid-i-Azam Mr. Jinnah. I do not find any other leader who

can be capable of effecting a settlement between the Congress and the Muslim League for the achievement of freedom.

**Sardar Harnam Singh :** What about Sikhs ?

**Raja Ghasanfar Ali Khan :** I do admit that Khalsa Nationalist Party is a very important party and it is true that no problem of the Punjab can be solved without their help. They are, as a matter of fact our brethren and we have every regard for them and we are prepared to accept their co-operation. (*Interruption*).

My honourable friend has some doubt that in regard to this point the British Government do not want to see us as a free nation. I am one with him in this respect. But may I ask my honourable friend whether in spite of the intentions of the Government in refusing to part with power any effort has been ever made to achieve this end ? I want to point out that the British Government would happily grant National Government to the Congress although the latter is not perfect in its efforts to deserve it. But in the present circumstances when the Congress has failed to come to some amicable settlement with its political opponents, how can the British Government be able to accept the demand of the Congress ? Moreover, when the British Government know it full well that we are not putting efforts enough to qualify for the grant of National Government, why should they confer independence on us ? Under the circumstances it is high time that without entering into any bargain we should give unstinted help to the Britishers in winning the war and in the meantime we should compose our differences so that after the victorious end of the war the British Government may not have any excuse for not offering independence to us. I am confident if our differences are settled and we are united, the British Government can be compelled to part with power. It is high time that persons of all schools of thought and all shades of opinion should be brought together, because a divided house cannot fight on many fronts and achieve independence. If the Government are making serious efforts for the prosecution of the war it is because they want to win it and save the coming generation from the sufferings that a war entails. Hence it is clear that the Government cannot tolerate any subversive movement to thwart their war efforts. As a result of this policy Government was compelled to throw the refractory elements behind the bars, so that they may continue their war efforts unhampered. I may point out that Government do not take pleasure in imprisoning the Congress members. Since they cannot allow them to put obstacles in the prosecution of the war, it was Government's duty, though unpleasant, to put them in prison.

Well, Sir, a Government formulates its policy. But if in the working of details mistakes are committed by the subordinates, the Government cannot be held responsible for these minor matters. Government can only supervise the working of the general policy.

Sir, these were some of the remarks that I wanted to make in reply to my honourable sister Mrs. Duni Chand's speech.

2 PM.

In spite of the fact that she is a Congress woman, she deserves the highest praise for her public spiritedness in attending this session of the Assembly. She has made a speech which has once again brought this fact before our eyes that we have to liberate our motherland.

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from the foreign yoke. Had she not attended we would have been deprived of her valuable criticism. If other members of her party also take a practical view of things and come to attend the meetings of the Assembly I believe they can do more service to the country than by continuing their present attitude of non-co-operation.

After these few words I would like to make a few submissions in reply to the points raised by my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal in his speech which was exaggeration personified from beginning to end. He spoke about taxation, the question of whose validity was discussed threadbare during the debate which went on for months on end. He also referred to the strike of the *beoparies*. In this connection I think our Government deserves our thanks for handling it in such a manner that no untoward incidents occurred. Then communal bickerings were brought out unnecessarily. The Punjab has been very fortunate in this respect that it has witnessed no communal riots or other disturbances of this nature. The credit for this state of affairs goes to the non-communal policy pursued by this Government, which is Unionist Party Government and is based on the principle of a Government of the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs united as one homogeneous whole. // The foundations of our party have been laid on the rock of unity of the communities. Then my honourable friend finds fault with the sum of Rs. 1 lakh which has been provided by the Government for fostering communal harmony. He says communal harmony is not a commodity that can be bought in the bazars but has to be achieved. True, but my honourable friend should not forget that we cannot do many things without the help of money. I am on the executive committee of the Unity Board set up for the purpose of furthering communal harmony. Under the instructions of the board a Communal Harmony Day was celebrated throughout the province when meetings were held and speeches were made exhorting people to maintain brotherly feelings. It is just a beginning and progress has yet to be made. In this connection it was suggested by my honourable friends that the Government should arrange for plays to be staged and films to be exhibited with unity as their theme. Propaganda for fostering communal harmony should be carried out and students should be asked to write essays on the subject for which prizes should be offered. Now these are the very things which are already on the programme chalked out by the Government. (*An honourable member*: The thing most needed is justice for all communities.) True, but it is justice which has compelled both the complainant and the defendant to apply for the transfer of their case. (*Laughter*). On the one hand my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal has complained that there is a majority of Mussalmans in the Medical Department and on the other he has alleged that the number of Hindu doctors is greater. Both the communities seem to be displeased with the Government and this is the surest sign that the Government is pursuing the right policy. I regret that my honourable friend thought fit to raise an objection against the Public Service Commission's making recommendations on the basis of communal formula. Now this is something in which the Punjab Government as such has no say. The determination of proportion for different communities in the various services was in the power of this House. He finds fault with the Government for their inviting a panel of

candidates instead of merely taking action on the names recommended by the Commission. I do not think there is any harm if the Government considers the names of 8 persons when there are only four vacancies. After all only those persons are going to be taken who fulfil the conditions laid down for them. Then my honourable friend has laid great stress upon merit. It is a word which in present circumstances means little or nothing. In my opinion a first class graduate may not be as fit for the post of an E. A. C. as an ordinary F. A. with a lot of commonsense and administrative capacity.

The Government has acted with courage in setting down the proportion for the various communities in services, 50 per cent for the Muslims, 30 per cent for the Hindus and others and 20 per cent for the Sikhs, so that there may be no possibility of any controversy on that account. In spite of the fact that the Muslims formed 57 per cent of the population they gladly agreed to a 50 per cent share in the services in the interest of the smooth working of the administration.

While reviewing the policy of the Government my honourable friends have apparently overlooked the fact that the preceding year has been a year of political disturbances on an unprecedented scale in the country. The war also increased in its fury and the country passed through an abnormal period of scarcity of food grains. Had there been a less strong Government in the Punjab than the one we had, it would have succumbed to the crisis. I think the Punjab Government deserves congratulations from every fair-minded person on the way it has handled the situation and kept peace and order in the province. Nowhere has the crisis been tided over with so much success as in the Punjab and my honourable friends should have felicitated the Government on this achievement instead of levelling criticism against it.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan** (Rawalpindi Saddar, Muslim, Rural (Urdu): Sir, the demand for General Administration is being discussed by the House to-day, but I have observed during the last few days that the Opposition has been trying to bring all sorts of irrelevant matters into the debate which has compelled the honourable members on the ministerial benches to enter into controversial subjects by way of replying to the issues raised by them. My honourable sister, Mrs. Duni Chand, for instance, has alluded to matters concerning the detention of congressmen which is in no way connected with the Punjab. My honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan has in a very eloquent speech made a befitting reply to the points raised by the honourable lady member. But I would also like to make a few submissions in this connection.

If we care to look into the past teachings and confessions of Mahatma Gandhi we will come to know that he was of staunch opinion that unless there is unity in India, unless there is a united front of all the different communities, India can never be a free India. But unfortunately, it is observed for the last few years that the Mahatma has changed his creed, his notion of freedom and his ideals of unity. Now he advocates a communal question. He says that the freedom of India comes first, and then comes the question of unity of all the communities. The Congress is not taking upon itself the representation of India. It professes that it is the sole representative of India. It wants to tell the world at large, that the Congress is the only body corporate which represents India. What a false belief!

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With a view to achieve this end, the congressites staged a civil disobedience movement, the parallel of which you cannot have in the history of the world. Their aggressive step plunged the whole of India into dire misery; there was chaos all round, the peace and tranquillity of the whole of India was disturbed to such an extent that it was no whit less than a mutiny. Why did all this trouble arise? Because the Congress thought that it is the sole representative of India, and if its demands are not acceded to, it should have some alternative to adopt. It thought that there was no necessity of consulting the Muslim League. The world has seen the result of this drastic step. I ask the Congressites, what do they mean by non-violence? They were the staunch supporters of this belief. Why have they jettisoned their creed of non-violence? If they had adhered to their belief, there would have been no chaos to-day in India.

Sir, to-day the Congressites are in jails, their leaders are in jails, and now there is some peace and tranquillity in India. The civil disobedience movement is suppressed. Now the leaders of the Congress and the Mahatma himself feel that they are disgraced. To-day Mahatma Gandhi has lodged another form of protest, so that the Government of India and the world may know that their cause is just. He has begun to fast. Why has he begun to fast? Evidently as he says, for his release so that when he is free he may indulge in his negotiation with the other Congress members for keeping this movement alive. What a weak notion! When the Congress has at its disposal a strong press, a strong propaganda machinery and above all a strong organization, why does it not abandon its claim of the sole representation and seek help of the Muslim League? So long as it does not co-operate with the League, the Congress cannot achieve what we also wish to achieve. We also want the freedom of India, the unity of Hindus and the Muslims. For the achievement of this aim, we are prepared to sacrifice anything that is necessary for the cause of India. But all the same, we would urge upon the Congress to leave its narrow-mindedness. It should treat the Mussalmans as an entity, as its helpers. After all:

اسکندر و چنگیز کے ہاتھوں سو بار  
 ہوئی جہاں میں حضرت انسان کی قبا چاک  
 تاریخ اسلام کا یہ پیام ازلی ہے  
 صاحب نظراں نشہ قوت ہے خطر ناک

Why should the intoxication of power blind it? Why should it take law and order in its own hand? Why should it resort to aggressiveness? Do you believe if Persia invades Afghanistan, it would not resist or if Turkey invades Persia it will not fight? Then why do you believe that in case Pakistan is established we will lose our entity by yielding the territory to these Muslim countries? You should not raise the bogey of pan-Islamism in order to dub the legitimate demand of Muslims of India—Pakistan. The Congress has caused havoc in the whole of India. Can the Muslim League remain unaffected? Why should it be afraid of Pakistan? We are prepared to do every possible sacrifice for the achievement of the freedom of India, and this is also the aim of the Congress. So if the aims of both of the organizations are one and the same, why is the Congress shrinking to co-operate

with the League? I would urge upon the honourable members of this House and the other people outside the House to keep in view only those movements, which bring harmony and communal unity. Now the state of affairs have so completely changed that there is a dire necessity of thinking by all for a practical solution of the present predicament. One should not hide himself and play the role of a mischief-monger just as some have done. There is no sense in disowning anything of which one is responsible. In short, I say that unless there is a united front by the Indians themselves, no end can be achieved and that can only be achieved through coming to terms with the Qaid-i-Azam.

Sir, now I turn to the oft-repeated criticism of most of my friends sitting over there. They have alleged, that the Government has favoured such and such community at the cost of the other community. They have accused the Government of communalism; they say that the actions of the Government are not based on justice. I refute all their allegations. They are all based on prejudice. I dare say those honourable members who accuse the Government of communalism are themselves communalists. The fact is that our Government is a Unionist Government based on inter-communal majority. This is why it weighs the interests of all equally. (Hear, hear.) It is an impartial Government; it treats equally the Sikhs, Hindus and the Mussalmans. If ever there be any cause for injustice, and any complaint of communalism, it is all due to the narrow-mindedness, and the communal prejudices of the officers. The Government can never be held responsible for such complaints and irregularities. Of course, the Government can be informed by means of unstarred questions. If then, the Government does not pay any heed, then you can hold it responsible for communalism, for prejudice and for what not. Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal said that in such and such department, the Muslims preponderate and the number of Hindus is negligible. I submit, that such arguments do not ease the situation. They infuse heart-burnings, they result in communal bickerings and ultimately take the form of rank, morbid communalism. However, just to give a retort to his allegations I ask him a question. What is the ratio of services, for instance, in the Forest Department? I tell you that the Hindus preponderate in that department. What good will it yield if you give facts and figures of service in different departments? In retaliation to your allegations, we will also be compelled to give facts and figures. If this sort of bickering goes on, I am sure it will waste the precious time of the House and no good will come out of it.

Sir, I bring to the notice of the Government a very serious irregularity, which is becoming a rule of the day. Perhaps the Government is not aware of the fact that whereas the Defence of India Rules apply to the political prisoners nowadays they have begun to apply to the non-political people. Whenever any new power is entrusted to the Executive, the executive officers make wrong use of it. Thus the Defence of India Rules are being abused to entrap the peaceful citizens for whom these rules were never intended. Government should see to it that the Defence of India Rules are applied to those cases only for which they were intended and their abuse must stop at once.

Now I would like to raise a voice of protest against the keeping of Register No. 10 by the police. Incidentally the Demand of police in the



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Budget is also numbered 10. (*Laughter*). This No. 10 of police is a relic of the past barbarity perpetrated by the foreign Government. A Sub-Inspector of police can ruin the career of any person by entering his name in Register No. 10 although there might be nothing against him. The mere entry in Register No. 10 may stigmatise the character of a person for the whole of his life, and he is denied even the right of defence in such an important matter. If a person is a reported bad character, you can proceed against him under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code. But why ruin a life by this under hand means? This practice does not exist in any other country of the world. I do not know if it exists in any other province of India. But if it does, it must be abandoned and I am confident that no fresh legislation will be needed for this purpose. Only an executive order will do away with this bad practice. Rules can be amended by an order of the executive.

Another serious complaint against the Government that I want to make is with regard to the suppression of "Azan" (the call for prayer) in the jails of the Punjab. I had tabled an Assembly question in reply to which the Honourable Minister of Finance has invited my attention to the Jail Manual. Sections 599 or 600 which he has referred to has three parts which must be read together—

- (1) No undue interference with religious or caste prejudices of prisoners shall be permitted.
- (2) Every prisoner shall be allowed to perform his devotions in a quiet and orderly manner during mid-day rest and when locked up for night.
- (3) No gathering together of prisoners for the purpose of performing any caste-ceremonies or religious functions shall under any circumstances be permitted.

Now subsection (3) was particularly referred to by the Honourable Minister. But I fail to understand how he interprets this to mean that "azan" is gathering together of prisoners. It is only a call. It is merely an invitation and a reminder to Muslims to say their prayers. The question of gathering together comes after the calling of *azan*. I am afraid the prevention of *azan* is an undue interference with the religious function of Muslims and subsection (1) forbids this undue interference. The Honourable Minister of Finance cannot take out subsection (3) from the text and interpret it by ignoring subsection (1) altogether. I think the first subsection governs the rest. It is a pity that undue interference with the religious functions of Muslims is being allowed by the Government. Not only that. Even the prisoners are punished by fettering their legs for having called '*azan*' in jails.

One word more and I have done. My last submission in this speech is to be addressed to the Honourable Minister of Education. It is well known now that my district of Rawalpindi has stood out first in the recruitment campaign and His Excellency the Viceroy has also been pleased to admire this leading part which the inhabitants of my district have taken in this connection. But it is very sad indeed that the Government does not reciprocate our loyalty. There is only one Child Welfare and Maternity Centre in my district. I would request the Honourable Minister of Education to get one or two more Maternity Centres opened there. This will ensure the good health of the coming generation of my district. Our young

men already like the service in the Army and if their health improves, that will be useful to the Government in getting healthy recruits. With these few words, Sir, I close my speech.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter** (Lahore West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjab*): Sir, to-day General Administration is under discussion and I would like to participate in it. I was not here when the general discussion of Budget was going on and if I had been here I would have certainly offered my own views with regard to the general administration of the Government. But even to-day I will try to discuss the General Administration under three main heads, that is, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Punjab Legislative Assembly and the Ministry. In my opinion these three main heads constitute the general administration of the Government. These three bodies are responsible for the formulation of the policy of the Government and as the Honourable Minister of Finance has remarked that "finances follow the policy of the Government and not *vice versa*", so I would try to expose the policy of the Government which really governs the finances of the Punjab. If I am successful in proving this policy to be bad, I will certainly appeal to the House not to sanction the grants asked for in connection with the general administration of the Punjab.

Now let us see as to what is the policy of Government in respect of general administration for which this grant is being made. Whether it is a sound policy or not, whether they have carried it out according to any set plan and programme or not, whether they have given correct lead to the country or not, whether they have carried it out with force, are the things which merit consideration. It has been stated in the Memorandum that the head "General Administration" "comprises the cost of the administration of government which is not debitable to other heads". This very sentence has reminded me of the remark which my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh made the other day that this Government was unpolitical. Quite true. This Government is really unpolitical. In fact this view of my honourable friend about general administration throws a flood of light on the political sagacity and understanding of the Government. Should we take it that the general administration has nothing to do with the framing of policy of Government? It has simply been stated that under the head of general administration come those departments the cost of which has not been debited to other departments and nothing more. At least this was not my view about general administration. In fact general administration is something very important. My friends should have placed some policy before us for which they should have obtained the sanction of the public. After they had done so they should have asked money for carrying it out, which we would have readily granted. Then they should have carried out that policy. Besides they should have tried to find out new ways and means which instead of impeding the progress of the nation would have raised its morale and prepared it to face boldly the coming struggle. This is what we understand by general administration. Now let us see whether the Government has framed any such policy. No. It has not. Sir, our sister, Mrs. Duni Chand, a little while ago used the word 'dummy' in respect of this Government. Quite true. It is dummy in the sense that it has no policy, no programme and no plan of its own. After all what is its policy? They are carrying out the policy of the central government or for the matter

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of that of the British Government. They have no policy of their own. Rather they are acting as a tool in the hands of Government of India. Though in name it is Unionist Government yet in reality it is the Government of big landlords who want to rule and dominate the country with the help of the British Imperialists. This statement of mine is substantiated by the fact that in order to overawe the people of the province they are spending huge sums of money to maintain a large force of additional police. In fact the policy that is being pursued by this Government is the policy of Great Britain. And what is the policy of Great Britain at present? Their policy is to win the war and to maintain their hold over those countries which are under their thumb. The same is the policy of the Unionist Government. They want to win the war and along with that they want to maintain the hold of the British on this country in order to provide an opportunity to the selfish clik of landlords to rule this province. We are with them so far as the winning of war is concerned, but we regret we cannot agree to the latter part of their policy. If we are prepared to co-operate in winning the war that does not and should not mean that we are prepared to tolerate the yoke of foreigners. In short that is the policy of this Government. The Honourable Premier pointed out the other day that in the matter of arrests of Congressmen, his Government was only carrying out the policy of the Central Government. In other words he said that there was no policy of his Government and that he was carrying the policy dictated to him by the Government of India. Sir, you are aware that the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal is a great advocate of industrialisation but when actually the time came for developing it in the province he has expressed his inability to do so. What does it mean? It means that although he knows that the progress of nations depends on industrialisation yet he is expressing his helplessness in the matter. It shows that he has no policy of his own. I admit that he is an expert economist and I respect him a great deal but my submission is that so long as there is no set policy before him his ability will not help the province at all.

Now let us see as to how the Government are carrying out their policy. As I have already submitted we are with the Government in their aim to crush the Axis powers. But how can that object be attained? We can achieve it only if we win the war and for winning the war it is essential that the co-operation of the people should be secured. But how is the co-operation of the people to be secured? I may tell my friends that this is the age of people's wars. Unless the whole people of a country co-operate heart and soul, wars cannot be won. Though my friends observed the Red Army Day here, yet they have not cared to know as to how the Red Army is conducting the war. There is not a single individual in that country who is not making his best efforts to win the war. If one soldier dies on the front, four or five rush to take his place. This is the way in which wars can be won. The Chinese have been putting up a stiff fight against the Japanese for the last 5½ years. They have succeeded in doing so because there is no difference between the Government, the Army and the people of China. When the Government is the people's government, the army is the people's army and the people are masters of their own destinies, what difference can crop up there? In fact the Chinese are fighting this

war according to a method. They are making maximum sacrifices. They see that there is no weak spot behind the lines. They have crushed the Fifth Columnists. In short they are doing their best. It is this method by which battles can be won. Wars cannot be won by mere jokes or by such propaganda as is being carried on by the National War Front. What my friends do is that they gather together four or five zamindars and distribute some pamphlets among them and then they think that they have done sufficient propaganda to win the war. I may tell them that in this way neither national armies can be created nor battles can be won. If they want to win the war they should adopt some vigorous methods and it is then that they would be in a position to achieve their object. I do not think that I should lay any further stress on the matter. Anyway I have pointed out to my friends as to what methods are being followed by other Governments for winning this war. But against this what is the policy of this Government and how are they carrying it out? My friends are under the impression that they would win the war by adopting a policy of repression and by carrying on propaganda through the National War Front. Let me tell them that they cannot secure the co-operation of the people by giving a national name to their propaganda machine. This kind of propaganda has absolutely no value. My honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali has pointed out that Government has taken these strong steps, which in our opinion are nothing short of repression, to maintain law and order in the province. But just see what price has been paid for maintaining peace and tranquillity in the province. A sum of 72 lakhs of rupees over and above the normal police budget has been incurred for maintaining a large additional police force in the province. This police force is being maintained merely to strike terror in the minds of the people. Yet they expect the people to co-operate with them and fight this battle as if it is their own!

**Premier :** How many persons are at present in jails in Russia?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Nobody.

**Premier :** You are hopelessly misinformed. Every country has its own methods. You know the past history of Russia and about the things that happened there. I appreciate their war effort but there the people are dealt with far more harshly than here. We hear about purges of generals daily.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Anyway we do not appreciate your method of repression.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** The question is that the policy of my friends is not a progressive nationalist policy. It does not include in it the securing of independence of this country. They cannot adopt any progressive measures for the betterment of this country. What does this all mean? It means that they have no policy of their own. Consequently we cannot give our sanction to Government for making this grant. The money is being required not for carrying out any policy but for the maintenance of these departments. Apart from this there is no meaning and import for making this demand.

Sir, I am not one of those who criticise the Government simply for the sake of opposition. But I consider it improper on the part of the Government not to pay any heed to the points raised by the Opposition. Now

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we have to see the conditions through which our country has been passing. In this connection I may point out that most of the people do not know it for the simple reason that they consider themselves safe from the war which is raging out of India, according to their view. Those who are leading a comfortable life cannot comprehend the magnitude of the difficulties facing the country. As a matter of fact, the news that we read every day give us an impression that the war is still far off. It is being fought somewhere in Burma and on a number of islands near Australia; the aggression of the fascists is being held in check by the Allies, and in Russia the patriots are putting up a brave and splendid fight against the Nazis. Consequently wrong impression gains ground with the public that the danger from outside is no longer overtaking our country. Now let us see where the internal safety of our country stands. In this connection I may tell my honourable friends sitting opposite that our country has passed through an abnormal crisis and is still in its grips. To elucidate my point I would like to say that two forces were at work in their attempt to outdo the other and this struggle was no less gigantic in severity than the battles fought on the front. Let me straight away point out that these two forces were the Government and the Japanese fifth columnists. They were fully aware of the fact that whoever will carry the public with them will ultimately win. So both of them strove hard to persuade and win over the masses. The result was that the latter succeeded in arming the people and instigating them to commit arson, incendiarism and murder in the country. Thus the Indians became the scapegoat of these two forces. Strictly speaking the Indians were sandwiched between the activities of Fascist agents and the repressive policy of the Government. I think I have made my point clear, and now I would try to show as to how this state of affairs still deteriorated. Now when this was the situation the Government committed another blunder in imprisoning the greatest organised national political body—the Congress. They did so to crush the national forces that demand independence but by doing so they paved the way for the 5th column to take the leadership and spread nervousness and panic among the people by spreading alarming news about the war. Thus this weapon proved like a boomerang and this policy of the Government rather fanned the flame of sabotage. As I have made it clear that favourable atmosphere for the pro-Fascists had been already there before this policy was practically adopted by the Government. Hence I can make bold to say that it was only due to this policy of repression that things took a turn for the worst. The pro-Fascists availed themselves of the opportunity of taking prominent part in exploiting the masses and setting at nought the policy of the Government. But this did not act as an eye opener to the Government, and they will realise their mistake later just as France found that all was over with her in spite of her huge military organisations to stem the onslaught of the enemy.

Now the question arises why did the Government fail to cope with this emergent situation? First of all, the policy of the Government should have been so complete and comprehensive that the fifth columnists ought not to have their chance to interfere with their war efforts. Secondly, they

ought to have created this impression in the minds of the masses that this war was theirs. But here they failed and failed miserably. Instead of adopting a strong and comprehensive policy as I have referred to, they adopted quite a different method. They tried to crush the national organisations in order to conquer the national spirit of the people. This was an unwise step towards achieving this object, that is to say they put the Congress leaders and national patriots behind the bars for no faults of theirs. But they soon realised the futility of this attitude. Now it appears to me that these illustrations which I have given above, in analysing the political situation, are simple enough to make it clear as to what I mean when I say that the Government has passed through a crisis. In a nut-shell, if they adopt a measure to save their skin and that measure turns against them, it is nothing but a crisis. Now, let me further point out as to how this crisis is further developed. Now unfortunately things take another turn and the situation becomes more tense as the food question arises. The scarcity of food goes to such an extent that the people have to go without food. This economic crisis aggravates the political crisis. To crown all, small coins completely disappear from the market and in addition to that "Atta" becomes scarce. Now these forces combined together dealt a blow to the prestige of the Government because they helped in intensifying panic and nervousness among the public. This gave further encouragement to the fifth columnists. Let me, therefore, point out that this situation afforded the pro-Fascists an opportunity to mislead the masses. So they succeeded in achieving their object of creating pro-Fascist tendencies in the country. But it is a thousand pities that the Government is still carrying on the same policy of repression and has not given up their unscientific methods. I am sorry to say that the Punjab Government is blindly following the Central Government so far as the question of policy is concerned. Just as the Government of India considers the orders issued by His Excellency the Viceroy as 'Khudai hukm' similarly the Punjab Government have followed them in their footsteps. For the clarification of my point, I would like to refer you to a bomb case attributed by the Government to our respected Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava. Is it not blindly following of Viceroy's orders? I ask what does it indicate? It clearly indicates that the Government has no imagination and no plan to deal with the multifarious problems on the successful solution of which directly depends the successful prosecution of the war. I would, therefore, submit that it is meet and proper for the Government to control the present situation at this abnormal time when externally the danger of Japanese invasion is imminent on the one hand and anti-British feeling is being created internally on the other. But I am sorry to say that the Government is not taking this matter as seriously as it should have taken. Just imagine a police man taking a handcuffed prisoner through a jungle while both of them face a hungry leopard. The prisoner asks the policeman to untie his hands so that both of them could fight their common enemy, the leopard. But the policeman replies in the negative and says if he untied his hands he would be punished for negligence of duty as the responsibility was his. So the policeman does not set him free and thinks that if they are attacked by the leopard he would throw the chain and jump over a tree leaving the handcuffed prisoner at the mercy of the leopard. Anyhow the policeman is decidedly in a better position

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as compared with the handcuffed prisoner. The prisoner in chains and the policeman which in other words means India under bondage and the British Government, are both faced with a hungry leopard, i.e., Fascist Japan. The prisoner in chains is in the custody of the policeman as a result of which the former cannot move an inch, while the latter is at liberty to move about and save his life in case the leopard comes to attack them. As soon as the leopard is seen from a distance, the policeman, in order to save his life, climbs the nearest tree and leaves the prisoner whose hands and feet are already chained, to his own fate. Now this prisoner, fettered as he is with chains, is left to the mercy of the leopard, the most ferocious enemy. Had the policeman given freedom to the prisoner, both of them would have been able to fight their common enemy and save their lives. The refusal on the part of the policeman is very much regretted. Similar is the case with the British Government which gives a blank refusal to the national demand of India, and in response to this demand the British Government say that it is their responsibility to keep India in their grip. So far as British Government is concerned, instead of preparing a united front to shatter Fascism to pieces it invariably retreated and allowed the Fascist Japan to move ahead. But how can the defeatist mentality of some Indian nationalists be justified? When Japan took Burma, Britishers simply moved to India. If Japan advances further they may go away leaving India tied hand and foot to be devoured by the leopard. Now, can we run away out of our country? No. We have to stay here. It is our country and we must defend ourselves. We must take the defence of the country in our own hands.

America, Russia and China also favoured India in her struggle for the National Government, but it was not heeded by the British Government and no National Government was allowed to be formed in this country.

My honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, while justifying the policy of the Government, emphasised the formula of "Prevention is better than cure" and said that the imprisoning of the Congress leaders was the expedient step taken by the Government. The Government branded the Congress as fascist party and anticipated sabotage in India as a result of which severe repression was started, and section 144, I. P.C., was promulgated and additional police posts were set up in the country. This is what happened in August last. By imprisoning the Congress leaders the fifth columnists got the opportunity of posing as the true patriots and exploited the name of the Congress and misled the people and the wave of sabotage was thus set in motion throughout the country.

The ruthless policy of repression paved the way for the activities of the fifth columnists which was further encouraged by the futile price control system and consequently the discontent which was caused in the country could not be remedied by the Government. The hoarder also remained outside the grip of the Government, as a result of which the majority were subjected to extreme hardships and their feeling was voiced by Mahatama Gandhi in jail, and he begged that the distress among the masses caused by the food problem may soon be remedied.

I can quote instances where the shopkeepers had bags of flour inside their shops and they hesitated to sell flour even at the maximum rates.

In other words it means that a seemingly ordinary matter like the food problem reacts so profoundly on the life of a country. Along with it we have also seen how the food problem is made use of by the fifth columnists for furthering their nefarious object of diverting the energies of a people from the more vital war effort to the mundane things of every day existence. Not only that, but it affords the Government an excuse for using repression with increased fury, thus making matters worse. It is a psychological fact that if you employ violence in dealing with a hungry person he will make a more determined effort for securing food. A kick in the hind legs of a famished dog would not discourage him from coming back to the place where he hopes to find a bone. Until a planned method is devised for solving this problem, any Government cannot hope to ease or overcome such disturbed conditions in the country.

Instituting control on the prices of food grain and then hastening to remove the control, following in the footsteps of the Central Government only makes people lose all confidence in their Government. A wavering policy of this kind only exposes political weakness.

The situation created by Mahatma Gandhi's fast caused not only uneasiness in the country but also a flutter in the dovecots of the Government. May I know from the members of the Government whether or not it is a fact that there was a marked uneasiness in the Government circles while the fast lasted? Did not they find it necessary to mobilize police in large numbers? This stiff and stubborn attitude on the one hand and the apprehension of what might happen on the other is a clear pointer to the existence of a crisis in the country. This internal disturbed condition of the country accentuated by the crisis created by food scarcity was taken advantage of by the fifth column to check and paralyse industry vital to the successful prosecution of war, viz., the production of armaments and cloth. Their activities were aided by the policy of repression which the Government adopted in resolving strikes. Instead of placating the workers and redressing their grievances the police batons were set to break their heads in order to make them resume their work. This happened in Amritsar. Nothing was done to accede to their demand for dearness allowance. The Government consider the bludgeon as a panacea for all such ills, but they forget that it helps in spreading disaffection and increasing the disturbances. Suppression is what they know but they never think of conceding the legitimate demands of the workers. If you ask a Minister as to what the Government intend to do in the matter, he will refer you to another Minister. If he too is unable to think of any reply he will say that Mr. Moon, the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar, is in a better position to know. So far the workers of only two factories have gone on strike but when all the 169 factories close down or the mills at Lyallpur and Okara suspend work or the Railwaymen strike work and the transport of war material and the troop movements come to a standstill, then the Government will realise that it was not the problem or the responsibility of Mr. Moon but that of the Ministers themselves. The problem presented by the scarcity of food is not a thing to be treated lightly as the Government did in the matter



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of starting depots and lifting the control on the prices of food grains which made the prices go up. When this was done the depots were also closed on the excuse that there was not much difference in the market rates and the rates charged at the depots. You cannot face a problem by pursuing a policy of drift or evasion and depending merely on the majority at your back.

**Minister of Revenue :** Have you seen our communique ?

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Yes. Although we are glad to see it, yet it does not absolve you from your responsibility.

Then there is a fourth problem. It concerns your Grow More Food campaign. When my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh referred to it at some length, Raja Ghazanfar Ali tried to ridicule a certain point for its lack of sense. As you know we make extempore speeches here and sometimes a point may not be as clear as we want it to be. What he wanted to say was that propaganda alone would not make this campaign a success. Unless you take substantial economic measures to persuade the zamindar to grow more food of his own accord, the present campaign cannot succeed. So long as economic concessions are not provided to the zamindar, you cannot make him grow more food. I need not go into details as to what economic measures should be taken in this behalf. I know that you are not radical in your outlook but we are much more so. I also know that your hands are to some extent bound and you have to work within the frame-work of the foreign interests. Let that be aside. If you go on working even within the framework of the present constitution there is yet a scope for your doing a lot.

After this I come to the scandal of war fund collection. To begin with the Rural Reconstruction department was entrusted with the work of preaching the desirability of contributing to the war fund. Now this verbal preaching has given place to a preaching by the rod. Whatever the instructions of the Government may be, the police is abusing its power by resorting to force in the matter of war fund collections. I do not deny the fact that the Government gave a very good reply to our question that there was no rule under which the people could be coerced for contributing to these funds, but the fact remains that force is being used in spite of it. In connection with the Kissan Committees, I, being their President, have to visit rural areas and thus I come to know how the war collections are being made. The sub-inspector at Daudar, district Ferozepore, realized contributions to the war fund by doubling the sum imposed on the village for the police chauki. I know of a Sikh sub-inspector at Doddar who realized money for *akhanda path* and thus collected Rs. 500. I think it would be better if I read the letter which I have recently received from an official of the Kissan Committee, Jagowal, district Gurdaspur, seeking my advice in the matter. This is what he writes :—

اب چند یوم سے نمبرداروں کو تھانہ میں بلایا جاتا ہے اور  
ان سے کہا جاتا ہے کہ تمہارے دھیات میں جو کسان کمیٹی کے  
ممبران ہیں ان کی فہرستیں تیار کر کے بھیجیں۔ چنانچہ

تہانہ کاهنوداں میں فہرستیں تیار ہو چکی ہیں۔ ان سے ان کا کیا مطلب ہے کہ فہرستیں تیار کرتے ہیں نیز تہاںیدار کاهنوداں نے تمام نمبرداروں کو قسمیں دی ہیں کہ اگر تم نے کسی کسان کمیٹی کے درکر کی صفائی پیش کی تو پھر تمہارے لئے اچھا نہ ہوگا آپ اس کے متعلق دجاو کر کے تحریر فرماویں کہ کیا کیا جارہے اور کس طرح اسے من مانی کارروائیوں سے روکا جائے۔ نیز ساتھی دیوان سنگھ سنگھ جاگروال کی مخدّم سبز کائی گئی۔ وہ فریاد کے لئے تہانہ کاهنوداں گیا مگر اسے دھکے دیکر تہانہ سے نکالا گیا حالانکہ اس کا لڑکا بلیبر سنگھ فوج میں اس وقت سنگاپور جاہاں کا قیدی ہے۔ نیز بعض نمبرداروں سے تہانہ کاهنوداں میں یہ سلوک ہو رہا ہے کہ ان کا منہ کالا کرکے بازاروں میں پھرایا جاتا ہے اور نہایت بے عزتی کی جاتی ہے۔ نیز اب ایک آنہ فی کس دار فنڈ وصول کرنے کے لئے گروہدار اور پتواری نے شکایت کی ہے کہ بہان جاگروال ہتھیاں میں لوگ دار فنڈ ادا نہیں کرتے اور نہ ہی پہلے ڈبل چوکیدار ادا کیا ہے۔ اب تحصیلدار صاحب گورداسپور اسی غرض کے لئے ۲۰-۳-۴۳ کو آ رہے ہیں۔ اس کا بھی سدھار ہونا ضروری ہے۔ امید ہے کہ آپ جلد از جلد اس کے متعلق انتظام فرماویں گے تاکہ کسی قسم کی دقت نہ آوے۔

تابعدار ساتھی ماہن سنگھ سنگھ جاگروال بانگو

Those who contribute to the war fund are not given any receipt. There are innumerable instances which I can quote. I assert that money is squeezed out of their pockets in the name of war fund. Sometimes it so happens that the residents of a certain village contribute far more than what is shown by the police officials. They do not spare anybody and they exact the maximum amount from anybody whom they can get hold of, and afterwards they do not give any receipt for the amount received. I have a copy of the letter addressed to the Deputy Inspector-General, Lahore, with me, which shows that the police officials exacted appreciably big sums of money from the people of district Gujranwala, but they did not give any receipt for the amount received. Mr. Speaker, if you kindly allow me, I will read it out for the information of the Honourable Premier :

We the undersigned of P. S. Nowshera Virkan, district Gujranwala, bring to your kind notice that before the arrival of His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab at Gujranwala on 28th January 1943 nearly one lakh is taken as war fund. No receipt has been given to any one. Kindly enquire into the matter about embezzlement from police officers and staff Nowsheran Virkan.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

- (1) Amar Singh, son of Khem Singh, Jat, of Souke, District. Gujranwala, Rs. 20.
- (2) Gian Chand - Harbans Singh, son of Barkat Ram, Gujranwala, Rs. 50.

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- (3) Sundar Dass, son of Ram Dass, Brahman, of soueke, Rs. 150.
- (4) Sant Singh, son of Barkat Ram, caste Khathri, of Bhugwan, Rs. 150.
- (5) Chanda Singh, son of Hakim Singh, Jat, of Sohike, Rs. 80.
- (6) Ladha Singh, son of Kartar Singh, Jat, of Bhugwan, Rs. 100.
- (7) Kapur Singh, son of Ladha Singh, caste Jat, of Bhugwan, Rs. 100.
- (8) Arup Singh, son of Daya Singh, Jat, of Meru, Rs. 100.
- (9) Charan Singh, son of Matha Singh, caste Jat, of Melu, Rs. 100.
- (10) Hera Singh, son of Dharga Singh, caste Jat, Rs. 100.
- (11) Puran Singh, son of Guesha Singh, caste Khathri, of Ghumola, Rs. 80.
- (12) Jagat Singh, son of Jewan Singh, Jat, of Ghumola, Rs. 100.

Sir, if this method of exacting war fund is continued, I warn the Government that the movement of the 5th columnist will be rejuvenated. There will be disturbances all round. The peace and tranquillity of the province will be ruined. In short there will be chaos all over in the Punjab. I am afraid the Government will have to face very serious consequences. I am afraid lest there should be once again a revival of the sabotage and garb movement. I warn the Government not to adopt a self-complacent attitude. They should think seriously over the estranged feelings of the people; otherwise if they continue exacting the war fund and keeping on the snug attitude as they have adopted till now, I am afraid, it will bring in very dangerous repercussions which may perhaps be the downfall of the Government.

Sir, what an indifferent policy the Government has adopted in the matter of spreading lawlessness. They are doing every possible cruelty to the people. Violence has become the rule of the day. People are sick of this chaos. Evidently the administration is failing in restoring law and order in the country. After all how long will the people continue suffering? The limit of patience is exhausted. Now the people have begun to be pro-Japan and pro-Fascist. People everywhere are anti-Government. The Honourable Premier may please take it from me that I am not attacking the Government. I am not casting any reflections either against him or his Government, but I am simply voicing the feelings of the people of the Punjab. Perhaps they are unaware of the undercurrents which are sapping the administration of this Government. The cruelties of the police are no longer tolerable. The police has singularly failed in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the Province. I dare say the police itself cannot check the tide of Fascism. I warn the Government that the people of Punjab are burning with anger and discontent against the Government and the police is mostly responsible for it. I ask Government as to what happened in Calcutta when it was bombarded. The very police officials, who were entrusted to maintain the spirits of the people, to maintain law and order, ran away in order to escape the danger, leaving the people alone at the mercy of the looters.

**Premier :** The Punjab Police is of a different stuff

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Punjab Police? (Voices : Unionist Party!) Please do not hold a complacent view either about the Punjab police or about the Unionist Party. What did your civic guards do in Delhi? The whole civic service terminated. ....

**Minister of Education :** But the Punjabi is never afraid of anything.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** What happened in Chittagong, in Singapore? It is all very pleasing to say that the Punjab police is not afraid of anything but the facts belie the statement. The police officials well know how they can save their skin.

If you say that there is peace, law and order in the Punjab, I warn you that you are gravely misinformed. You are adopting a too self-complacent attitude. It will be suicidal for you. Would you like your self-confidence to be rudely shaken by another tragedy of Jallianwala Bagh? Mind you please, the Punjab of to-day is not what it was in 1919! It can take a worse turn even in these days.

Sir, I ask the Government a very pertinent question. Tell me who suppressed the pro-Fascist tendencies in the Punjab? Who is responsible for annihilating the 5th column movement in the Punjab? Who tried to the maximum capacity to keep the labourers, the kisans on the correct path? Perhaps the Government is unmindful of the fact, that there is a Communist Party in the Punjab who did all what they could not dream of doing in so short a time, and with so systematic a programme. I ask Raja Sahib not to laugh away my statement. If he cares he may please ask Maxwell as to whether the Communist Party is or is not responsible for isolating completely anti-Fascism and the 5th columnists. Is it not responsible for doing a most substantial service to the cause of peace and tranquillity of India?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Unionist Party is responsible for all this.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** These are false pretensions. They are afraid lest the Communist Party should acquire strength. This party does not wish to cause split in the country. The Communist Party did its best with a view to raising the morale of the people and saving the country from sabotage and anti-defence activities. It guided the labourers and the Kisans to follow the correct national policy. What did the Government do with the Communist Party? How shameful on the part of the Unionist Government. They put all the members of the Communist Party indiscriminately in jails. What a pity! Such is the attitude of the Government towards anti-Fascist forces in the country.

The Government has never cared to study the policy of the Communist party and instead of arresting the fifth columnists has ordered the indiscriminate arrests of the Communist party, the set policy of which is to render the greatest possible help in the successful prosecution of war against Fascism and Nazism. This proves that this Government is really unpolitical and is absolutely incapable of appreciating the true significance of the political currents of the times. Here I may sound a note of warning

[S. Teja Singh Swatantar]

to the Ministry against the false complacency in which it is indulging. Imperialistic France was also labouring under that misconception and placed too much reliance in her standing armies. But when the crash came, those armies did not avail. Let this Government take a leaf out of the history of France and take time by the forelock. The arrest of patriots will not prevent the crisis. Slogans will not stop the march of events. Indiscriminate detention of political workers will not save India against the onslaught of the enemies. When Mahatma Gandhi was thinking of Satyagrah in August last, it was the Communist party only that gave the correct lead to the country, through the press as well as on the platform. Yet it was the Communist party which was made the target of the tyranny of the Government. There is something fundamentally wrong with the Government. Its policy is rotten to the core. The Punjab Civil Secretariat, the Punjab Legislative Assembly and the Ministry—all are amiss. They do not change with the change of times. They are reactionary and their policy is utterly hopeless. I, therefore, beg to urge upon the House not to grant a single penny to the Government under the demand of "General Administration".

**Rana Nasrullah Khan** (Hoshiarpur West, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, very many objections have been levelled against the general administration from the opposite side. But my honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan has also given a befitting reply to their criticism and I need not give any further reply to the critics. It is really strange that our honourable friends belonging to the Opposition have no constructive programme. They have only a destructive criticism to make and do nothing practically. They should first of all study our creed and deeds. We are trying to repel the onslaught of the Nazis by offering men and money in this war. We are making tremendous sacrifices while these honourable members are indulging in wordy war only and even in that they have no constructive proposal to offer but only destructive criticism.

Now I would like to make a humble suggestion with regard to the system of collecting war fund and war loan in the Punjab. The Revenue Assistants and the Sub-Registrars postpone the mutation and registration cases till the poor zamindars make donation to the war fund or lend something to the war loan. This is clear coercion and must be stopped. The zamindars are voluntarily contributing a lot of money in the war loan and war fund. Then why coerce them? This practice makes their hearts more prejudiced against the allies. The Persian saying has it;

کہ مزدر خوشدل کند کار بیش

Let not the Government officers displease and tease the zamindars in these days of war. They are already doing their best in the way of offering men and money for the successful prosecution of this war. Differing people should be asked to do different jobs, according to their suitability and capability. The zamindars should be asked to grow more and more food day by day. That should be their duty, and if they perform this duty well, their task should be deemed to have been accomplished. No further coercion should be adopted upon them. After all food is the vital

necessity in this war. Food supplies are essential. If these supplies of food are ensured by the zamindars by growing more food, the Government should be pleased with them and leave them alone. If they grow the necessary food supplies for consumption by the armies, it is enough.

I will now take up the question of price control. When the Government introduced price control last year, the food grains had altogether disappeared from the public markets. The traders had locked up their huge stores of wheat and other food grains and the poor people were denied all supplies of them. The traders would not sell wheat at the control prices. The administration failed in bringing about the stocks. The reasons are that they have been partial to capitalists and did not perform their duties efficiently. Banias have neither any sense of justice in them nor have they any sympathy for the poor labourers. What they want is money and more money. Whether they make it by fair or unfair means that matters little. By adopting such methods they are only creating difficulties for the poor labourers and are making good material for civil war. For the big zamindars have plenty of wheat with them and even smaller zamindars store up wheat sufficient for their use. Then the rich people also buy their year's requirements at the time of the harvest. It is only the poor labourers who purchase their requirements from day to day. The traders have not considered the matter for a moment that by selling foodstuffs at higher rates they were only strangling the poor. So long as control remained wheat was being sold at the rates of Rs. 10, Rs. 15 and even Rs. 20 a maund. No sooner was the control lifted not only the scarcity of foodstuffs disappeared but even the price of wheat went down. In this connection I may point out that at some places Government also committed irregularities which added to the sufferings of the people. For instance, in Jullundur 22,000 bags of wheat were purchased through the co-operative credit societies. But when the time for distribution of this wheat came it was distributed at the rate of 90 maunds a day, although the requirements of Jullundur amounted to 300 bags of *atta* a day. The reason for this was that the contract for the supply of *atta* to the public was given to one trader only. He had only one flour mill which could turn out 90 maunds of *atta* a day. So he distributed 90 maunds of *atta* daily to the people of Jullundur. The result was that the public was put to a lot of trouble. Had the Government made some better arrangements, the sufferings of the people would have been avoided. It is no answer to say that as other foodstuffs such as bajra, gram and maize were lying in large quantities, so only 90 maunds of *atta* was sold daily. But I may tell them that these foodstuffs are lying in stock, not because nobody wants to purchase them but because nobody has distributed them. There is no reasonable reply to this objection which leads us to suspect the responsible authorities of corruption.

Now I pass on to the next point. My honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal is under the impression that like *Amritdhara* the system of joint electorates is a panacea for all our ills. But I may tell him that joint electorates can be introduced only if there is amity and concord between all the communities. But when we daily see that Hindu *banias* do not shrink even from strangling the Hindu zamindars, how can we Muslims expect better treatment at their hands, especially when we know that

[Rana Nasrullah Khan]

love of money is their greatest weakness. (*A voice*: Now you have also become *banias*). But our mentality is not like that of the *banias*. Sir, my honourable friends every day tell us that Congress has done this and Congress has done that. We will praise it only if it succeeds in bringing about a change in the mentality of the *banias*. I am afraid nothing of the kind will happen. Rather Congress will become a *bania* congress and nothing more.

Now I come to another matter which concerns the general administration. Some time ago in thana Malpur a prisoner died as a result of torture by the police. I went on the spot to know the true story. The enquiry started. Attempts were made to hush up the matter but the inquiry continued, and some officials were suspended. But after the completion of the inquiry all of them were re-instated. After this case another incident happened in which a head constable was dismissed. He appealed against his dismissal and in his appeal he pointed out that he had been dismissed because he tried to reopen the torture case referred to above. He in fact stated in his appeal as to how the prisoner was tortured and how his death took place which subsequently was concealed. When such facts had come to light it was necessary that the inquiry should be re-instituted. But no such action was taken. After all this torture case involved the death of a person and it was only fair that the inquiry should be re-started. But it is very much regretted that this case has been filed. Even if such cases are filed it will encourage police officers all the more to torture prisoners under their custody.

Now, Sir, at present the zamindars are put to great hardship in purchasing cloth for their needs. Cloth which was sold at four annas a yard cannot be had even at Rs. 2 a yard. The Government has solved this difficulty by bringing in the market standard cloth which can be purchased at a fixed price. But the supply of this cloth has been entrusted to the urban *banias*. The difficulty will be that the cloth merchants instead of selling standard cloth would sell other cloth first with a view to earn more profits. They would get very little profit by sale of standard cloth because the margin allowed is very small. So like wheat they will hoard this cloth and would sell their own cloth first by which they would make a profit of 12 annas in a rupee. They will certainly do so. So something should be done to see that the cloth merchants do not hoard standard cloth.

I will now say a few words in regard to the Special Inquiry Agency. In the beginning this Agency did very good and useful work. But now it has become slack. A complaint has been made by this Agency that the people do not co-operate with it. But the trouble is that when people want to co-operate with it then other officers to help their colleagues trouble the persons co-operating with the enquiring officer. In this way the people are discouraged to come forward and co-operate with the Agency. Similarly there are other departments under General Administration which are not functioning properly.

My honourable friend over there during the course of his speech remarked that the propaganda which was being carried on by the National

War Front Committee and under other schemes in order to intensify "Grow More Food Campaign," has not produced any effect at all. He is hopelessly misinformed. Let me tell him that in districts like Hoshiarpur, Jhelum, Montgomery and other places where National War Front has held conferences, there as compared to previous years more areas had been brought under cultivation of food grains. Besides the zamindars of such ilaqa have been provided many facilities to grow more food. The result of this will be apparent when the new wheat crop is gathered. Before resuming my seat I would like to read out two verses which a friend of mine has composed. They are as follows:

حب جنگ کا دنگا بچتا ہے  
اور ملک پر آفت آتی ہے  
یہ سینہ ننگا ہوتا ہے  
یہ چھاتی گولی کھاتی ہے

This is how the zamindars are behaving. But what is the position of my friends over there?

یہ سب کچھ ہے یہ سب کچھ ہے  
ہم یونہی جان گذارتے ہیں  
جب مال غنیمت بنتا ہے  
سب شہری ہی لیجاتے ہیں

Although it is the zamindars who make sacrifices, yet the reward goes to the urbanites.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns (Muham madan), Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, as I could not have the opportunity of speaking on the budget during the general discussion I think it proper to express myself now when General Administration is under consideration. Before I proceed with my speech I would like to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister on preparing a well balanced and surplus budget. To tell you the truth, I was under the impression that as the Government was burdened this year with various extraordinary expenses the budget could never be a surplus budget. But my surprise knew no bounds when I saw that in spite of all the heavy expenses the Finance Minister had compiled the figures of the budget with such an ability as to show 50 lakhs of surplus in the present budget. You will remember, Sir, that even the budget of the last year won approbation from the economic experts who characterised our Finance Minister as a financial wizard. In fact, when we go through these budgets presented since the introduction of provincial autonomy we feel convinced that it is more or less some magic that helps him in presenting such flawless budgets of the province. Is it not a miracle, for instance, that in the budget of 1941-42 a deficit of an enormous amount was shown but in the end of the year he showed a surplus of no less than 86 lakhs of rupees? Again I congratulate him on his success and this was all I had to say with regard to this matter.

Now I come to my next point. As you are aware, Sir, yesterday I made some remarks with regard to the extension of Western Jumna Canal.



[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad]

But strange to say, the Honourable Minister for Revenue thought, consciously or unconsciously, that I had called him bigotted. So replying to my remarks he said, in the course of his speech, that the water of this canal would be made available first to the district of Hissar and then to the district of Rohtak, for the simple reason that the digging was first started at Hissar and afterwards at Rohtak. But this was not the point at issue. What I wanted to point out was that as the people of the Hissar district had suffered from acute famine, therefore the irrigation facilities should have been provided to them first and afterwards the adjacent districts may be benefited by it. But, on the contrary, water is made available to 115 villages of Jhajar tahsil by the extension of the Western Jumna Canal while a small portion of the Hissar district is irrigated and the most dry tracts of Hissar district are overlooked. Undoubtedly 69 villages of Hansi tahsil where there were already much irrigation facilities and plenty of water were supplied. I am fully aware that it is due to the approach of Chaudhri Suraj Mal who hails from that ilaqa. But as the maxim goes '*Chor ki darhi men tinka*' the Honourable Minister for Revenue stood in his seat and put some words in my mouth which I never said on the floor of the House. But one thing which I would never hesitate to say is that the Minister for Revenue is falling a victim to nepotism and favouritism and in this connection I have been giving concrete instances to support my conviction and even to-day also I am going to refer to certain instances which he cannot deny. But, Sir, I am sorry to say that the Minister for Revenue is not present on his seat. I would, therefore, request you to send for him. (Laughter) I regret that he has gone out of his way in replying to my objections. He could not dare to give any sound reason why 115 villages of his tahsil were irrigated by this extension ignoring the Hissar district. The Honourable Minister for Revenue said that the two Executive Engineers were in charge of extension work. They did whatever they thought proper and he had nothing to do with it. It is an admitted fact that as they were the subordinates of the Honourable Minister for Revenue, they were wise enough to act upon the saying, 'a word for the wise' because they desired to win his good will.

Now the next point to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is with regard to price control. Although much has been said about it from both sides of the House, yet I deem it my duty to point out the grievances of my constituency for the consideration of the Government. I may tell you, Sir, that it is a passion, rather a mania with me, to go about in my constituency and other places as well with a view to gather information as to how things are going on there. So I have been informed by reliable sources that the people to whom agencies of Sugar, Kerosine oil and *Atta* were granted by the Government have profited by adopting unfair means. What they have done is this. If they have been provided with ten bags of sugar by the Government they have disposed off only four bags at the control price to the public while the remaining six have been sold through back door on decidedly much higher rate than the control price thus depriving the poor from getting the daily provisions. In this way, through exploiting the poor they have unfairly profited. Hence I have no hesitation in saying that the Government did not adopt fair policy in this

respect as discrimination was shown even in the matter of depots for the sale of *Atta*, Sugar and Kerosine oil. It is true that Mussalmans generally do not take interest in business and for that reason they have deteriorated in trade and business. But I am constrained to remark that it was high time for the Government to encourage them. In fact they tried to have depots. But they have been deprived of this privilege and in this connection I can quote many instances if the Government so desires. Consequently the depots were given to Hindus and I have seen with my own eyes that Mussalmans were badly treated at those depots. The poor labourers earning one rupee or twelve annas a day have been seen waiting and waiting for hours together at these depots; and sometimes they had to wait till sunset. Now the question arises as to whom *Atta* and other necessities were given. The reply is obvious. To influential people, to friends, to relatives and to acquaintances of the depots holders. It is a pity, rather shame, that even in these depots, Hindus were given preference to Mussalmans. I can quote instances where on account of differential treatment I have seen blows being exchanged between the labourers and others. In certain cases things came to such a pass that bottles were thrown at each other, heads were broken and consequently the police was called to control the situation. Now I think this point has been made clear to the House that the Government have utterly failed in starting these depots in the province on the right lines and controlling them properly.

Now I understand that Government wish to do everything for the comforts of the people as they have again come out with another scheme to work. That is, Standard Cloth Depots are likely to be opened in the near future. Sir, I fail to understand as to what has become of the statesmanship of the Government because now again the Hindus, through the encouragement of the Government authorities, are getting a strong hold on this scheme as well. Since they have no sympathy with Mussalmans the same difficulty is sure to crop up and I am quite definite that only their relatives and people connected with them would take advantage of this system. Since yesterday we have been crying hoarse in this House to the effect that the Mussalmans have not derived any benefit from these depots. But it is a pity that the Government have not satisfied us on this point as yet. My submission, therefore, is that in view of the recent bitter experience and the subsequent failure of the Government in working out depot system in the province, the Minister in charge ought to see that equal number of standard cloth depots are given to Mussalmans in every town and locality so that the poor Mussalmans may also be able to get the cloth at the controlled rate. But I am sorry to say that the Minister in charge to whom this matter relates not present in his seat. Anyhow I am constrained to remark that his actions belie his professions. He does not act on what he says. It was only yesterday that he remarked, in the course of his speech, while referring to me that none could bring him an allegation of communalism but a man whose soul was blackened by communalism. I think these words do not lie in his mouth as his attitude is quite different to what he says. If his actions did not belie his professions I would have been the first person to bow before him. But he is, unfortunately, not of that type.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I am very reluctant to interrupt my honourable friend, but I must point out that it is against the rules of debate to attack any member of this House personally in this way.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Well, how is it that when an honourable member comes here as a representative of his constituents, makes demands on their behalf, wants to get their grievances redressed and voices the feelings of the oppressed, the Revenue Minister gets up in his seat and calls him a man of blackened soul? I strongly repudiate that insinuation and say that he was seeing his own face in the mirror.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member cannot discuss the conduct of a member of this House except upon a substantive motion.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Were not these very words used by the Honourable Minister himself? If so, why is not Khawaja Sahib entitled to use them?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I must submit that these words were not used by the Honourable Minister.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** The Honourable Minister did use the words which are being quoted by my honourable friend and that is reported in the newspaper also.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Whatever is the report in the newspapers, the Honourable Minister never used those words.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I never used any such language. These were the words used against a person as well as the Muslim residents of Ambala Division are who are tyrannised by a Minister. The Honourable Minister said that the man who comes here and complains in this House that his community is being treated in this way, is a communally biased person and that his soul is blackened. I am sorry I fail to understand this logic of the Revenue Minister and my honourable friend says it that he did not use these words.

**Mr. Speaker :** I request Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan to explain the whole situation.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** In obedience to your orders, I will try to explain the position. What happened was this. The honourable member while making his speech was talking about the extension of the Western Jumna Canal. During the discussion he said that the Canal had been diverted through an area where there is no Muhammadan population and the villages where there are Muhammadans are not being irrigated by the canal. That was the remark made by Khawaja Sahib. I am not quoting his exact words, but that is the purport of what he said. Then the Revenue Minister while replying said that such an accusation that certain villages were deliberately left out of irrigation area simply because they are populated by the Muslims, was so wild an allegation that only a man whose soul was affected would bring it up against a Minister. This is what he said.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will you kindly allow me to explain the intention of Chaudhri Ghulam Samad?

**Mr. Speaker :** He can explain himself.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I will explain later on.

In spite of the fact that Government has been supplying essential food-stuffs and other commodities of daily use to certain agencies for local distribution, still the people continue to experience difficulties and inconvenience. In this connection I would like to quote an instance. Government supplied kerosene oil, sugar and other essential commodities and food-stuffs to a certain agency in Palwal on the understanding that it would make all these commodities available to the people according to the scheduled list of prices provided by the Government. But the agency, instead of selling the whole quantity to the people, sold only a part of it and made large profits by selling the rest of the quantity in the neighbouring places which are in the jurisdiction of U. P. Government. The result has been that essential commodities are not made available to the people. In fact Government do not take any steps in regard to these irregularities committed by the said agency. In this connection I would like to quote another instance. Although the Government of India had laid down that food-stuffs could not be exported without a permit from the Control authorities, still the Depot holders and traders of grain of the Hissar and other districts lying adjacent to the Loharu State had been exporting food-grains to other provinces via Loharu State without obtaining any such permit. This has adversely affected the people of the Punjab.

So far as National War Front is concerned, mention of it has been made on the floor of this House. There is no doubt about it that the scheme, devised by His Excellency the Viceroy through the Leadership of the late lamented Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, is a very useful scheme. But I want to point out that certain Deputy Commissioners, whose powers have been enhanced, appoint their own favourites as leaders and deputy leaders of the National War Front. I should like to enlighten the Government that all the honourable members who have been elected to this House, are the real representatives of the people. The people of their respective constituencies have full faith in them. It is really regretted that such honourable members of this August House are not appointed as leaders and deputy leaders on these War Front Committees, while those persons are appointed who hold some influence with the district authorities. I would request the Honourable Premier not to ignore the honourable members of this House. He should rather appoint those honourable members of this House as the leaders and deputy leaders of the National War Front who are capable of doing useful work.

Now I want to make a few submissions in regard to dearness allowance. Nowadays the middle class, i.e., the Government servants of the province, have been hard hit due to abnormal rise in the prices of food-stuffs and essential commodities. The Government servants of the province are at a loss to know what to do, as it is extremely difficult for them to make both ends meet. There is no doubt about it that Government granted ten per cent dearness allowance up to the limit of rupees one hundred per month, but this sum of Rs. 10 does not help them much. During the last Great War the prices of food-stuffs except *atta* which was sold at three or four seers a rupee, did not go up to such an abnormal height as we find at present. But at that time Government granted 20 per cent dearness allowance to Government servants, and when the War was over. Government very liberally included that allowance in their regular pays and they continued to

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enjoy the same concessions even after their retirement. For instance a Government servant who was drawing Rs. 200 per mensem got an additional amount of Rs. 10. In this connection I may tell the Government that during the last Great War the prices of only a few things rose abnormally, i.e., cloth, *atta*, etc. But at present the prices of all commodities have abnormally risen. The budget shows that the Government will have a surplus of rupees 50 lakhs. Moreover their income, which previously was Rs. 11 crores only, has increased by Rs. 4 crores and 19 lakhs. Under the circumstances it is meet and proper for the Government to remove the difficulties of these Government servants who have been serving loyally and sincerely, by granting them a higher sum of dearness allowance. In fact it is the bounden duty of the Government to look to the difficulties of their loyal servants. Moreover, due to change in standard time at present they work for longer hours than they used to do before.

My honourable friend Chaudhri Ali Akbar hailing from Gurdaspur district wants to bring to the notice of the House through me that during the disturbances of the past years in connection with the Congress Movement the gates of tahsils and police stations in Gurdaspur district were closed and only small windows were put instead. This system still continues there, as a result of which people are put to great inconvenience while entering through these windows. I request the Government on my friend's behalf to put again those doors for now no such danger exists. Moreover it is very inconvenient to take the bicycles inside through these small windows.

Sir, the attention of the Government has repeatedly been drawn to the policy adopted by them in making the appointment of civil servants to various districts. They probably consider every I.C.S. officer to be an angel and entrust him with the administration of a district after a training for three or four years only. They consider them to be incapable of thinking in terms of communities and probably think that they are free from all bias and prejudice. But so far as my experience goes it appears to me as if during their stay in England these young men are given an immersion in a tub of communalism from which they emerge as thoroughly dyed in communalism as any arch-communal leader in this country. Young in years and inexperienced as they are they do not even try to conceal the hatred that they feel for members of the opposite community. The moment they are given the charge of a district they embark on a crusade of crushing the community other than their own. Unfortunately it falls to the lot of the Ambala division to get the most poisonous of these officers as the heads of the various districts. I can give scores of instances of this type of I.C.S. officer and one in point is the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal.

**Premier :** I would request my honourable friend to be general in his criticism. It is not fair to attack those officers who are not present here and cannot defend themselves.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** You are here. You appointed them. You can redress our grievances.

**Premier :** Criticise me then. The remedy lies between you and me.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Well, Sir, what is happening in Karnal? Previously the policy adopted by this Government used to be to appoint a Deputy Commissioner belonging to one community and the Superintendent of Police from the other community. But this practice has been discontinued now. In Karnal the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police both belonged to the same community. The attitude that they had adopted with regard to the Mussalmans was very shameful. Thank God that the Superintendent of Police has been transferred and a European has been placed in this post.

**Premier :** Say Government is responsible. Do not bring in the officers.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** What are we to do when the Government does not take any notice of the happenings in that district? The Muslims are getting very bad treatment at the hands of the officers. In village Biana the Deputy Commissioner had created such a situation that if the Nawab of Kunjpura and S. Azmat Ali Wasti, Secretary, District Muslim League, had not intervened and controlled the uneasy Muslims, there would have been a serious communal riot which could hardly have been controlled by the Deputy Commissioner and other local authorities.

**Premier :** You can make such speeches at the time of the next elections.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** What I am saying has nothing to do with the elections. I am merely voicing the grievances of my constituents. I have all along been raising my voice against the inequities shown to them. I am not very keen about seeking elections, and if the Honourable Premier orders me not to stand in the next General elections, I am prepared to obey him. I am an old man and no one can say whether I shall be alive at that time or not.

**Premier :** I am sorry you did not follow me. I only said that such speeches should be made at election time.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I merely wish to impress upon the Honourable Premier and all present in the House that I do it as a duty towards my constituents. As a humble Mussalman I am fully conscious of my obligations towards my fellow beings. If God has given me an opportunity of speaking for and representing the case of my people who had confidence in me at the time of voting that I would have their long standing grievances redressed, I know that I will be answerable to them and the Almighty God for any omission on my part in championing their cause strongly. Moreover I believe that God can forgive many of our sins but not those in which we deliberately abstain from doing our duty to our fellow beings.

Well, Sir, as I was saying, the Mussalmans of Biana wanted to construct a mosque on their own land but permission was refused by the district authorities. On the other hand when the Sikhs applied for permission to build a Gurdwara on the same site no objection was made. It will not be out of place to mention that there is only one Sikh house in that village. I am making this comparison in order to show the distinction made by the authorities in dealing with the cases of the same nature. The District Muslim League convened a meeting at Karnal and permission was sought



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to take out a procession of their leaders and delegates who had to join the conference from all parts of the continent, but as usual the permission was refused. The matter was referred to the Government by the authorities giving reasons for the refusal but the Government did not care to make any enquiries in the matter. On the other hand the Sikhs were granted permission to take out a procession in village Biana and to hold a Darbar. Permission was granted with certain limitation to which, in spite of their promises, the Sikhs cared a fig, but no action whatsoever was taken against them for breach of terms of permission.

**Premier :** I wish to point out that processions except customary or religious ones stand banned throughout the province.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Furthermore in connection with this Muslim League Conference the volunteers were not allowed to put on their uniforms even in the Pandal but two hundred Sikhs armed with kirpans and spears were not stopped from coming to the place of the meeting at Mauza Biana. It was through the efforts of the Nawab of Kasipur and the Secretary of the Muslim league as stated above that the situation was saved. Again in village Asrana where there is only one Sikh a Gurdwara was ordered to be built in spite of opposition from the Mussalmans.

**Premier :** May I again appeal to the honourable member to tone down his speech so that no religious sentiments are brought in ? You are talking of gurdwaras ; you can build as many mosques as you like.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** What a great difficulty I have to face ! I am hindered at every sentence. Previous to me many honourable members have spoken regarding communalism, regarding the ratio of services in different departments, but when I begin to say anything, I am checked, I am vilified, I am interrupted and what not. This is all with a view to compel me to resume my seat. Alas, the Muslim members are disallowed to raise a voice about the grievances of their brethren in a province where the Muslims are in an overwhelming majority ! I ask you Mr. Speaker, what action was taken when Diwan Baij Nath, Sub Inspector of Gamthala Garhu Police Station, insulted the Holy Quran. Could this blood-boiling incident keep the Government silent ? What a shame ! What a callous heedlessness on the part of the Government and still they disclaim communalism ! No action whatsoever was taken against Sadhu Singh, Head Constable, Kaithal, by his co-religionists for injuring the feelings of Musalmans of Kaithal by attacking Sunnat-i-Rasul.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not in order.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Sir, I now say in passing a little with regard to the preponderance of the Hindu officials and with regard to the insult which is meted out to the Muslim officials in the districts of Karnal and Hissar. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the Muslim officials are disgraced, they are degraded and very often they are dismissed for no fault of theirs. If you can rely upon my statement, believe me, they are very frequently involved in false cases of bribes and embezzlements and then they are dismissed without any independent enquiry. Pirji Masihullah was prosecuted for omission of one rupee which he deposited on the next

day in the Treasury. Khan Kifayatullah was dismissed for no fault of his and many Muslim officials were degraded, superseded and put to lot of inconveniences, while the most serious faults of Hindu Ahalkars are ignored.

**Premier :** These are not matters to be discussed here.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Then where and when can I bring these to the notice of the Honourable Premier ?

**Mr. Speaker :** By a regular motion.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Mr. Speaker, I now tell you about a paper which is started recently in Karnal district although there were already 2 papers in Hariyana for doing war propaganda. They are helped and supported by the Government. This paper under the name of 'Karan' is started in Dihati dialect. It is being issued from Karnal, and it is probably named after the name of Raja Karan. I regret to say that the language of this paper is claimed to be Urdu, but it is a fact that one cannot make out any sense by reading any of its articles. It is neither Urdu nor Hindi nor Sanskrit. I do not know what sort of mixture it is. However, the Mussalmans of the district are seriously feeling that their language is being spoiled. After all, the language of a paper started with a false pretence of War propaganda must be simple Urdu, intelligible to all.

**Premier :** The honourable member can start a paper in any language he likes.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I am sorry half a minute is not allowed to me to see my notes. I cannot be handicapped in this way. The Honourable Premier has said that I can start a paper in any language. I tell him fortunately my brain is not estranged. May God forbid that I may start such a nonsense paper ! What I say is this, that the language of the paper should be a simple dialect which everybody could understand.

**Premier :** Government has nothing to do with it.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Propaganda for national front is made by that paper. I have told above how in the district of Karnal the Muslim officials are disgraced and frequently dismissed and how their religious feelings are ignored and a lot of unreasonable and absurd events are cropping up there. Further I quote another instance. Recently Jhatka shops were ordered to be opened in Karnal on the strength of a resolution passed by the Municipal Committee, Karnal, in spite of unanimous opposition of Muslim members, without understanding properly the terms of Sikandar-Baldeo Singh Pact and in contravention of the terms of the pact, in order to injure the feelings of the Musalmans. We are highly grateful to the Honourable Commissioner who overruled that order.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** Why not bring a case ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I ask the Honourable Premier why there is preponderance of Hindu officials ?

**Premier :** If there is preponderance of one community, we try to equalize while making the postings. The policy is to distribute postings as fairly as we can. If there is preponderance somewhere, then it should be brought to my notice privately.



**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** It was brought to your notice many times. I had put many starred questions and unstarred questions to the Government but all in vain. The Government is sticking to a very wrong policy. The Government is gravely mistaken in not paying regard to the ratio of services in the districts of Ambala Division in all grades of services in all the departments and offices. I distinctly remember that I had sent a representation to the Honourable Premier, but it was of no avail. What a callous disregard to the genuine complaints of the Muslim officials! I have a copy of it with me at present.

**Premier :** Khawaja Sahib may please give it to me now. What is the use of talking of such complaints in the House?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Then how can I bring them to your notice? I had already sent a copy to you.

**Premier :** Please hand it over to me.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** This was sent to your predecessor of course (*Laughter*). I now tell you about the ratio of services in the District of Ambala. Among the 8 or 9 Extra Assistant Commissioners, there is only one Muslim revenue assistant. Among the five Tahsildars and 6 Naib-Tahsildars there are only one Muslim Tahsildar and 4 Naib-Tahsildars. The same is the case in other departments of Ambala Division.

**Premier :** Give it to me.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** It was given to your predecessor. I brought it personally to your notice as well.

I tell you that in the district of Hissar, the Deputy Commissioner is a Sikh, Sub-Divisional Officer is a Sikh, Treasury Officer is a Hindu. Additional District Magistrate is a Hindu.

**Premier :** May I point out to Khawaja Sahib that supposing there is a mad man and he does a certain thing, then is it any justification that someone should be blamed in this manner?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** God knows what will happen to the scheme of Pakistan which my friends are so much afraid of, but there is purely Hindu and Sikh Raj in all districts of Ambala Division. You may, if you like create Hindu Raj, so that the Mussalmans and the Muslim officials are completely at the mercy of Hindus.

**Premier :** You should bring the grievances privately to my notice and I will look into them.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Excuse me, they were brought to your notice several times. The local authorities are responsible for it. I know that if a complaint is made, it will be filed.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** You can appeal to the higher authorities.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Appeal in such cases does not lie.

**Mr. Speaker,** I am at a loss to understand why I am interrupted at every sentence. Previous to me many honourable members have given vent to their feelings, but they were not checked, they were not asked to

finish their speeches as soon as they could. I am vilified and retarded; perhaps it is due to the fact that I am telling solid true facts. I am bringing to light the discrepancies and irregularities of the Government officials, or perhaps I am warning the Government about the callous and complacent attitude that they are adopting towards the Muslims of the Province.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order please. The honourable member must remember that he is addressing the Chair, not the Premier.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** We approach the higher authorities like the Chief Secretary and the Honourable Premier. But nobody listens to us. If I go to the Chief Secretary to the Government, Punjab, he says that his officers of the P.C.S. Cadre are lovers of justice, they commit no wrongs, they are perfect angels. He does not and cannot believe that these angels are capable of committing the most heinous crime in the name of justice and fairplay. There are black sheep among them. But nobody heeds our cries which go in vain. When we go to the officers on the spot and complain against the tyrannies of the lower officials like the Readers and Ahlmads, the Sub-Divisional Officers do not care to give us a patient hearing and investigate the cases. Whither should we go then?

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** Why not institute a case against them?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** It depends on the local authorities and not upon me. If I file a suit against anybody, I know that it will not be entertained.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** You can appeal to the higher authorities.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** No appeal is heard in such cases. Non-Muslim officers preponderate in the districts of Ambala, Rohtak and Hissar. I have tabled Assembly questions in this respect. But no satisfactory replies are given to me. Entirely unsatisfactory answers are given to those questions. It is all very well to say that the Government has fixed communal proportion for the services. But that principle of proportion is honoured in the breach only. It is not kept in view at the time of filling the various vacancies. Otherwise how could it be that Muslims are not given their proper share in the services? Let us take for instance the case of the Forest Department. Muslims were already under-represented in this department. Yet when recently 12 higher posts were filled by the Honourable Minister, he again ignored the rights of the Muslims and gave all the 12 posts to Hindus and Sikhs. This is the treatment which is being meted out to the Muslims. Their representation in the Forest department is just like a drop in the ocean. Similarly in the Rohtak district the Muslims are being crushed and trampled like anything. Their voice is not heard anywhere. In Rohtak district out of 5 Inspectors of Co-operative Department and 21 Sub-Inspectors (Union paid) there is only one Muslim Sub-Inspector. In Gurgaon and Rohtak districts the number of Muslim Assistant Surgeons and Veterinary Assistants is 2 and 2 out of a total of 15 and 16 respectively, resulting in bad treatment to the Muslim zamindars who take their cattle for treatment in those hospitals. To tell the truth

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the same will be found the case in each office and Department located in the Ambala Division. In localities where the Muslims predominate Muslims should be appointed in charge of veterinary hospitals.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is repeating his arguments.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** No, Sir. I am not repeating my arguments although the subject matter is the same. But in obedience to your ruling, I give up this point and proceed to make some submissions for the consideration of the Honourable Minister for Education. He is to be congratulated on the new time scale of pay sanctioned for teachers in his regime. Since the reduction of salaries throughout the Punjab the teachers in the Education Department were very hard hit. Double graduates were employed on 45 and 65 rupees per month. But this pay has been raised to 80 which will rise up to Rs. 150 per month with efficiency Bar at Rs. 100. This is very good. But still some defects have remained in the grades and they ought to be removed. The poor teachers employed in the District Board and Municipal Board services are very low-paid officials and they deserve some encouragement. They should also be granted the same concessions as are granted to the other Government servants. Their starting pay should also be raised and the time scale should be introduced in local bodies schools. I had tabled questions in this regard but I was told that the question did not relate to the local Government.

**Mr. Speaker :** Has the honourable member finished ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** No, Sir.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 22nd March 1943.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 22nd March 1948.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

**Minister for Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to present the report of the Committee on Public Accounts of the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Punjab Government for the year 1940-41.

I have also to intimate in this connection that Government proposes to give the 26th of March 1948 for consideration and the discussion of this report.

## ELECTIONS TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

**Mr. Speaker** : Regarding the election to the Public Accounts Committee for the year 1948-44, I am to inform the House that excluding the names of honourable members who have withdrawn their candidature, the nomination papers of the following eight gentlemen have been received :—

- |                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1) Sardar Muhammad Hussain.          | (5) Lala Sita Ram.              |
| (2) Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad. | (6) Sardar Santokh Singh.       |
| (3) Malik Barkat Ali.                 | (7) Seth Kishen Dass.           |
| (4) Rao Mohar Singh.                  | (8) Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann. |

As the number of nominations received is equal to the number of members to be elected to the Committee, I hereby declare the above-named eight honourable members to be duly elected.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

**Mr. Speaker** : The House will now proceed to discuss the demand for grant for General Administration.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns, Muslim, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, when the House rose on Friday I was submitting that the Honourable Ministers of Education and Finance had given proof of their generosity by revising the old time scale of the teachers thereby redressing a very longstanding grievance. But I would be failing in my duty if I do not bring it to the notice of the Government that it is only a half measure. There is no doubt that this revision has benefitted the teachers in English, Vernacular and Oriental lines but a condition has also been imposed on the English knowing Matric and F. A., J. A.-V. teachers in Rs. 55 to 70 grades, that they cannot hope to get promotion to the higher grade unless they get a degree. Now can you imagine, Sir, that a person who has served the department honestly and to the best of his ability for 18 or 20 years has anything left in him to resume the broken thread of his education after a lapse of twenty years? He cannot find time for hard study required for passing the degree examination, on account of his pre-occupation in the class rooms. Not until he is relieved of his duties can there be any possibility of his qualifying for the next grade under the present circumstances. I would, therefore,

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request the Honourable Minister of Education to reconsider and revise the order so that the teachers in the grade of 55—3—70 will be able to get promotion. Besides, the new time scale has benefitted only the new entrants and not those who have been serving the department for the last 20 years and have had a good record. I think the Honourable Minister should get a list of those teachers who have to retire within 5 years prepared for his own guidance and make arrangements for giving them such reasonable concession as may enable them to retire on good pay so that they can give proper education to their children. Again theoretically those in the grade of Rs. 140—190 are eligible for direct promotion to the P. E. S. Class but in actual fact there are already 104 persons in the penultimate grade to P. E. S., i.e. Rs. 200—250, and there are only 50 vacancies for them in the P. E. S. At present about 180 persons in the grade of Rs. 140—190 are getting Rs. 190. In the Ambala Division there are many who have been drawing their maximum salary for the last many years and yet they have not been promoted to the P. E. S. Class. In spite of the fact that they possess a good record and there is absolutely nothing against them, their juniors are being promoted over their heads. Only those who can command some influence and secure recommendations in the department are securing promotions. This is a state of affairs which should be thoroughly looked into by the Honourable Minister of Education, and the injustice that is being done to the teachers in the Ambala division should be removed. Previously it was the general practice followed by the Education Department that when a man in any grade passed a higher examination he was promoted to the next grade but now it has been discontinued.

Moreover the new scheme enforced by the Honourable Minister has not affected the teachers in the schools run by the local bodies. He should do something by which the poor teachers of these schools may also derive the benefit of this scheme. The plea of non-interference in the affairs of the local bodies should not stand in his way.

Now I say a little with regard to the southern districts. In most of the schools, the teachers appointed for teaching the vernacular know only a smattering of Urdu. What is the use of entrusting to them the task of teaching Urdu, if they themselves know nothing of Urdu? They have often learnt Hindi and Gurmukhi languages from the Khalsa College. I see no sense in their appointments as Urdu teachers. Muslim students are suffering much at the hands of those teachers. The Musalmans of that district are much handicapped by not being able to impart Urdu education to their sons. I submit that the Honourable Minister of Education may kindly take note of this fact, and investigate into the genuine complaints of the Musalmans and see that Urdu-knowing teachers are appointed soon for teaching Urdu to their sons.

Now I bring it to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Education that in the matter of promotions, the teachers of Ambala division have not been given their due share. The teachers are feeling the step-motherly treatment that is being meted out to them, rather they are great sufferers. Out of the whole lot of assistant inspectors of schools, there is not a single Muslim assistant inspector of schools as is clear from the reply to my question to that effect. Only two Muslim teachers residing in Ambala division have been given the grade of Rs. 140—190 since April 1937 and none has been promoted to Rs. 200—250 and P. E. S. grades as stated in reply to my question. There is not a single District Inspector who is resident of Ambala Division whilst there are senior most Muslim teachers in Rs. 140—190 grade. The Muslim teachers residing in Ambala division are very much aggrieved for not being given their due share. They are not cared and their complaints are not redressed. In reply to my question the Honourable Minister of Education simply stated that the promotion in the Education Department is not given Division-wise. This may be true, but I respectfully submit that the Muslim teachers residing in this part of the Province are highly qualified with good record and long service. They being helpless and without any recommendations are often overlooked and their juniors possessing good recommendations are promoted and placed over their heads. Under the circumstances these poor creatures can never expect promotions to the higher grades. I request that the Honourable Minister of Education may kindly take note of it and see that these teachers belonging to a backward ilaqa are given promotions as soon as possible.

Sir, now I turn to the Co-operative Department. When the Resources and Retrenchment Committee submitted its report, one could ascertain from it as to from which sources and how Government could increase their revenue, and how retrenchment in expenditure could be effected. There were explicit proposals for increasing the revenue and decreasing the expenditure. The Government imposed several taxes on the poor urbanites who were already overburdened with taxes, to increase their revenue. But no steps or measures recommended by the Committee were taken to retrench the expenditure. One of the explicit proposals stated therein is that the posts of deputy registrars are useless. They are merely post offices. They are wasting the revenues of the Government. At present there are five deputy registrars. They should be abolished. The Government instead of eliminating those posts and thus effecting saving in their expenditure has increased them by the addition of one more post. What is the use of having the report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee when it is not cared for? I respectfully bring this fact to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Development. He may please see that these posts are retrenched. I submit that all the deputy registrars are non-Muslims as is clear from the reply to my question and a Sikh is being appointed to the sixth newly created post against the wishes and recommendations of the Registrar.

Sir, I now want to invite the attention of the Government to the discrepancies of the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act. I remember, when this Act was under discussion, the late Honourable Premier—may his soul rest in peace—was pleased to declare in the House that those lands which pay already enough of land revenue and abiana and which are within the limits of the municipality will not be subjected to this tax. He declared in plain words that those lands will be exempt from the operation of the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act. But I regret very much to say that many people have come to me and told me that they have been served with notices for the payment of tax on their lands. I fail to understand whether the notices are served by mistakes or whether they are deliberately served. However I invite the attention of the Government to the promises held out by the late Premier, who was respected so much by the House.

Mr. Speaker, the late Premier also held out a promise that in those towns where the house tax already exists, the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act will not operate and the Government will see that in towns the tax does not exceed 25 per cent. of the income of the property. In most of the towns, where the house tax already exists the Urban Immovable Property Tax is levied indiscriminately. The Government officials are seriously after increasing the revenue of Government. They are trying their utmost to supplement the revenue of Government without complying fully with the provisions of the Act.

Sir, I am ordered to finish my speech as soon as I can. So at the end of my speech I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the operation of the Defence of India Rule and its evasion by the residents of district Gurgaon. In Mauza Baheen between the 13th to 15th March there was a Panchayat held most probably with the permission of the local authorities. The people delivered extremely fiery speeches there. I do not know whether the police officials took notice of them. In that village of Baheen, district Gurgaon, the people were harangued and told that they should not sell their cows and oxen, etc., to the Muslims to be slaughtered for the use of the Americans. The Deputy Commissioner of the District knew all this. They also spoke about strengthening the Schemes of Shuddhi.

**Premier:** I must again point out that the honourable member is making reference to an officer.

**Mr. Speaker:** The honourable member should not make any reference to an officer.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Very well, Sir,

ہم آہ بھی کرتے ہیں تو ہو جاتے ہیں بدنام  
وہ قتل بھی کرتے ہیں تو چرچا نہیں ہوتا

**Mr. Speaker :** Please wind up. Do not be irrelevant.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I obey your order, Mr. Speaker. Accordingly I finish my speech, but before I resume my seat I would say that there was much to be said yet but as I was interrupted again and again and asked repeatedly to finish my speech, I resume my seat.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** (Kangra North, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I will be brief in my speech. I will not discuss any communal question. Much of the time of the House has been wasted over this topic. I wish to put before the House some facts, which I think, are worthy of the Government's attention. Owing to certain reasons, of which the Government may be well aware, discontentment in the province is spreading very rapidly. Now, Sir, what are the causes of this discontentment? It has been continuously dinned into our ears that, owing to war, the taxes will be increased. That was one cause of discontentment. Now the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has cleared the position that during the war there will be no further taxes, but he has held out a threat that after the war further taxes will be imposed. I would ask him to bear in mind that this is not the proper time to talk of taxes after the war. As soon as war is over, the financial position of the province may be re-examined with a view to finding out whether fresh taxes are necessary at all.

Sir, now I want to say a few words regarding the traders and their discontentment. It is time the Government paid serious attention towards this matter. The Government should eliminate the factors which lead to discontentment. I think some of the grievances of traders can be redressed by lessening the rigours of the Sales Tax. It will be quite opportune if this tax is postponed till after the war. However, if that be not possible, I urge upon the Government to raise the exemption limit ; that is the least they can do. I hope that if the Government acts upon these humble suggestions of mine, the discontentment among the traders will decrease.

Another point which I wish to put before the House is that when price control was introduced last time with regard to wheat, the situation had deteriorated. The whole thing was mishandled and the consumers were hard hit. They could not obtain wheat as the stocks had gone underground and the traders would not release them for sale to the public in the hope of reaping huge profits later on. At present there is no control over the sale of wheat, but if price control is imposed again, my request is that it should be started and conducted on sound lines. The past experience should make us wiser.

The Honourable Minister of Finance was pleased to observe in his Budget speech that now the danger of invasion was over. I would suggest that the expenditure on A. R. P. should be curtailed considerably and the savings thus effected may be usefully spent for ameliorating the condition of the poor people.

Sir, it is repeatedly claimed on behalf of the Government that corruption is being steadily eradicated from the services in the Punjab. But I am sorry to say that corruption on a large scale still exists in the lower ranks of the judicial services as well as in the Criminal Investigation Department.

I am one of those who are whole-heartedly in favour of the Allies winning this war against the Nazis, and I know that every right-minded person is helping in this war in some form or another. We are contributing men and money freely. But I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that the police authorities are adopting highly objectionable methods and are forcibly collecting war funds from the people by arranging wrestling matches and poetical symposiums over and over again. This is a form of coercion. But this mania has also entered the mind of Mr. Scott, who is responsible for adopting these methods by which a fixed number of tickets are allotted to a sub-inspector for sale. Now the subordinate policemen must beg, borrow or steal in order to pay the full price of those tickets and complete their quota. If the policemen sell all the tickets, they do so with a certain amount of force without which a large sale cannot be effected. The poor public is between the devil and the deep sea. Again even after the purchase of the tickets, the people are not admitted

as a matter of right to these wrestling matches. It is clearly laid down in the tickets that "the right of admission is reserved". Thus the public is being coerced to contribute to the war fund at the point of pistol, so to say. In many cases, even the petrol ration is given to those persons only who offer donations towards the war fund. I submit that the business community is already freely and liberally contributing to the war fund. There is no need to coerce its members for this purpose. We are put to great difficulty when petrol rations are denied to us. We can not even undertake journeys which are absolutely essential for discharging our duties. Supplementary rations are still more difficult to obtain without giving donations to the war fund.

Coming now to the question of the communal proportion in the recruitment for Government services, I may submit that agriculturists may by all means be taken. But it does not mean that all the Hindu agriculturists should be taken from the district of Rohtak only. The rights of other districts should not be ignored. There are Hindu agriculturists in other districts also. Why not take them in the services? I am not saying anything against the Rohtak district, or, for the matter of that, against the Honourable Minister of Revenue, for whom I have the greatest respect. (*Chaudhri Ram Surup*: You are his enemy). Not at all. On the other hand, I am his friend. Let there be no mistake about it. My point is different. It is based on justice and fairplay. All I wanted to say was that services should be evenly distributed among all the communities and castes. No single district should be given the sole monopoly in this matter. Hindu agriculturists of Rohtak should get their due share by all means. I do not grudge them this much. But what I am stressing is that there should be an even distribution and not favouritism.

Sir, I was discussing the question of corruption in the various services. As for the Department of Irrigation, even the Government had admitted the existence of corruption in that department when the cut motion relating to Irrigation was being discussed. I would, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government to weed out corruption root and branch from this as well as from other departments.

In conclusion, my request is that no controversial measures should be brought before this House. I am glad that the Honourable Premier, Lieutenant-Colonel Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, has himself hinted at this policy of the Government. We, therefore, confidently hope that the Government will not sponsor controversial legislation, at least for the duration of the war.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjab*): Sir, I do not propose to criticise the policy of Government at length to-day. However there are some facts which I want to place before the House with a view to enlighten the honourable members as to what is the policy of Government and what results it is producing. Now, Sir, before the 9th August 1942, Government was pursuing a different policy. At the time their policy was confined to the arresting and imprisoning of socialists and communists only. The communists and socialists were arrested indiscriminately and were put behind the bars. After their arrests they were meted out so very cruel treatment in jails that the mere mention of it would make the hair of my honourable friends stand on end. Anyway I will not go into the details of that matter at present as it requires a good deal of time to do so. My submission is that after the 9th August the policy of Government underwent a change. That change was due to the resolution of the Congress which was passed at Bombay, on the 8th August. What was the resolution? The resolution in question dealt with two or three things. In the first place it was stated that the Congress wanted to help China and Russia and in order to make it possible for them to do so India should be given national Government at once. If that was done, they would be in a position to give help to Chinese and Russians against their enemies. Secondly, it was stated in it that the Congress wanted to fight on the side of the allied nations against Japan and in order to enable them to do so it was essential that India should be given national Government. If that was done, then the Indians would be in a position to fight the Japanese and thus prevent them from setting foot on the Indian soil. Moreover it was pointed out on behalf of the Congress that the



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affairs had taken such a bad turn that if they were allowed to drift any longer, the result would be that not only the people of India would not be in a position to give any help to the Chinese and the Russians but there also was every danger of their being made slaves of the Japanese Fascism. Therefore they demanded that India should be given national government here and now, and that if national government was not given to them they would set up a *morchā* against the Government. This resolution was passed on the 8th August and on the 9th August the Central Government issued orders for the arrest of Congressmen. Although Mahatma Gandhi wanted to write letters to General Chiang Kai-shek, Comrade Stalin, President Roosevelt and even to Mr. Churchill for intervening in the Indian affairs, yet no such opportunity was provided to him and Government issued orders for the arrest of Congressmen. As a result of the arrests of patriotic leaders, the people of India were enraged and they committed acts of violence and sabotage, which we have witnessed ourselves. After the 9th August 1942, the Punjab Government in obedience to the orders of the Central Government began arresting the Congressmen indiscriminately. I can quote a thousand and one examples to show that Government arrested even those innocent persons who were engaged in their private professions. Not only that. They even arrested those who were not even prepared to take part in the policy of violence and sabotage. Besides they arrested even such persons who had not taken part in any political work for a long time in the past. They were arrested on suspicion and were put behind the bars and up till now they are in jails and have not been let off. Then the treatment that has been meted out to them in jails is pretty well known to the public and I do not want to add anything to that. Suffice it to say that they were imprisoned in jails which were the worst in the province. For instance, they were kept in the Shahpur and Mianwali jails where day in and day out sand-storms blow. Then they were not provided with any charpais and were not permitted to have correspondence with their friends and relatives. In short they were meted out very harsh treatment in jails.

**Minister of Development :** The Shahpur jail has been abolished.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** It has been abolished not because of any favour of my friends over there, but because of the agitation of the public. Anyway my submission is that the arrests and subsequently the bad treatment meted out to them increased the anxiety of the people and it was mainly due to the efforts of the Communists Party that no mob-violence took place in the Punjab, and railway lines were not attacked and telegraph wires were not cut. But in spite of the fact that after the publication of Gandhiji's correspondence the situation in the country has taken a turn for the better and there is not a single individual who would like to indulge in the campaign of violence and sabotage, still the Government have not so far taken any steps which would show that they have brought about a change in their policy. They are still keeping the Congressmen behind the bars. This only shows that Government have become politically bankrupt. What was necessary was that they should have set all the Congressmen at liberty. But it is regretted that such eminent Congressmen, as Lala Bhim Sen Sachar, Leader of the Opposition party, Dr. Gopi Chand, Diwan Chaman Lall and many others are still confined in jails. This is the way in which Government are behaving. I may tell my friends that if peace-loving persons like Lala Bhim Sen Sachar, Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din and Diwan Chaman Lall who never believed in the policy of violence and Gandhites like Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava are released, nothing untoward will happen. For after the release of Mahatmaji's correspondence the situation in the country has undergone a change. In fact to-day nobody would dare to have a recourse to the policy of mob-violence and sabotage and nobody would set hospitals and schools on fire. I assure my friends that if Congressmen are released, nothing untoward will happen. The heavens will not fall and the earth will not give way. On the contrary, if such men are released they will give a right lead to the people and will prevent any exploitation of Gandhiji's name. They are the leaders of men and they can stop people from indulging in acts of violence. This step, if taken, will go a long way in maintaining peace and tranquility in the province. Then after these persons are released, efforts should be made to set up a national government in the centre, so that war could be prosecuted successfully.

**Minister of Development :** When they come to hold views like yours, they would be released.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I think that all of them subscribe to my views. They hold the same views which I hold. I do not know what the Honourable Minister means by making this remark ? But I may tell him that there are communists like myself who are being kept in Gujrat and other jails. This is not the proper opportunity to dilate on the matter and I will do so at some other time. Anyway my submission is that we know the views of the Congress leaders for we have held high offices in that organisation and I can say that the Congressmen hold the same views which we hold. If these people are released, the tense atmosphere in this country would clear up.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not repeat your own argument.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Sir, my honourable friend, the Minister for Development has pointed out that if the Congressmen also come to hold the views I do, they would be released. I may tell him that there are 150 men in Gujrat jail and 50 in other jails who although they subscribe to our views have not so far been released. Then there are 250 or so other persons who are convinced Communists and still they are confined in many jails of the province. I in the capacity of the Secretary of the Communist organisation and Sardar Teja Singh as a holder of high office in that organisation can vouchsafe this fact that they are pucca Communists. If that is so, why does not the Government of my honourable friend let them off ? But I am constrained to remark that the remark of my friend is a hoax and apart from that it has no meaning at all.

Well, Sir, now the position is that the Government have no clear-cut and definite policy. As I stated the other day, their policy is only that of drift. They are tied to the chariot wheels of imperialism and they dance to the tune of their imperial masters. In fact they are the creatures of circumstances which have favoured them to seize power, otherwise they have no political background. To my mind this Government is utterly unpolitical. They have come to power because of the support of the British imperialism.

Then, Sir, I have to draw the pointed attention of the Government to two or three important matters. The first is the war fund. This matter deserves the careful attention of the Government because so far as collection of money for this fund is concerned they have delegated autocratic and arbitrary powers to the police who make improper use of them. The police, in their zeal to exact money from the public to swell the war fund, commit such atrocities and excesses as provide an opportunity to the Japanese agents, i.e., the fifth columnists in this country, for making mischief and creating discontent and disturbance against the Government. As Government are quite blind to this state of affairs, I have stood up to sound a note of warning to them that they should see to reason and take steps to set matters right. I may submit that there are several districts where the police are carrying on ruthless repression. The first victim of police excesses in connection with the war fund, is the district of Ludhiana. Then comes the turn of Ferozepore, Hoshiarpur and Gujranwala districts where police have committed acts of repression. I will cite one or two instances to elucidate my point, otherwise it is no exaggeration to say that the office of our party has been flooded with countless letters and representations replete with the grievances of the people against the high-handedness and coercion of the police. The Honourable Minister who hails from Ludhiana, is taking my statement in a light mood. Let me tell him that in Jagraon tahsil, a *dangal* (bout) was organised by the police with a view to raising subscriptions for the War Fund. The police, in their effort to collect the largest possible amount, compelled the people to purchase tickets and to crown all they detained every passerby and coerced him to pay something towards the War Fund. They stopped the people going about their business, took hold of their cycles and threatened not to return them till they had paid a certain amount towards the War Fund. They exceeded the limits of decency and propriety to such an extent that they felt no compunction in harassing and compelling the women-folk also to make contributions towards the War Fund. The honourable members would realise how shameful and disgraceful was the behaviour of the police when

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they refused to return *ghagras* (underwears) of certain women until they paid something for the War Fund. The police did not stop at that. They spared nobody, not even those old men, who had already contributed much and whose sons were serving in the army. The thing is that the hold of the police in Ludhiana district is so great that even persons like my honourable friend the ex-Minister feel helpless to get this repression stopped. In fact even my honourable friend the Education Minister lacks the courage to put an end to the outrages committed by the police there. I sternly warn the Government that if they still refuse to move in the matter, they will have to face the dire consequences afterwards. This relentless repression by the police, is bound to create unrest in the people and seriously disturb the peace and tranquility of the province.

Then, Sir, it is not the police department alone which has been entrusted with the duty of extorting contributions for the War Fund, but there are other departments like the Canal Department also which have been asked to carry out the duty of collecting money for this purpose. For instance, naib-tahsildars, qanungos, patwaris, etc. have been assigned the duty of compelling the people to subscribe to the war fund. In this connection, I may state that in a certain village of Dipalpur tahsil, Montgomery district, one Mr. Bagha Ram was beaten black and blue by the naib-tahsildar, qanungo and a chaprasi on the 27th February 1943. These officers of the Canal Department forcibly realised a sum of Rs. 10 from him and coerced other labourers working in the village to pay a sum of Rs. 183. Thus the police and the officers of the Canal Department are employing all means to collect money for the war fund. This state of affairs does not redound to the credit of the Government. Then I may point out that corruption is rampant in the police to such a degree that only one half of the contributions reach the treasury. The remaining half of the money is embezzled by the police. I can say with certainty that fifty per cent of the amount realised by the police in the Ludhiana district went into the pockets of the police officers. I know it for a fact that through this embezzlement many a poor constable has become rich. I challenge the Government that if they institute an independent inquiry in the matter, I take upon myself the responsibility of substantiating the charge. I am prepared to undergo a life sentence in case I fail to prove the veracity of my statement. What I, therefore, emphasise is that this is a matter which requires serious consideration at the hands of the Government. Then we find chaotic conditions prevailing in the province as a result of the police excesses. It is high time that Government took timely action to remove the causes leading to this sorry state of affairs.

**Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi :** May I know if any report regarding the incident of extortion of money by certain officials in a village of Montgomery district, was lodged with the district authorities ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** This was not a solitary case. Extortion of money for War Fund has become the order of the day. Let me tell him that in certain schools of Montgomery the students were compelled to contribute Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 each, under the threat that non-payment of money would involve the stoppage of their promotion to the higher class. Besides, an amount to the tune of Rs. 1,000 was realised from a school at Pakpattan. The tenants besides the zamindars, in the district have been threatened by the authorities and jagirdars that they would be dispossessed of their lands and ejected if they failed to contribute something towards the War Fund.

Well, Sir, in this connection another weapon is used by the police with a view to exacting money from the public. Those people who fail or refuse to pay the demands of the police in full, are involved in false criminal cases by the police. The result is that in order to escape to his indignity, the people make full payments even if they have to beg, borrow or steal. This treatment is meted out to all, be they shopkeepers, traders, zamindars, tenants, etc. The police authorities of Ludhiana district have earned notoriety in this respect. Then section 34, Indian Penal Code, is frequently made use of by the police in connection with those traders who express their inability to pay the whole amount demanded of them. There is

yet another instance which I want to bring to the notice of the honourable member for Montgomery. The Deputy Commissioner of his district has issued orders to the effect that for the duration of war, every zamindar in the district should continue to pay towards the war fund an amount at the rate of 2 annas per matured acre of land.

Then I come to the question of corruption in the police. This is a matter about which the less said the better. I can cite innumerable instances to prove that the evil of corruption has entered into the very flesh and blood of the police.

Besides, there is another matter which deserves the attention of the Government. This is about the posting of punitive police. District Ferozepore has been particularly the victim of this stringent measure taken by the Government. In this connection, I would like to make a mention of the punitive police posted at village Chuhar Chak, to which the venerable Baba Rur Singh, M. L. A., belongs. It would not be out of place if I give an idea about this village. The residents of this village are politically very wide awake. But the Government cannot tolerate this fact and they have tried to suppress this awakening off and on by every possible means. The present punitive police post is a link of the actions that they have been taking to kill the spirit of the villagers. In 1939 punitive police was posted there under the plea that murders were frequently committed. I would quote figures to show how frivolous was this pretext. From 1930 to 1939, i.e., during the period of ten years, only 3 incidents of murders took place in the village. But from the year 1939, the year of posting of punitive police, to 1942, no less than 9 murders were committed. In other words during the 10 years when there was no punitive police, the number of murder cases was only 3, but within 3 years, under the very nose of the police, there was an increase in the crime and the number of murder cases rose to 9. Honourable members will clearly see that the punitive police post has failed to prove its worth. As a matter of fact aggravation of situation has taken place as a result of the location of this punitive police post. I would like to quote a few instances of murder cases and expose the worthlessness and inefficiency of the said punitive police post. One Gurdial Singh was shot dead near the police post but so far the culprit has not been traced. Once Chanan Singh was hacked to death, but the police has failed to bring the offender to book. Similarly Lal Singh and Giani Shamsher Singh were murdered near the police post. But the police instead of tracing out the real murderer started a case against the political workers who had, as a matter of fact, nothing to do with the murder. So naturally the accused were acquitted by the Court of law. In order to support my point, I can refer to other instances of this sort. For instance, Lali, Prem Singh, Phuman Singh and Bhajan Kaur were murdered in broad-day light and Bachan Singh was killed at night on the 13th of July. Now, these illustrations are simple enough to show that the police has not succeeded in preventing the crimes and improving the state of affairs which is still prevailing at village Chuhar Chak. I am, therefore, at a loss to understand why Government have not removed the police post from there so far, while it has utterly failed to prevent the crime. Now, may I ask the honourable members hailing from the Ferozepore district as to why they are keeping quiet regarding this matter and not urging upon Government to remove this police post from there? I am sure the crime will decidedly decrease if the police post is removed.

Now, Sir, let me draw the attention of Government to another village which stands second to village Chuhar Chak so far as the excess of crime is concerned. This village is Dodhar, situated at a distance of 4 miles from Chuhar Chak. It is very strange that the police post at the time of its location consisted of only 15 or 16 men, but now its strength has gone up to 55 and with it the number of crimes has also increased. Previously there were 3 absconders, but now despite the police post the number has gone to six. Now let me point out as to what atrocities are being committed on the people by the police. They send for all the inhabitants of the village and threaten them by saying falsely that shelter is being provided to deserters by them. The police give them shoe-beating. The village people ask them to catch hold of guilty people and not to lay hands upon innocent people. But the police pay no heed. Not only that, the police carry away their wood and other things from the fields and even do not hesitate to enter the houses of the villagers for making

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merry at their cost. I personally know it for a fact that they get dead drunk and create rowdysm.

Now I would also like to say a word with regard to the mounted police who damage the crops of the poor kisans, by letting their horses loose in the fields. Moreover, the villagers are called back from work by the police when they go out for watering their fields. Besides, another unbearable excess is being committed by the police. A group of nearly one hundred villagers is made and forced to crawl on the ground. It pains me to remark that the police has adopted a policy of repression no less than that of General Dyer and it is most regrettable that there seems to be no desire on the part of Government to remove these police excesses. Besides, Government is going to post punitive police at another village Kokri, while absolutely no shelter is being given to any deserter in that village. I may tell you, Sir, that this village was a well known recruiting centre during the last great war and most of the inhabitants did help the then government by subscribing to the war loans. In spite of all that Government is going to post punitive police there and I do not think there is any justification for Government to do so. After all what reasons have necessitated them to take this action?

My next point which I would like to bring to the notice of Government is with regard to the Congress detenues. As you are aware, Sir, it has been declared by Government many a time before that differential treatment would not be accorded to political prisoners, but I fail to understand why they have not kept their word. Now another class has been created for political prisoners and that class is, strictly speaking, no better than 'C' class. In this connection I would like to give you an instance of treatment meted out to Jagjit Singh of Jandiala district Jullundur. He is a graduate and a communist worker. I know him personally, as we both were in the Gujrat jail for some time. You will be surprised to know that no sooner was he released than the police arrested him again for some reason best known to them. It is a pity that the remarks made by the police in connection with political workers are taken as gospel truth by Government. So poor Jagjit Singh was again put in jail and was given C class. He was already in hospital owing to his previous illness. Now he is in Multan jail and his health has hopelessly gone down because he is suffering from dysentery. Besides, he suffers from distended abdomen and Hernia. He has been senseless for as many as four hours at a stretch. He is so weak that he may breathe his last any moment. This is his condition and yet no proper medical aid is being made available to him as a special case. He is examined by the Government doctors once a week like all other prisoners. In fact, the Government doctors are reluctant to disclose his condition, lest they should be put into an awkward position. It is most lamentable that his guilt has not been proved and Government even do not let him off to on parole. I personally know that his mother went to see him, and she came out weeping and told us that the condition of her son was hopelessly bad. It is a thousand pities that even under these circumstances we do not see any desire on the part of Government to release him. What we have come to know is that the Government doctors and Deputy Jailors are asking him to give an apology to get his release. This is very unsportsmanlike on the part of the jail authorities and the Government as well. Do they want to crush the national spirit of the people by forcing them to make apologies? Do they offer them two alternatives—apology and death? I would, therefore, submit with all the emphasis at my command that this policy of repression with regard to political prisoners ought to be given up by Government.

*(At the stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)*

I want to make a few observations in regard to the Defence of India Act. The Congressmen who were arrested under this Act are not well looked after, nor is any information regarding them given out, so much so that nobody knows what has happened to them. Police authorities are carrying on a ruthless policy. The policy adopted by the Government after the 9th August has been very regrettable. A police sub-inspector could arrest anybody at his own sweet will. The powers are so decentralised that if a sub-inspector arrests my honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram at the time of

delivering a speech, no body would be able to know from the authorities about his whereabouts in detention and the treatment accorded to him. In this connection instances are not wanting. Under this very Act 110 arrests were made at Ferozepore and each one of them was kept in a different station. A sub-inspector of police recommends and exempts people from detention after receiving bribes from them. In fact the Defence of India Act has become a money collecting instrument in the hands of Police authorities. Police resort to many "excesses" and carry on searches, beat men and women and put them to all indignities. These are my charges against the Police Department.

Now, Sir, I come to the treatment accorded to the detenus. The Congress leaders who were arrested at Delhi under the Defence of India Act in connection with the recent disturbances were treated as security prisoners. These security prisoners were given money and were allowed to receive letters from and write letters to their relatives and were allowed interviews. But when they were transferred from Delhi to the Punjab, they were denied all such facilities. Here in the Punjab they were treated as "C" class prisoners and consequently were provided with "C" class diet, etc. In this connection I would like to read out the reply of the Home Member to the question of Sardar Sant Singh regarding the security prisoners in the Chief Commissioners' provinces, which is as follows:—

Security prisoners detained in connection with the recent disturbances, however, were not allowed interviews but permitted to write two and receive four letters weekly."

But when they were transferred to the Punjab they were not provided with the newspapers of their provinces, such as the *Tej*, the *Hindustan Times*, etc. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, a member of this House, requested the authorities to provide him with well known journals published in America, England and India at his own cost. But his request was rejected by the authorities. In my opinion such a refusal on the part of the Government means political starvation of these detenus. The treatment accorded to detenus in general and to those who are transferred from Delhi in particular is extremely regrettable. No attention is paid to the status of these detenus and they are left to rust politically.

Sir, the most important thing which needs attention in the province at present is that an effort should be made to bring about a settlement between the Congress and the Muslim league, which will help India in her freedom. An honourable member over there said something which he ought not to have said. He said that the Congress should approach them on bended knees with a view to settling the communal problem amicably. I may tell him that a suggestion of this kind will not help in solving this problem. The British Government have announced time and again that India will not be granted a National Government unless there is unity amongst the different communities of India. In view of this it is essential that the different communities, i.e., Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and others should make a joint demand for the release of the Congress leaders, so that all of them together may be able to set up a National Government in India. But National Government cannot be set up unless the question regarding the right of self-determination is solved. So far as Muslims are concerned, I can say definitely that the Muslims have a right to demand right of self-determination and this right should be granted to them. This is a means by which we will come into close union with each other. But a new thing of the nature of reactionary movement has crept up to which I would like to draw the attention of this House and that is the slogan of "Azad Punjab". (An honourable member: It has got to come to pass). This reactionary movement has been started to create obstacles in the path of achieving freedom. Master Tara Singh, the father of the movement, along with his party sings the praises of the British imperialism. He does not believe in the organisations of the masses. Further he says that no communal settlement can be arrived at except through the British Government.

**Sardar Lal Singh:** Were you not returned on the Sikh ticket?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** No. I was returned on the Communist Party's ticket, and I challenge any Akali to seek re-election on the strength of the Azad Punjab Slogan. I am sure not a single Akali will be returned. (Hear, hear). I repeat my challenge to the

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Akalis in this House to resign their seats with me and to seek re-election from any district of their own choice. I am confident that people will support us.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** Is it not a fact that you are entered as a Sikh in the register of voters ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Yes, what of that ?

**Sardar Lal Singh :** Why does he not deny that he is a Sikh ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Why should I ? The Akalis have adopted a very queer slogan of "Azad Punjab" at a juncture when the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs are devising ways to arrive at some understanding among themselves. The idea underlying this proposal is merely to undermine the unity of India and to put obstacles in the way of India's independence. But let me assure the House that India will attain independence in spite of my Akali friends and their schemes which aim at putting a stumbling block in the way of India's unity and freedom.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural). (*Urdu*) : Sir, in discussing the demand for General Administration which is now before the House, we have to review the policy pursued by the Government and to suggest ways and means to improve it if we find any defects therein. So far as I can think, the greatest stumbling block at present in the way of good administration is the mutual mistrust which prevails among the different communities. This is a problem which should be dealt with in the most earnest and honest manner. With a view to bring about communal harmony the Government have set apart a sum of Rs. one lakh. It is undeniably a very good step forward for minimising the danger to the internal peace of the province, but the kind of speech our honourable friend Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad has made does not help in fostering cordial relationship between the different communities. I do not know whether he delivers speeches in his personal capacity or as a member of the ministerial party.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Please do not discuss honourable members, and do not make any personal reference.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** Sir, I am not personal, but am merely stating that at times he speaks as a member of the party and at others he expresses personal views. Anyway, Sir, I was going to bring this fact to the notice of the Government that Rs. one lakh is not a sufficient amount for this purpose. Because those who bring about hatred among the communities are much better off and in a much better position to spread their poison. Such people start from a place in which the members of the community to which they belong, say the Muslims, are in a minority and do not have any cause for complaint against the treatment meted out to them by their sister community. My honourable friend Khawaja Ghulam Samad, for instance, has no personal connection with *abiana* in Karnal district, yet he has found the place suitable for starting his campaign of vilification against the officers of the Government and to sow the seed of dissension and discord among the Hindus and Muslims who have so far had very cordial relations with each other. On being stopped by the Honourable Premier from making allegations against the district authorities my honourable friend said that he was merely representing the grievances of his constituents. Now for the enlightenment of the House I may say that this village is not in his constituency which is an urban one. Disturbances of communal nature occur in urban areas only. Rural areas have had no schooling in the art of trouble-making and that is why communal riots do not ever take place there. The grievance that has been made much of by my honourable friend from Ambala arises from the fact that the Deputy Commissioner refused to give permission for taking out a procession in connection with Muslim League Conference.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : Do not be personal. It is against the rules.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** I am merely saying this in defence of the Government and am in no way offending it. It is very strange that I am neither allowed to offend the Government nor to defend it. Any how I deem it my duty to make a reply to the baseless



allegations made by the honourable member in the course of his speech. In reply to his complaint that the procession was not allowed to be taken out the honourable Premier defended his officers, but my honourable friend did not like it. He does not like that Deputy Commissioner who does not act in consonance with his wishes. Yesterday I was travelling in the train when a Muslim gentleman entered the compartment and started narrating the woes of some village in the Amritsar district where he said the Sikhs who formed ninety per cent. of the population were preventing the Musalmans from building a mosque. He solicited the help of his co-religionists and in a few minutes collected ten rupees from that compartment. Now whether there is any truth in this story or not, what I have not been able to understand is this. Why should the other people outside that village have any interest with the construction of a mosque or a temple where only local people will offer their prayers? Still people who want to play upon the religious sentiments of others are able to get quite a large number of sympathisers and collect a large sum of money. Those who make it their profession to play upon the susceptibilities of their co-religionists make lakhs of rupees with their subtle propaganda. This is the reason why I say that the sum of Rs. 1 lakh which the Government have provided for the purpose of bringing about communal harmony is not sufficient. To combat the activities of such people who out of their ambition for leadership or a love of mischief manage to get enough funds for furthering their designs, it becomes necessary for the Government to provide a larger amount of money than the one that has already been set apart. Such people who incite the members of their community against other communities always go far away from the places where the supposed injustices are being done and try to rouse their sympathy. If the matter concerns Rohtak they start their propaganda in Campbellpur, so that people may not easily come to know of the truth or otherwise of their fabrications.

It has been said that atrocities are being committed upon the Muslims and that their rights in respect of services are being trampled upon in the Ambala Divisions. Now the Muslims constitute only 30 per cent of the total population of this Division. It is alleged that there are Hindu Deputy Commissioners in all the five districts of this division while the truth is that the Deputy Commissioners of Rohtak and Ambala are Muslims and out of the three Hindu Deputy Commissioners the one at Gurgaon is soon to become a Muslim. (Laughter). I mean he is soon going to be transferred and in all probability a Muslim will be appointed in his place.

The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar, where the Hindus form 70 per cent of the population, is no doubt a Hindu, but even he is an eye sore to my honourable friend and people of his way of thinking. You will see, Sir, that out of the five districts in the Ambala division two districts have Muslim Deputy Commissioners and in three there are Hindus. Now I fail to understand how can this ratio be fixed at 50 per cent. by having  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Muslim Deputy Commissioners and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Hindu Deputy Commissioners. So far as the injustice done to the Muslims in services is concerned, the instance that has been cited is in respect of the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Rohtak where the Deputy Commissioner is a Muslim.

It was also said that there was a Jat rule in the Ambala division, because Chaudhri Chhotu Ram comes from that ilaqa. Baseless as this statement is, it came to us as a surprise and I am sure it would have surprised the Honourable Minister of Revenue no less.

Khawaja Sahib says that the Musalmans of the Ambala division are the greatest sufferers. I ask him whether, in view of the records and according to the facts and figures that are available, they are the greatest sufferers or we the Hindus. The facts belie his statement. He has overlooked the true facts and figures. After all there must be some limit to patience. We have been deprived of our rights, our share has been usurped. Yet he says that the Musalmans are the greatest sufferers. I tell you that in the Commissioner's Office, Ambala division, the number of Muslim clerks, pensionable and non-pensionable, is 6, whereas the number of Hindu clerks is 5.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Please, tell us the number of higher posts and the number of gazetted posts in the Ambala division which have been given to Muslims.



**Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** I wonder at you, Khan Sahib. You, an LL.B., and a flourishing lawyer, do not know that there are no gazetted posts in the Commissioner's Office! There is only one post of Deputy Commissioner that is gazetted. In all the other posts, the number of Musalmans for exceeds that of the Hindus. I tell you that in the Deputy Commissioner's office, there are 8 Hindu and 3 Muslim clerks, (*Voices : of mere clerks*): The records are there, you can examine the figures as they stood on the 1st January 1942, from the Consolidated Statement. I am not telling a lie. Yet Khawaja Sahib complained that the Mussalmans of the Ambala division are the greatest sufferers.

Now I tell you about our tolerance. For how long has Rana Abdul Hamid, District Inspector of Schools been posted there? Did we ever complain about the Muslim official being posted there? We have never objected to his posting, although there are Hindu district inspectors of schools to replace him.

**Minister of Education :** He was sent there on your request.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** That is true. We are grateful to the Honourable Minister of Education that he complied with our request. I was going to say that we have never objected to the appointment of a Muslim official like Khawaja Sahib who complains so bitterly against the appointment of Hindu officials. What is more, we never objected to the appointment of the Muslim Deputy Commissioner. A Hindu Additional District Magistrate worked under him, and he was quite happy. He never complained that he was working under a Muslim Deputy Commissioner. Khawaja Sahib thinks that if a Hindu official is appointed then the Muslims are ruined. But we do not feel strangled if a Muslim official is appointed. Sir, you might have believed that Khawaja Sahib was speaking the truth, but I am positive that 90 per cent of his statement was based upon incorrect, unfounded and misleading information. I do not see any justification for his complaint. The Muslims are getting posts after posts and still they are clamouring that their rights are usurped, they are cruelly treated, and that they are disgraced, degraded, dismissed and what not. What a lie! What a shameful statement! I wish he were present here, and I would have refuted all his allegations one by one. I submit that if he wishes to change the mode of Government, then I should be the least to grumble, but if Government is quite just to every community then I request Khawaja Sahib to be tolerant in his speech and to weigh justly the facts of the case. Sir, I was a member of the old Council and Chaudhri Chhotu Ram was also with me. I can say on the basis of my experience, that since the present regime, the Government has always justified its claim that it is just, and hence no rights of any community have been usurped.

When the ratio of services everywhere is quite proportionate, quite stable and quite just, then I request the honourable members to judge fairly the complaints of the people, for often they are unfounded and incorrect. Government is doing the best it can possibly do, but if per-chance there are some flaws in its doings, the honourable members should not be harsh in their criticism against the Government. Is it not a fact that a Hindu Additional District Magistrate working under a Muslim Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak got the title of Rai Sahib? Is it not because he worked very diligently in connection with war and the Muslim Deputy Commissioner was so pleased with him that he recommended his name for the title? If the Muslim official were prejudiced and communal, he would not have recommended his name for the title. This shows that they work in a spirit of tolerance and trust. I personally do not attack anybody regarding Ambala division. All that I assert is this that the records are there for your perusal. What my friend Khawaja Sahib has stated is to misguide the House and is all incorrect. Not even 1 per cent. of his statement is true. To expect him to exercise his discretion and good will in connection with all the appointments and dismissals, promotion and degradation of every official, I am afraid is too much, and decidedly we cannot tolerate his arrogant attitude which he has adopted in this connection. The Honourable Premier was constrained to interrupt the honourable member from Ambala repeatedly and asked him not to talk in that vein. But the honourable member went on with his speech in which he blamed the Government for having ignored the rights of the Muslims in the Ambala district as well as in various departments

under the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. I repudiate the charge and take strong exception to it. These tactics will not benefit the Government and the party. After all he has made a huge propaganda. He will say to the people outside that he did his best to voice the grievances of the Muslims against the Hindus, so much so that even the Premier and the Honourable Speaker were obliged to call him to order. He will say "I spoke boldly in favour of Muslims and would have continued doing so but for the interruption of the Premier and the order of the Honourable Speaker". Thus his propaganda will spread far and wide and he will be claimed as the hero of the Muslims. Such things should be discouraged. If they are encouraged the party will suffer. The discipline will be thrown to the wind and the Government will ultimately become weak. The interest of the cohesion of the party and the Government requires that such speeches should be discouraged on the floor of the House and the honourable members should not have the courage to speak in this tone. If further latitude is given to such members, it will be beyond the power of the Government to control its party. Other honourable members can also make such fiery speeches. The honourable member said that a Panchayat in the Gurgaon district had asked the people to refuse to sell any cow to the butchers for slaughter. I wonder how the honourable member lost sight of the economic side of the question. Cow is dear to the Hindus, not only due to religious sentiments but also from the economic point of view. What is the harm if the Panchayat in Gurgaon prohibited the sale of cow to the butchers, due to the scarcity of cows and bullocks, without which we cannot live? They are the national wealth of the Jats and zamindars in India. The people of Gurgaon naturally feared that if the local breed is finished, cows will not be available from outside. Therefore they stopped the sale of cows to the butchers. There is nothing communal in it. It is the economic proposition which my honourable friend failed to appreciate and tried to give it a communal colour.

Now I want to refute the argument of the honourable member who said that Hindus preponderate in the services in the district of Ambala. I may state for his information that we are 70 per cent. in that district and yet we are not given our full share in the services. Our representation in the services is only 60 per cent. against our right of 70 per cent. according to population. In spite of it we are being blamed for having usurped the rights of the Muslims. My honourable friend Mian Muhammad Yusuf invited our attention to the higher services. For his benefit I will quote facts and figures from the Consolidated List of communal proportions prepared by the Government. Let us take the higher ranks of the Police first. (*An honourable member* : The honourable member who raised this question now begs to be excused.) No, he must be paid in the same coin. (*Laughter*). In the Multan division Muslims preponderate and we do not object. Why should Muslims object to the position of Hindus in the Ambala division?

Now take the case of P.E.S., 1st grade-Men's branch. There are 101 posts out of which 98 are held by Muslim agriculturists and only 3 by Hindu agriculturists. Similarly in the Jail Department out of 18 Superintendents of Jails only one is a Hindu Agriculturist. Further, out of 24 D. S. Jails, there is not a single Hindu agriculturist. Out of eighty Assistant Superintendents of Jails, only three are Hindu agriculturists. Again out of 26 Dispensers not a single one is a Hindu agriculturist. In the Teaching Instruction branch there is not a single Hindu agriculturist. (*An honourable member* : What about your representation among prisoners?) There are several zamindars and therefore our representation is very great there. (*Laughter*).

In the Law Department there is one Assistant Legal Remembrancer and he is a Hindu agriculturist. But out of 31 Public Prosecutor there is not a single Hindu agriculturist. (*An honourable member* : And how many Muslims?) I am not concerned with them. That is your duty. I will play my part only.

Now take the Police department. Out of 66 Deputy Superintendents of Police only three are Hindu agriculturists. We do not say that more than our due share should be given to us. At least our share must be given to us. But instead of this bull dogs are let

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loose on us. (*An honourable member* : Sir, he has called an old, respectable Muslim a bull dog !) If he takes objection to it, I withdraw that expression. I did not call any particular person as bull dog. The honourable member has misunderstood me. I take back these words if any honourable member takes objection to them.

Now Sir, among the Deputy Superintendents there are 3 Hindu agriculturists. Then out of 162 Inspectors the number of Hindu agriculturists is 16. Although our due share had not been given to us, still we feel greatly pleased that at least some posts had been given to us. But the case with my friends over there is quite the reverse. In fact so far we have borne all injustices done to the Hindu zamindars with great patience. We have never grumbled. But now when some posts are given to Hindu zamindars, my friends from this side and from that side raise a hue and cry that everything is being given to the Hindu zamindars. After all where should we go ? Should we ascend the heaven or go down deep into the earth ?

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.*)

Anyway if my friends over there want to carry on the work of Government they should do so properly. I may tell them that there are honourable members in the Unionist party who instead of bringing about communal harmony in the province, try their level best to create disruptions and disunity in the country. The Government are under the impression that a grant of Rs. one lakh would promote communal harmony in the province. That is not at all correct. So long as communalists are present in the province, this sum of Rs. one lakh will not help us at all. Such people are more dangerous than even the Congressites. After all what is the fault of the Congressmen ? Is it not a fact that they are being imprisoned merely because they want their country to be freed from the yoke of the Britishers ? If the demanding of independence has been considered to be a dangerous act due to which the Congressmen have been thrown into prison, why are communalists who cause communal disturbances not regarded as the enemies of the country ? They in fact are the worst enemies of the country. But Government instead of taking action against them, has provided a sum of Rs. one lakh for giving *inams* to communalists. It is the bounden duty of Government to take action against such persons who incite the fire of communal hatred in the province. I know that people favour their friends and relatives to some extent, but there should be a limit to such favouritism. The Government should not give so much latitude to such persons who create communal ill-feelings in the country. But I regret to point out that the way in which the work of this Government is being carried out, encourages those persons who indulge in communalism.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : It is not a fact that I said that it was at the instance of my friend Chaudhri Ram Sarup that a panchayat was held in Baheen in which it was decided that cows and bullocks should not be sold to Musalmans. I never named Chaudhri Ram Sarup as convener of the Panchayat in which attempts were made to create communal hatred.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup** : Sir, as I have already submitted, this incidence related to the Gurgaon district and I have no knowledge about it. But if the honourable member persists in levelling this charge at me I accept it. I go a step further and say that it is the duty of the residents of these districts to hold panchayats everywhere and pass resolutions that the zamindars should not sell cows and bullocks to the traders. Besides I may point out that according to the Hindu religion it is forbidden to sell cows to a person in regard to whom it is suspected that he would slaughter them. Then, Sir, the country's interests also require that we should not permit our cows and bullocks to be exported. For if we do so a time will come when it would be very difficult for us also to purchase bullocks in case any died at the time of sowing of crops. In fact this has become an economic point with the agriculturists of Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon districts, not to sell cows and bullocks to persons of other districts. So there was nothing wrong in it if any resolution to which reference has been made by my honourable friend was passed. (*Interruptions*). Anyway my submission is that communalism is the worst enemy of the country and it is for the Government to take strong

action against those who spread it. In my opinion such persons should be given severe punishments, for they are the cause of spreading the poison of communalism in the country. The provision of a lakh of rupees for the promotion of communal harmony will not serve any useful purpose at all. In my opinion the best way to promote communal harmony in the province is to take strong action against those who indulge in communalism. That is the only solution of this thing. With these words I resume my seat.

**Malik Barkat Ali** (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban): Mr. Speaker, it would be no exaggeration to say that my gallant and honourable friend the Premier has succeeded to quite a plethora of political ills and troubles. I therefore feel that before uttering any word in disparagement or in condemnation of his Government, I must wait and see how he behoves himself in his great responsibility. Of course it would be said that the Augean stables for the cleansing of which my honourable friend Khawaja Ghulam Samad uttered such an eloquent plea the other day, were largely the work of that Government of which he was himself a part. But, as I said the other day, the Honourable Major Khizar Hayat Khan as Premier is a different person from the Honourable Khizar Hayat as Minister of Sir Sikander's Government. I would therefore much prefer that he had a clean slate to write on, and I am glad that in one respect he has made a most striking and courageous departure from past policy. This House will remember that shortly after the death of the late Premier, a very responsible paper issued from the capital of the province and conducted on some of the highest traditions of British journalism, wrote a leader in its issue of the 30th of December, 1942, under the heading "The New Premier". In the course of that article this journal wrote as follows:—

"It seems to us that the new Premier, whoever he may be, must be a man with sufficient self-sabnegation to mould his policy most rigidly in the pattern made by Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan together with sufficient ability and force of character to carry that policy into effect".

This pattern, to which he so zealously made a reference, is further elaborated by him in the following words:—

"One of the late Premier's most difficult tasks was to hold the balance between the growing strength of the Muslim League with its consequent threatened inroads on the provincial political sphere and the policy laid down by his late Chief, Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, that the Punjab's interest in the League should be limited to All-India politics. If the continued existence in its present form of the Unionist Party is necessary for the peaceful progress of the Punjab, Sir Fazl-i-Hussain's policy in this regard must be continued. The new Premier must owe nothing to Mr. Jinnah and he must be able, if the need arise, to withstand him. The Muslim League President will use the present crisis to do his best to tie the Punjab to the chariot-wheel of the League, and his success would spell disaster for the existing Council of Ministers. Whatever the future may hold, the immediate need is that Punjabis should continue to rule the Punjab, and not the League High Command, with Mr. Jinnah as Dictator."

Let no one run away with the idea that these comments were made recklessly and without any adequate material to warrant them. Those of us who were in touch with the policies and the management of public affairs at that time know very well that there was enough material in the equivocations and vacillation that were the order of the day then, to justify these comments. I am glad to be able to say that hardly had the ink of that comment become dry when the new Premier has come forward with a declaration of his policy at Delhi on the 7th of March 1943. I would read out the salient portions of that declaration, a declaration which, I hope, will considerably clarify matters and remove that murky atmosphere which had previously prevailed.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan:** Why do you not come and sit on these benches?

**Malik Barkat Ali:** I would gladly answer that question. Let me first give the declaration of the honourable Premier which I welcome:—

"The Punjab Premier pointed out that the resolution was unnecessary as a Muslim League Party existed in the Punjab Assembly under the terms of the Sikander-Jinnah Pact. He did not wish to enter into controversy whether that party had been working as efficiently as was expected of it, but he assured the House that he would endeavour to put life into that party and consolidate it and bring it up to a standard worthy of the great organisation of the Muslim League and the Muslims of the Punjab, and serve the true interests of the Muslims."

"Let me assure the Quaid-e-Azam and all those present", he proceeded, "that we in the Punjab feel proud of the great services rendered by the All-India Muslim League, under the leadership and guidance of the Quaid-e-Azam, to the cause of the Muslims. You will never find me and my Muslim colleague failing in our loyalty to the cause of the Mussalmans and their sole representative body—the All-India Muslim League."

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This declaration, frank and outspoken created quite a flutter in the dovescots of British Imperialism as well as in the dovescots of Hindu vested interests. I can very well understand this flutter as the interested protest of those who have been exploiting Muslim apathy and Muslim cowardice. As a matter of fact, my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh said the other day in the course of his speech with all the responsibility attaching to him that a trap was being laid for the Premier. I ask in all seriousness, where is the trap and why are our non-Muslim friends afraid if the Muslim Premier of the Province has taken it upon his shoulders to organise or put new life into a Muslim League Party inside the Legislature and on the floor of this House? Do not our Sikh friends sit organised as a party under their new leader the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh?

**Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh:** Not as a Sikh League.

**Malik Barkat Ali:** What does it matter if you sit merely as Sikhs? You are a Sikh party nevertheless. Why should not Muslims sit as Muslim Leaguers?

**Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh:** There is a lot of difference.

**Malik Barkat Ali:** If you think that there is a lot of difference between the two parties, I cannot help it. But I see absolutely no difference. In any event, why should not a Muslim sit here as a member of the Muslim League Party when my Sikh brother can sit here as a member of the Sikh party?

**Sardar Lal Singh:** Not till the Unionist Party is there.

**Malik Barkat Ali:** I shall deal with that. I welcome the Premier's declaration because that declaration to my mind writes the epitaph on the old Unionist party (*hear, hear*), the Unionist Party of which the late Sir Fazl-i-Hussain was founder and to which the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram harks back so often and of which he thinks he is still a member. That Unionist party has disappeared.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan:** Question. You are very much mistaken.

**Malik Barkat Ali:** Under this declaration, the Unionist Party has disappeared.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan:** Read the whole thing. You are mistaken.

**Malik Barkat Ali:** The Unionist Party with a definite and independent creed of its own, the Unionist party which fought against the League in 1936, has disappeared and in place of that Unionist Party there has appeared a Muslim League Party. That is No. 1. The Muslim League party may enter into coalition with any other party consistently with the fundamental principles, policy and programme of the Muslim League. It has entered or will enter into coalition with Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram's party of 8 or 9 or with Sardar Baldev Singh's party of 9 or 11. This Coalition consisting of the Muslim League party and other parties will be called the Unionist Party. My honourable friend, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, will agree with me that there is all the difference between this Unionist party, consisting of a coalition of the Muslim League party as the dominating party and other parties, and the Unionist party of old. I am glad that the Unionist party of old has disappeared.

**Chaudhri Sumar Singh:** Then why is the honourable member sitting there when he is a Muslim Leaguer and the Government is of Muslim League instead of the Unionists?

**Malik Barkat Ali:** As a matter of honest faith. (*An honourable member: Zid*) No. Just have patience. Does not this report in the *Civil and Military Gazette* show that there was no Muslim League party? I am not going to dwell on the past. All that I say is, I will not sit on the Unionist benches. I will have to be satisfied and my conscience will have to be satisfied that the Muslim League party in the real sense of the term—a party which owes allegiance to the All-India Muslim League and to Quaid-e-Azam not only in all-India politics but also in provincial politics—has come into existence, and as soon as that party is announced, I will cross over to these benches. It has been said, "we are Muslim Leaguers so far as All-India politics are concerned but so far as Punjab politics are concerned,

we are Punjabis". I have never been able to understand this silly nonsense. We are Muslim Leaguers both in provincial politics and in all-India politics. But so long as that distinction is going to be maintained or is maintained, it is impossible for any Muslim Leaguer to call those persons who make or insist on this distinction as Muslim Leaguers.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Then are we not Muslim Leaguers ?

**Malik Barkat Ali :** I say nothing. It is for you to decide. It is for you to define what you are. It is for you to state whether you are Muslim Leaguers or not, so far as provincial politics are concerned. If according to the words of the *Civil and Military Gazette* you are Muslim Leaguers only in regard to all-India politics but are not subject to the discipline in provincial matters, I am not one of you. But if you place yourself under the discipline of the All-India Muslim League and its Qaid-i-Azam in all respects, viz., all-India politics as well as provincial politics, then I am with you, and there is no difference between us. I am looking forward to that day when the formation of such a League party is announced, because people will then know where we and they stand, particularly the so-called Deputy Leader of the Unionist Party, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. The time has come when he must reconsider his position, when he must cease to talk in terms of disrespect of both our leader and of the goal of the All-India Muslim League, Pakistan, as he must deem himself as acting in coalition with people whose article of faith is Pakistan. Not that it means that Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram should become a Pakistani himself. Nothing of the kind. But Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram will have to realise that he has got to deal with people who are pledged to Pakistan and after that he cannot indulge in terms of disrespect towards their leader. My friends sitting there have been hearing this disrespectful language for the last three years. Did they ever protest ? Did they ever call upon him to explain as to what business he had in using that kind of insolent and impertinent language in respect of our leader, Mr. Jinnah ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Hear, hear.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** When was that ?

**Malik Barkat Ali :** Hardly two years ago. When he has shown disrespect to Mahatama Gandhi, his followers have appropriately dealt with him, but when he castigates my leader in that disrespectful language, then I at least must protest even though the Unionists keep quiet, and I must ask my friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, if he is true to his professions, to protest against that unnameable epithet that he once uttered about the acknowledged leader of one of the two most powerful parties in India. I say that the Honourable Premier has begun well and I congratulate him on the clarification of his position and I want to assure him that as soon as that Muslim League Party, owing allegiance to the Qaid-i-Azam in all spheres, provincial as well as all-India, as stated and promised by him in his declaration, is formed and announced on the floor of this House, I would be the first to cross over and I can say on behalf of my friends Mian Abdul Aziz and Mian Muhammad Nurullah that they will also follow me and cross over to the ministerial benches.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** If you feel that the Qaid-i-Azam is satisfied that there is a Muslim League Party formed in the Assembly, then what justification have you still to say that your conscience is not satisfied ?

**Malik Barkat Ali :** My learned friend says that the Qaid-i-Azam is satisfied. If the Qaid-i-Azam had been satisfied, I would not be sitting here ; he would send me a wire to cross over.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** They will not let you cross over.

**Minister of Education :** Then he is the only one follower in the Punjab.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** He will have to be satisfied and the moment you satisfy him and he issues orders, I will cross over.

Let me now turn to matters of general administration. There is, first of all, the question of the Lahore Municipal Committee. This Committee was superseded in October 1936. We

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were kept up in the hope that before long the Corporation of the City of Lahore will come into being. We have passed the City of Lahore Corporation Act and we are waiting for the day when the citizens and the voters of Lahore will be restored to their ancient rights and privileges. I cannot understand why this Government is sitting tight over this matter and what the citizens and voters of Lahore have done to merit this kind of treatment. What would be your reaction if someone enters this hall and says, "You walk out, for I am going to rule the Province myself"? What would be your reaction and what would be the reaction of the Honourable Ministers and other honourable members who are supporting this Government? I respectfully request the Honourable Premier to lose no time in tackling this question and in seeing that the Corporation of the City of Lahore becomes, before long, an accomplished fact, so that the people of Lahore may be in a position to govern themselves according to their own light and judgment and this one-man rule may end. In this connection I would also draw the attention of the Honourable Premier to the Sialkot Municipal Committee. It stands similarly superseded for some time past and nothing has happened to raise the hope that the Government will deal with this matter at an early date. Where is the sense in letting things go as they are? You cannot justify it. In this connection I would further ask the Honourable Premier to consider the question of revising the policy with regard to the appointments of Executive Officers. I feel that enough time has passed and enough water has flown underneath the Ravi bridge to justify this Government taking action, with a view to revise their policy regarding the relations *inter se* of Executive Officers and Municipal Committees. So long as the present state of affairs continues, the tension between the Executive Officers and the members of the Municipal Committees is bound to increase.

The next matter which I wish to refer to—I hope Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram will excuse me for mentioning it—is the policy of some of the members of the Government of calling names at their political opponents. I can appreciate differences of opinion that may exist. I have absolutely no objection to gentlemen disagreeing with me, but I will just invite the attention of the House to the speech that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram made recently in the Y. M. C. A. Hall. I will just read out what he said. In the course of his speech he said—

"Sir Gokul Chand Narang, Sardar Santokh Singh and Malik Barkat Ali belong to the vested interests and are banias in spite of their diametrically opposite political professions".

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang is strong enough to meet this insinuation. Sardar Santokh Singh is also strong enough to meet this accusation, but so far as I am concerned I am sorry that I should have been given this title at the hands of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. He said that we are banias because we opposed the Sales Tax Act.

**Sardar Santokh Singh:** We are proud of it.

**Malik Barkat Ali:** If the sales tax had been taken out of the pockets of the banias I could very well understand why he called those who were opposing the sales tax as friends of the bania community. I want to assure Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram—I observe that he is leaving—that the sales tax does not come out of the pockets of the banias. I hope that the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal, who is a master in Economics and an expert in finance, will try to get Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram learn that the sales tax, although it comes nominally out of the pockets of the banias or the shop-keepers, really falls on the consumers. If however his lesson fails to get in and the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram persists in his fallacy, I should like to give a very simple illustration to establish my point. Last year I had an occasion to go to Calcutta in the month of August. I had hardly been in Calcutta for an hour or two that I felt that it was impossible to live in Calcutta without an umbrella, for it was raining night and day. I just entered an umbrella shop and selected an umbrella. The shop-keeper demanded rupees ten which I paid. I had hardly put the money on the counter when the shop-keeper called out, "ten annas more". I asked him what did he mean by demanding ten annas more. He told me

that these ten annas were the sales tax. I paid it there and then. This illustration will show in a very simple form that in actual practice the sales tax is really borne by the consumer. If that is a fact and if I have taken up cudgels on behalf of the poor consumer, how does he justify this epithet of a bania in my case?

He is a lawyer, I am also a lawyer. He lives in a much greater house on some road which, I believe, is built out of the tax-payers' money. I also have a small cottage built out of my labours. There is one difference between him and me. He is a Jat, I am not a Jat. Possibly he has lands, but perhaps he does not know that I have inherited lands ten times more than what he has. I respectfully submit that with all our differences, this habit of calling names at each other must stop and if it will not stop, then surely the cause of communal harmony will suffer. This House will remember that a number of speeches in which various kinds of abuses were uttered, used to be delivered with great gusto in the early two years until the arrival of the present Governor, when on the 5th May 1941, he on the occasion of the second meeting of the Punjab War Board said as follows:—

"This is no time for quarrelling among ourselves. This is no time for nursing old grievances or finding new ones. This is no time for strife between castes and communities, between town and country, trader and peasant. This is no time for petty recrimination, for digging up the past for apportioning blame for mistakes which may have been committed. We have had enough fault-finding, we have had a surfeit—almost a debauchery of criticism. Let our aim be a truce at home and a common front against the enemy."

When this warning was uttered, Sir Chhotu Ram ceased to make those fire-eating speeches that he used to deliver before. But now he has reverted to the old practice. He is perfectly free to ventilate his criticism of our policy, of our political views, but let him not indulge in speeches which can bring him no credit nor can help the war effort.

The next matter to which I wish to refer very briefly relates to the Public Services Commission. My honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal spoke about it and I also wish to say a few words on the subject. All that I wish to say standing on the floor of the House is this that we expect of our Government to at least advise the Governor that the time has gone when persons with no University qualifications of their own, being either matriculates or intermediates, could sit in judgment on our highly qualified graduates and the best products of our Universities. I submit that it is nothing short of a scandal that the Public Services Commission should consist of such members. If the Government has not realised it, then the House will agree with me that it is our duty to submit most respectfully and in all humble duty to His Excellency the Governor that this House expects that the members of the Commission, who are selected should possess the highest academic qualifications.

The last matter to which I wish to refer is with regard to the Police Department. A great deal has been said on this subject and I do not want to indulge in any rabid criticism. I realise that there are officers in the police force who are men of great probity, elevation of character, men of great rectitude and merit. But even they have not yet been able to realise that things have completely changed in the province and that as a popular Ministry has come into power their bureaucratic habits and methods must cease. With all their integrity and their efficiency, they are absolutely out of touch with the leaders of public opinion and the leaders of public opinion are perfectly justified in not seeing them because they do not find that courtesy and that treatment from them which is due to them. It is the duty of the Government to make the highest officers of the police realise that things have completely changed in the province, that a popular Government has come into power, and that they must also change their bureaucratic angle of vision and become popular in the sense of remaining in close contact with the leaders of public opinion who may inform them about their subordinates. About the rank and file, the conditions are the same and there is room for considerable improvement. There may be good men, but a good deal of the poor residents of the rural areas are completely at the mercy of the sub-inspector, who does not realise at all what human liberty is. Poor people sit for days and days outside the police stations under orders and nobody cares. I submit that there is a great deal to be overhauled so far as subordinate ranks of the police are concerned, and I would ask the Government to make the police realise that it must give up its old habits.



**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha** (East Central Punjab, Indian-Christian) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not mind whether my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali calls these benches the Unionist Party or the Coalition Ministry. A rose will smell as sweet by whatever name you call it. I would judge a tree by its fruit. The purpose of my speaking to-day is, first, to make certain suggestions in regard to the surplus which our able Finance Minister has temptingly dangled in front of our eyes, and, secondly, to voice certain grievances of my community. We all know that as Jupiter amongst the stars, as Hercules amongst the stalwarts, as Alexander amongst the conquerors, as Plato amongst philosophers, as he himself amongst economists, is Sir Manohar Lal amongst Finance Ministers. (*Hear, hear*). He has often been called a wizard. I think it would be no exaggeration to say that in the sphere of finance he has the same status as Aaron or Houdini in the sphere of magic. But while thinking of him as a wizard of finance, I am reminded of Houdini's dictum in his Memoirs that one of the fundamental principles of magic is that a trick must not be oft-repeated. As a criterion of safe repetition he points to the traditional hat trick. The hat trick, as you all know, is composed of three repetitions. The number 3, Houdini explains, has not been adopted through any arbitrary choice. It possesses a potent astrological virtue. Its potency is affected as much by addition as by subtraction. Even in sports a fourth surprise after the hat trick is considered indecent. So, I beg to submit that people are apt to become suspicious when surplus budgets follow one after the other and go beyond the hat trick. Therefore, it has been, Sir, very pleasing to note that the front benchers and the back benchers have been doing a little stoking to our Party engines and I would also like to do my part of the stoking. But I shall not over-stoke. My suggestions will be to the surplus as a flea bite to an elephant. I would, Sir, through you, draw the attention of the Education Minister, the Finance Minister and the Government as a whole, to the University. The University is passing through a very critical stage on account of the rise in prices. It would be most unpopular to increase the fees even though the University is faced with a heavy deficit. Even a non-recurring, temporary grant of one lakh would save the University from collapse or the alternative of marring the great work which it is doing. If somebody says, why not have retrenchment, I would say that any effective retrenchment is impracticable. To have a cut in salaries would, in these days, be most inhuman. Reduction in staff would either cripple the administration or strangle the already starving academic departments. Grades have already been reduced. No new appointments are being made. Our academic activity in the interest of the province itself must continue. To cut it down would be a slur on the fair name of the province. I may also mention that in spite of the financial difficulties, the University has, in recent years, under the inspiration of the go-ahead Vice-Chancellor, Mian Afzal Hussain, started some things which are an envy of other universities. For example, the Music department and the Arts department for girls and a course in Journalism. There is something in the water of our five rivers that whatever Punjab does, it does well. That is why our University has provided Botanists, Zoologists and Chemists to other Universities all over India; and when the Government, in these days when chemical warfare is of such importance, sent forth an appeal for Chemists, the Punjab was the first to respond. There is our Sir Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar who has won for himself and for the Punjab a world-wide reputation. Our Finance Minister knows that whenever the Government of India want economic advice they are always sending for Dr. L. C. Jain, our eminent professor of economics. We could do much more, if we had some more funds. Lest you might think that I am insinuating that Government is giving a step-motherly treatment to the University, I shall give you some statistical facts which should speak for themselves. The Punjab University gets from the Government 14.7 per cent. of its expenditure. As compared with this I will mention what is given to some other universities. For example, the University of Calcutta gets 17.7 per cent. of its expenditure. The Agra University gets 18.8 per cent., Nagpur gets 18 per cent., Annamalai University gets 32 per cent., Lucknow 37 per cent., Dacca 61 per cent., and Allahabad University gets 68 per cent., not to speak of the Universities of the States like Travancore, Hyderabad and Mysore where the Government grant ranges from 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. of its expenditure. The Punjab University gets Rs. 3,25,000 per annum. As against this, I will only mention a few grants given by other

Governments. Apart from the Aligarh and Benares Universities which are also helped by the Government of India, the United Provinces Government gives for university education a sum of Rs. 60,89,000 as against Rs. 3,25,000 which we get. There may be a fallacy in this comparison as they have no Government colleges, but then there are the other provinces where the situation is exactly like ours. For example, Calcutta gets Rs. 4,87,000. My point is, first, that all over India, University education is considered a special responsibility of Government and, secondly, that the Punjab Government can hardly claim that they are doing all that they ought to in encouraging the University here. For example, this year the University asked for a modest grant of Rs. 35,000. Even that was rejected. I am sure that it was rejected because our Government did not know, at the time, where the budget stood. But now that through the efforts of our illustrious Finance Minister and his able Finance Secretary, we have a surplus, it should be quite feasible to make a further grant. I spoke of a lakh. But the question of lakhs may be a matter of high policy, and this may be neither the time nor the place to discuss it; I shall therefore concentrate on two very modest demands. One concerns the establishment of a Department of Pharmacy in the University and the other a Department of Geography. There is great need for having properly trained pharmaceutical chemists. This need was visualised even by the Unemployment Committee. They recommended it as one of the avenues of employment for the educated unemployed. We have hundreds and hundreds of medical halls and Chemists' shops throughout the province and not even 5 per cent have properly trained chemists. It would be something which would benefit the whole Province if our University started a proper course in Pharmacology and gave diploma to qualified men. The whole scheme can be put in operation at a cost of Rs. 10,000. Similar is the case of Geography. This is one of the most modern subjects and its importance has been realised only recently and more so since the war. You are aware that many able-bodied and otherwise suitable young men, mentally and socially, for the King's Commission have been rejected on the score of being deficient in the knowledge of geography. The University has been getting circulars from the Selection Boards that our boys are weak in geography. But geography can never be encouraged and improved until it is given the same status as other subjects like philosophy, economics and mathematics, etc., in which boys can go up to the M.A. Geography was only recently introduced up to the B.A. stage and is now a subject for the M.A. too. But no college is teaching it for the M.A. It is not easy for the colleges individually to start higher classes in geography unless they have the necessary apparatus which is costly and they must have fully qualified teachers. What they cannot do individually, they can do by inter-collegiate teaching. The colleges are anxious to help, even on a voluntary basis without any payment, but the University must have at least a Reader if not a Professor who could co-ordinate the work, and the University must have the necessary apparatus. At present our boys have to go out of the province for studying Geography and I am sure that this state of affairs will be considered disgraceful by our Minister of Education. Another Rs. 10,000 could start this Department as well and this meagre sum would make no dent in our solid surplus. I hope our Minister for Education is taking note of all these things. I congratulate him for all that he has done in making every pie go to the farthest. I have studied education schemes of most of the provinces in India and I can claim that our Province had done much more intensive work in the Education Department than any other province in India. Everybody knows how ill-paid our M.A., B.Ts. used to be; they used to start from Rs. 45 and most of them ended at Rs. 60 a month. Now an M.A., B.T. starts at Rs. 80 and (*Minister for Education*: He starts at Rs. 80 but in fact gets Rs. 90 a month) goes up to Rs. 150 or even more. I congratulate the Honourable Minister for Education on this achievement. Sir, this reform has been appreciated by all, because these teachers are the *gurus* of our future M.L.As. and Ministers; they are the people who are to train and develop the manhood of the province. But there are other reforms which are not so well known or the significance of which is not so well appreciated. Most of us do not realise the revolution that is being affected in regard to the system of education in the Province beneath our very nose. We do not see it just because it is under our very nose. For generations we have been criticising, and criticising to the point of saturation, our system of education

[D. B. S. P. Singha.]

calling it a defective system of education. I am glad to say that the Punjab has again given a lead in this matter under the guidance of our able Education Minister with the loyal support of the officers of the Education Department. Instead of repeating the parrot cry of complaint, they have rolled up their sleeves and done something practical. Our Minister selected a team of efficient and expert educationists under the capable captaincy of Mr. Armstrong assisted by his talented Deputy, Rai Bahadur Man Mohan, and charged it with the task of overhauling the entire primary and middle school courses. We have now a course which is in keeping with modern needs and requirements. Encouragement of handicraft, introduction of industrial hobbies and the employment of means to bring out the latent faculties of the child is a prominent feature of the new order of things. Another innovation is the introduction of refresher courses for vernacular teachers. We know we used to laugh at the vernacular teachers, of course, for no fault of theirs, as they did not have opportunities to develop and keep their knowledge up-to-date. We shall now be able to laugh with them, not at them. Our entire system of training teachers has been revolutionised. And rightly so, because if we want to improve our education, we must first improve our method of training teachers who are to impart that education. To give a practical shape to their ambitions, the Education Department has adopted the plan to have one model school per tahsil per year. We have now 113 such model schools to be copied by others. These schools have cent. per cent. trained staff, playgrounds, medical examination of every boy, dispensaries and besides industrial hobbies, agricultural farms worked by boys—thus having an industrial as well as a rural bias. Apart from these reforms in education proper, there is another laurel to which our Education Minister is entitled and that is the inauguration of a drive to drive out illiteracy from the province. If he had done nothing else, his driving interest in this movement, popularly known as adult education, would have been enough to conserve for him an honoured place in the annals of the history of education in the Punjab. But it is a sad spectacle to contemplate that this movement which promised to spread like wild fire is showing signs of fizzling out for lack of funds. What is the total grant provided for this great work? Apart from the amount of Rs. 22,800 recurring, we have been provided with Rs. 15,000 only for this purpose. This meagre sum comes to Rs. 500 per district which is less than *kani kauri* per adult in the province. This parsimony cannot be justified on the ground that the Government is already spending too much on education. The total provision in the budget is Rs. 1,70,41,100 for the year 1943-44. This includes a fairly large sum of a transitory nature, i.e., dearness allowance paid direct and through the District Boards. Deducting that, the amount that is left is only Rs. 1,64,24,100. I want to bring it to the notice of the House that in 1931-32—i.e., the year before the deficit year when there were many drastic cuts—the amount provided for education was Rs. 1,67,85,000. That is, we are spending Rs. 3½ lakhs less than the pre-autonomy days. That we are able to do much more with much less is no argument. Premium should not be placed on efficiency. I shall not speak any further on this subject. I feel sure the House is with me in hoping that our Education Minister will not be content with the present basis of the financial provision and thus truly reflect the sentiments of the Province's intelligentsia.

I now come to my annual cry, although I am beginning to think that it is a cry in the wilderness—the cry on behalf of my community. I am sorry the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram is not here as this cry in the main, will, I believe, remain a cry in the wilderness as long as it does not reach his ear and touch his heart. Anyhow I am glad the Honourable Premier is here. I shall not take the time of the House by setting forth in detail our grievances. I ask the Premier, I urge him, I plead with him to read my speeches of 16th March 1938 and 14th March 1940. He is a soldier. He is a frank, honest man. He takes pride in weighing everything in a scale and giving every one his rightful "*haq*". Let him consider the case of my community as presented by me in my previous speeches. Let him then consider what trouble the Government has taken to meet our grievances. I shall let him be the judge. If he finds the scale of justice still tilted against us, I expect his soldier conscience to impel him to act. If he can right the balance by 75 per cent or say 50 per cent., nay, even 25

per cent., I shall consider it a great advance, a very real advance. There is one special point I should like to refer to. I am glad the Government has introduced the bloc system. I personally believe in appointments on the basis of merit. But if appointments have to be made on a communal basis, I do not think we can have a better system than the one introduced by the Unionist Ministry. But I must add that justice demands that the place in the bloc system, i.e., as to which community should come first, which second, which third and so on, should not be fixed on an *ad hoc* basis, uniformly applicable to all Departments. It should be seen in which particular Department, which particular community is predominant and which community is under-represented, and the community which is under-represented, that community's turn should come later in the scale, the proportion remaining the same. I have been referring to this aspect of the question year after year, but it has had no effect. For example, I shall quote the instance of the Forest Department. For the last four or five years I have been drawing the attention of the Government and before me Mr. Mayadas and still before him Mr. Rallia Ram have been drawing the attention of the Government to the paucity of Christians in the Forest Department. I do not know what is sacrosanct in the Forest Department that its doors are so tightly shut against us. Qualified young men have always been available in our community, and never has a candidate of our community been rejected on ground of want of qualifications. The fact is that our share has been snatched and given to one or the other of the stronger community that needed to be placated at the time. Our share has been confined to clerical jobs only and to a few crumbs in connection with war appointments. Last time when Sir Chhotu Ram was the Minister, one of the candidates of my community who was an M.Sc. and a highly qualified man and who happened even to be an agriculturist, applied to the Department in response to an advertisement calling for applications from specified communities, including the Christians. But at the interview he was rejected because he was a Christian and no Christian was to be appointed. I made a protest and I was promised that the next year a Christian would be taken. But the next year the Minister changed. So I have to start the story once again. Similarly, there are some other departments, where somehow in spite of the bloc system the Christians have not been able to secure a square deal. I would therefore appeal to the Honourable Premier to look into this question. Under existing conditions the principle underlying the bloc system is good. But the bloc system should be made to work and the place of a community in the bloc should be justly regulated according to the existing over-representation or under-representation of a community. While on this theme, I would advise the Honourable Education Minister to make it clear without any scope for ambiguity, that the bloc system is meant for all services, including the Educational services for women.

I do not propose to go into the details of other grievances of our community, even though there are scores of them, as I have often enumerated them before. But there is one suggestion which I have been making so often to which I must refer, as I do not know why the Government has not given effect to it. It has not definitely said "No" either. It has been saying, "Yes, we are going to do so", but it has never done so. This suggestion is the appointment of a Committee or to ask one of the Parliamentary Secretaries, who get pay for doing nothing (*hear, hear*) to do some work, to look after the interests of the minorities, I mean specially the scheduled castes and Indian Christians in the villages. They are all the time complaining of *zulum*. There may be truth in the complaints or there may not be. But what reply are we to give them when they bring their complaints to our notice? I have, therefore suggested and suggest once again that a committee or one of the Parliamentary Secretaries should go into these complaints. Then there will be somebody whose business it would be to send the complaints to the Deputy Commissioners or to a special officer for investigation. Then it would be somebody's business to send reminders and to see that we get a reply to the complaints. These poor people also will feel that they have a *mai baap*. The petty officials will also begin to realize that they cannot do or countenance *zulum* on these poor village people with impunity. I hope this question will be considered very seriously. Three years ago I was told that Mir Maqbool Mahmood was appointed Secretary of a committee to scrutinise the grievances of the humble minorities. He made a collection of these. But what became of that committee, I do not know. Now, I may say that we have decided

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that if the Government does not appoint such a committee we shall appoint one ourselves. We shall invite a group of public men to take part in the investigation of the grievances of scheduled castes and Indian Christians in the rural areas. As a member of the Unionist Party, I do sincerely hope that it will not be necessary. A report, however dismal, frankly set forth by a committee appointed by Government, will bring credit to the Ministry. A similar report through another source compiled for the purpose of drawing the attention of Government to a dismal situation, will be regarded as an indictment of the Ministry. No Ministry at the present state of India's awakening can afford to ignore the poor. It may be true that somehow people do not care for matters concerning the poor. We are all used to the idea that the landlord is the malik and the kamin or the tenant is his slave. It is a theory one may honestly believe in. Every person has a right to his belief. But the present Government has been saying that they are socialistic in their outlook and that they want to raise the standard of the people. If so, they must go about their business in a business like and honest way. The zamindara Government has a duty towards the workers who make their zamindari possible.

Next I come to the question of wells. I was hoping to ask for a grant of Rs. 10,000 for wells for Indian Christians in the villages. Christians who are educated and well off are just a handful living in cities. Ninety-five or 96 per cent. of our Christian population is living in rural areas. The problem of Indian Christians in the villages in respect of wells is the same as that of the scheduled castes. Yet we have never been given this help of a grant for our wells. I have claimed on the floor of this House that we do not want a *bakhshish* grant, and that in most cases we are prepared to meet 50 per cent. of the cost by public subscription if the Government would contribute the other 50 per cent. In this connection I would read to the House a letter which one of our Christian Editors the Editor of the "Almaida", recently received for publication. It got to my hands only a few days ago. I have not had time to verify the facts. Though I can vouch for the fact that our difficulty in regard to drinking water is a very real one, I cannot say how far the picture portrayed in the letter is accurate and to what degree exaggerated. I have no reason to doubt the *bona fides* of the writer. In any case it is truly indicative of the strong feeling which exists on the subject. It is time that some heed was paid to it. Every time that I allude to the matter in my speech, I get verbal response in the lobby, but no grant for the purpose finds a place in the Budget. I shall now read some extracts from the letter.

پانی کی اشد ضرورت تو ہر انسان کو ہے ۔ میرا تجربہ اور مشاہدہ ہے کہ پنجاب  
بہر کے بہت سے گاؤں میں غریب اقلیتوں اور غریب مسیحیوں کو صاف پانی بھی آسانی  
سے نہیں ملتا ۔ اور اگر ملتا بھی ہے تو زمینداروں کے بڑے احسان کے  
عمد ۔

\* \* \* \* \*

بڑے احسان کے ساتھ وہ یہ اجازت دیتے ہیں کہ عورتیں گھڑے لائیں اور (کوئیں) کے  
نزدیک رکھیں تب پانی بہنے والے ان میں پانی بہر دیں ۔ غریب عورتیں خواہ پانی بہنے  
والوں اور مالک عورتوں سے کتنی ہی صاف کیوں نہ ہوں ۔ تو بھی وہ کوئیں پر نہیں چڑھ  
سکتیں ۔ بہت دفعہ یہ احسان اسی وقت تک ہوتا ہے جب تک غریب لوگ ان کے اشاروں  
پر چلیں ۔ جونہی کبھی وہ ان کی مرضی کے خلاف ہوئے ۔ پانی بند ۔ کوئیں تو  
بہر کنار وہ گھڑے جن میں نہر کا پانی ڈالا جاتا ہے اور ان کے گرد ایک چھوٹی سی کچی  
دیوار بنائی ہوتی ہے ۔ ان میں سے بھی مسیحی لوگ پانی نہیں بہر سکتے ۔ وہاں سے بھی  
سکھ یا مسلمان ماشکی ہی بہر کر دے سکتے ہیں ۔

کتنے جب چاہیں اس میں سے پانی جائیں یا غسل کر جائیں - مگر غریب مسیحی نہیں بہرہ سکتے -

سیمہ ناگ چک نمبر ۲ < ۲ ایک اور زندہ مثال ہے - مجھے بھی وہاں سیعی خادم ہو خدمت کرنے کا موقع ملا - وہاں مسیحی لوگ گڑھے سے پانی پانی نہیں بہرہ سکتے - ایک دفعہ مہمان آئے ہوئے تھے - مسلمان ماشینی بیمار تھا - اور پانی ملنا مشکل تھا - میں جا کر گڑھے میں سے پانی بہرہ لیا - بس پھر کیا تھا سارے کھڑوں میں ہلچل مچ گئی - اور لوگ اکٹھے ہو گئے کہ اب کیا کریں - ہمارا مذہب خراب دیا -

In a place where ignorance is so rife and true dictates of religion not understood, such grievances are a reality and have to be faced. Last year our late lamented leader gave me an assurance that if I could mention a Muslim village, he would make it his personal concern to put matters right. He considered it a slur on his religion to recognise or tolerate Christians being treated on a *chhoot* basis. He said that if his co-religionists anywhere had been misguided, it was not a matter for State action, but it was the personal duty of true Muslims to bring home to their brethren the folly of their ways. Regarding other places, he said where District Board wells existed, he would see that stern action was taken to ensure the right of all alike to their use. For other villages where he recognised our difficulties were natural, he gave me hopes of a grant. I had a mind to make a strong protest against the omission, this year, but I was non-plussed on noticing that the grant previously given to the scheduled castes has even been left out this year. I hear a Minister saying that it has been restored. I am glad of that. It encourages me to hope that another ten thousand or rural Christians will also be added. It certainly should be, if the grant is made on the score of justice and is the outcome of true sympathy. But if it is not a question of justice and sympathy and is a question of votes, or if these speeches are merely for the satisfaction of members to let off some steam and there is no system to bring them later to the notice of the Ministers to ascertain whether any action is to be taken, then I am afraid the House will have to tolerate another speech from me next year. We shall wait to see.

Now, Sir, I shall take up one specific grievance. It is in connection with Shantinagar, tahsil Khanewal—Chak No. 72/10-R. It was in 1916 that this grant was made as a part of a scheme to allot land to depressed classes generally. The prices ranged between Rs. 240 and Rs. 300 per acre. Not a single village thus settled has been able to pay that price. In the 16th March 1938, I made an earnest appeal on the floor of this House. I was fortunate to touch the heart of that noble soul—the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia. He had several conferences with me after my speech and after a few months, he decided in his generosity and his wisdom, with the concurrence, I believe, of his colleagues, and in any case, I know, with the concurrence of the Honourable Minister of Finance, to reduce the price of the land from Rs. 300 to Rs. 100 per acre. He supplemented this concession by a further order, granting forthwith to all the Christians concerned hereditary tenancy rights. These over-burdened, hopeless, despondent human beings had the breath of life, of hope, of a free manhood breathed into them overnight. They ceased to be tenants at will. They ceased to bear the burden of an oppressive *malikana*, which was reduced by 75 per cent. They were assured of a permanent home, a permanent possession which could be handed down from generation to generation. And withal they were free to acquire proprietary rights on completing the payment of a reduced total price of Rs. 2,500 per square. Seven villages in the Montgomery district were thus given their charter of freedom. If for nothing else, for this act of generous statesmanship alone, the Unionist Ministry has earned the everlasting gratitude of my community. But, alas one ill-fated Christian village, Chak 72/10-R., in the

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Multan district, popularly known as Shantinagar, was left out in the cold. I was asked by the Department not to insist on the inclusion of this. It was my bad luck, it was the bad luck, i.e., of these unfortunate Christians of Shantinagar, that while I had visited the Montgomery district, I had not upto then visited the Multan district. I did not know the facts of the case. I got the impression and I know the Honourable Minister had the impression, that the problem of this village was quite different, that there it was not the poor run-of-the-mill Christian who had to make the payment, but that the money came out of the pockets of a missionary organisation, that it was a mission estate like Clarkabad in the Lahore district. I was told that a Missionary organisation which had acquired land and had settled a congregation thereon, in furtherance of their religious work, had no special claim to concessive rates and that if Government reduced the price for them, they would have to do the same for all religious organisations, and that the introduction of this element would unnecessarily complicate the issues and a decision on my main demand was likely to be delayed thereby. I therefore, agreed not to touch the question of Shantinagar. But on seeing my successful intervention on behalf of the Christians of the Montgomery district, the Multan district Christians lost no time in establishing contact with me. It was then that I came to realise the injustice that had been done to this village by leaving them out of consideration. I have been making efforts on behalf of them, but my efforts have necessarily been mild, as they were hindered by the special circumstances of the case. They are technically sub-lessees. They hold the land not direct from Government, but through the Salvation Army. It appeared to me advisable, therefore, that they should make a representation through the Salvation Army and I could then do all I would to support it. But for reasons which to an Indian must remain unfathomable, they did not succeed in getting the Salvation Army to forward their application. In October 1941, I organised a recruiting and war-effort conference at Okara. The Honourable the late Premier graced the function with his presence. He was very pleased to note the contribution the Shantinagar Christians, in spite of their poverty, had been making to the War Fund and commended the prominent part some of them had been taking in recruitment and other war work. He heard the story of their hardship in regard to the price of the land and agreed to receive a deputation through me at Lahore at a later date. Later he transferred the job of receiving the deputation to the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram, who was the right personage to deal with the matter. In the meanwhile, I tried to get in touch with the officiating Commissioner of the Salvation Army, who also happened to be the permanent officer-in-charge of the village. A more discouraging, a more disheartening, a more heartless interview of about three hours, I have never had in my life and pray, for the sake of my belief in the kindness of human nature, never to have again. How a man on half a square could support a family, pay mission dues, Government dues, and save enough towards the price was no concern of his. A man must suffer for producing so many children. If he was kicked out of the land, there was no justification for complaint. He should be thankful for the 20 or 25 years he had eaten from the land. That he had toiled and broken up difficult waste land was no consideration. If Government had been foolish enough to reduce the price for others, it was no reason to encourage them in repeating the folly. To gain the objective easily was bad for the soul and the job of a missionary is to look after the souls of their flock (and not their bellies, I believe is the implication). I had made a great mistake he said, in not making a cut motion and speaking ill of the Salvation Army, for the Army was born in opposition, flourished under opposition and abuse. They did not come out to India to win the gratitude of any one but to do their duty. Their reward was in heaven, not on this earth. What could I do in the face of such nobility, such other-worldliness of thought! My advice that a recommendation on the part of the Mission would remove misunderstanding from the mind of their flock and cement their mutual relationships and that if the case was hopeless, the discredit would only fall on my shoulders; that it was better that a politician who had the foolhardiness of rushing where angels feared to tread, should fail and fall, than that a mission should be misunderstood, was naturally bound to fall on deaf ears. I wish this had been all. But the good missionary took it into his head to see every official concerned, upto the Honourable



minister. What *mantras* he breathed, I have not been able to find, but the effect of this was that persons who had previously given evidence of regard towards me and considered me a level-headed man and a reliable advocate of the Christian community, began to assume an attitude of understanding pity. Almost in so many words they said "We admire you for championing the cause of your people, but we are afraid the cute simple-looking villager has bamboozled you. His case is not as pitiful as he has made you believe. He is well able to pay. Instead of pleading for him, warn him, for we understand that he threatens to stop payment of dues and this as you know is rebellion which cannot be tolerated."

The Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram received our deputation and promised to ponder. I felt shaky and ran to the beloved departed Leader whom we had learnt to regard as our *jae pannah*, our refuge and sheet anchor. He told me to tell Sir Chhotu Ram from him that if he did not think that Rs. 2,500 was the right price for the land in this particular case, he may charge a little more, say Rs. 3,000. I conveyed the message through the Honourable Minister's Parliamentary Secretary, Chaudhri Tika Ram. I also conveyed through him my humble request that if he was not favourably impressed by the case as represented by the deputationists, he should be kind enough not to pass final orders before consulting the Premier. After a time I got a communication in the negative from the Honourable Minister. Whether the Honourable Minister consulted the Premier or not, or if he did what transpired at the conference, I do not know. But I did not lose heart. For while my subsequent references to the topic with the Honourable Minister gave me no reason to cherish any hope, my mention of the matter to the Premier gladdened my ears by hearing the words "*theek ho jaega*". I bided my time and had great hopes that at the Budget session I shall have an opportunity to explain the case fully and to make a final appeal. What was a certainty then, is a toss-up now, for the champion of the poor and of the underdog is amidst us no more. The Shantinagar Christians are ill-fated indeed. It was not Sikander's way to give hopes and let one down later. It is not the way of Sir Chhotu either. But the trouble is that he has not committed himself as had done Sir Sikander. But though I am no more sanguine, I am not despondent either. I have the toss-up feeling as I have said. The favourable chance lies in the character of Sir Chhotu Ram. His *yea* is *yea*, but his *nay* is not *nay*. If I can succeed in convincing him, in touching his heart, I feel sure he will be willing to review the case. But before I have any chance of success, he must allow himself to consider the matter with an open mind. It is not an open mind to start with the thesis that a Minister's duty is not to "*urrao*" money, but to "*sambhalo*" it and that a contract is a contract. It does not lie in the mouth of a Unionist to speak of the sanctity of a contract even when the contract is inequitable. The Restitution of Mortgages Act is an example of equity superseding the formality of a contract. A poor practising agriculturist will put his thumb even to fifty thousand rupees to be paid in instalments, as long as he is given possession of a square of land. Would it be right to enforce such a contract? Moreover, I am asking for nothing novel, nothing unprecedented. Price in similar circumstances has already been reduced. In fact of all the grants made about that time, this poor village is the only solitary instance where they are required to pay the price at the rate then fixed. Thousands of others have had the concession which these unfortunates crave. Seven Christian villages where the price was reduced from Rs. 7,500 per square to Rs. 2,500 per square I have already mentioned. In Arya Nagar too, the village adjoining Shantinagar, the price has been reduced to Rs. 2,500, even though it be that this is in the form of a re-allotment. But this is not all. These settlers were poor deserving people. It was but in keeping with the spirit of the grant that the price be reduced to manageable dimensions. But what about the other cases? I have here in my hand an official notification entitled "*Ishtihar—Ra'ayat Nilam 1925*". In 1925, in this very district of Multan, land had been allotted by auction and tender. Prices soared high. They ranged from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per acre—double and quadruple of the price at which these poor Christians agreed to hold the land. It was later found that these tenderers and bidders who in their anxiety to get hold of land had offered such high prices, were unable to pay the required instalments. The price was reduced to Rs. 100 per acre. Sir, these beneficiaries were not members of the depressed classes or poor Christians or deserving



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landless men of other communities. They were mostly rich men—men who had retired from service with good savings, *sahukars* who had plenty of money to invest, absent landlords who are never tired of adding to their landed possessions. When the price of these well-to-do people who had agreed to pay a certain price with open eyes has been reduced to Rs. 100 per acre, what justification can there be for insisting on the pound of flesh from these poor, humble persons, most of whom have nothing else in the world, but this piece of land which they have broken and tilled and nurtured as the apple of their eye? Is it the rigour of the law, the sanctity of contract, reserved for these helpless beings only? Is it like reserving a canon to kill a sparrow.

Sir, the powers that be, may shift their ground and say, that the consideration of this matter is *ultra vires*. We have no concern with these Christians. We have dealings with the Salvation Army only. Their quarrel lies with the Mission, not with the Government. So this would be a subterfuge unworthy of a Government representing a Party, which takes pride in its sympathy with the lot of the tiller of land. We must face the question fair and square. We must consider reality, not formality. We must go into the fundamentals of the grant. Was the grant made for the benefit of developing the work of a Mission or for the benefit of a suppressed rural people? There is no need to indulge in conjectures. The Colony Manual makes the position crystal clear. In the edition dated 1933, paragraph 235 page 110, a reference is made to the success of the experiment tried in the Lower Chenab Colony in settling Christians on cultivative land. A reference is also made to the recommendation of Sir Michael Fenton for "the reservation of 30,000 acres for Christians". Please note the land was to be reserved for Christians, not for missionary bodies. The Manual says:

"The Punjab Government accepted the main idea, but did not wish to restrict the grants to Christian missionary bodies, but to allot them for the benefit of the depressed classes generally, through the Societies whether missionary or other, engaged in preaching the welfare of these classes".

The Societies were to be the trustees, the agents of Government. But experience had shown that the Missions were spiritually the losers by undertaking this worldly responsibility. The administrative work involved ill accorded with their religious duties. Misunderstandings arose which had serious repercussions on their real missionary work. In consequence it is recorded in the Manual at page 111.

"In the case of the protestant bodies, allotments were made direct to their nominees, the missionary Societies being unwilling to become Government tenants themselves. The grantees entered into an agreement to pay the purchase money in equal instalments spread over 30 years and in the meantime held as Government tenants under a statement of conditions".

As regards the Salvation Army, it is recorded thus on page 111:

"It is mainly because the settlers nominated by the other Christian bodies are being treated as direct purchasers that the Salvation Army demurs to the withholding of this privilege in the case of its nominees. But in the case of the other organisations by whom settlers will be selected there already exists satisfactory proof in the villages on the Lower Chenab Canal which they have colonized that their communities can produce colonists of a satisfactory type capable of undertaking successfully all the responsibilities of colonization. The Financial Commissioner was also influenced by the fact that residents in the Montgomery district are members of these missionary bodies, well known to the local civil officers, and that they will be specially concerned to organize and control the settlers belonging to their creed. In the case of the Salvation Army, on the other hand, the Financial Commissioner has no assurance as to the origin, type or status of the individuals who will be selected. The area which is to be disposed of to the Salvationists is comparatively much larger than they would be entitled to receive if regard were had to their numbers in the total Christian population. In their case the allotment is essentially an experiment—an experiment which would not be attempted but for the remarkable organising powers displayed by the Salvation Army as a corporate body and by its head, Mr. Booth Tucker himself. Only therefore by treating the Salvation Army in its corporate capacity as the responsible alien in this case can Government feel assured that the duties and obligations entailed by the grant, extending as they do over a long period of 30 years before the sale transaction is complete, will be satisfactorily discharged by the persons of unknown antecedents and probably non-descript stature who will be brought in to cultivate the land".

From this it will be seen that there is not a shadow of doubt that Chak 72/10-R., is not a jagir to the Salvation Army. It is not even a conditional present, dependent on their employing Christian tenants. It is the Christian cultivator who matters. It is for him that the land is given. It is for his benefit that an experienced agency is chosen. He is not to

remain a tenant of Government, much less of the agency selected by Government, but is to become the proprietor when after 30 years he has paid off the price. Because of the wording of the letter conveying the allotment, because of the condition that Government will have no direct responsibility towards the sub-tenants, the Salvation Army today holds that it was an act of kindness, perhaps of foolish kindness, to make agreements with the Christian sub-tenants that when they have paid off the price in 30 or 35 years, they will become maliks. This is an arrogant attitude, an erroneous attitude which has no real basis. The Christians are not there because of the Salvation Army, the Salvation Army is there because of the Panjabi Christians. And why is the Salvation Army there in this paramount state? It is not because it had any special virtue as compared with other missions. It is because a share was sought to be given even to that part of the Christian community regarding whom the Government had "no assurance as to the origin, type or status, persons of unknown antecedents and probably non-descript status". And the Salvation Army was *par excellence* the specialists in dealing with such people. But though specialists, they were meant to be trustees, not proprietors. The letter conveying to them the allotment, must not, cannot be taken as an isolated document standing on its own strength. It must be taken in context with the genesis of the matter. It is a corollary to Sir Michael Fenton's recommendation and the Government's decision as recorded in the Punjab Colony Manual. I think I have thrown sufficient light on the legal and moral position of their status. But, Sir, even this status, the Salvation Army holds under false colours. I claim that the Christians of Shantinagar do not belong to the category of non-descripts of unknown antecedents, origin and type. I challenge the Government to make a sifting enquiry. I claim that if the Government is satisfied that the Christians of Shantinagar, on the whole, are of the same or better established antecedents and origin, than the Christians of the seven liberated villages of Montgomery district, or the Christian villages of Sheikhpura and Lyallpur districts, then I have won the right to demand a sympathetic intervention on the part of Government. If I am right, then the very *raison d'être* of the Salvation Army control ceases to have any justification. That I am right will be *prima facie* apparent from the very fact that in no other Christian village in the Punjab has any Christian an original allotment of four, three or even two squares as is the case in Shantinagar. Some of the settlers belong to families well known in the community. The fact is that the reason why the Salvation Army first demurred to act as trustees was that they were unwilling to invest the cash which the Government required as an advance instalment and their own congregation was too poor to produce. They, therefore, canvassed the well-to-do in other denominations and gave them generous share in land on condition that they paid up a much larger advance than the Government conditions required. They were thus able to collect sufficient money to pay the total amount of advance demanded by Government. About fifty per cent. of the settlers had had no prior connection with the Salvation Army.

And now, Sir, let me tell you a little about the way in which the trusteeship has been discharged by the Salvation Army. I refer you to my question No. 8123 and the reply thereto—to the truth, the half truths, the omissions, evasions and suppressions contained therein. Time is short and I have already taken too long. I should have liked to expose the *hocus pocus* in detail. But I shall content myself with a rapid survey of the situation. There is no *shamlat deh* in connection with the village mentioned in revenue papers. While the Mission is under agreement to pass on proprietary rights to the Christian tenants then they have completed the payment of the price of the land under their cultivation, the position in regard to the village site has been left obscure. The tenants are charged the instalment due on the basis of the full price payable to Government, but the receipt given shows this payment to be "rent". The idea presumably is, that even when the villagers acquire proprietary rights over the cultivated land, they may remain under the thumb of the mission, as they will not own the village site and the ground on which their houses are built. The tenants have to pay heavy compulsory contributions towards the mission activities in the village. And though the Government reply to my question denies, it is nevertheless a solemn fact that these mission dues take precedence over Government dues. The Honourable Minister has

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been shown documentary evidence in support of the contention. For example, if the *muamla* is Rs. 150 and Mission dues Rs. 50, and a zamindar shows two receipts of the same date—one for Rs. 50 for mission dues and one for Rs. 100 as partial payment of the *muamla*, what does it mean? Does it not mean that the missionary has first deducted the Mission dues and let the Government dues fall in arrears? It is an easy way of ensuring that Mission dues are not evaded, for Government dues in any case cannot be withheld long with impunity. It is also interesting to note that 12 per cent interest is charged on arrears of all kinds. Then there is the spare land in the cemetery and four squares reserved for village extension and sanitation. Though the villagers have to include the price of these in their instalments, the land is cultivated by the Mission and the income goes to Mission funds. There is no indication of any kind that the land will ultimately be transferred to the village. The plan appears to be that these should remain the property of the Mission. Then, Sir, worse than all, the land is gradually coming to be utilised for a purpose for which it was not intended. I feel sure, Sir, you will agree, that when a settler is ousted for a breach of agreement with the Mission, his place should be taken by another Christian with whom the Mission should make a similar agreement, that he would get proprietary rights on payment of the price in instalments. But this is not what has been happening in this village. Such land is not re-allotted, but kept back as a source of income for the Mission. My information is that sixteen squares of land are thus being cultivated for the benefit of mission funds and potential Christian settlers, for whom the land is really intended, are being deprived of the privilege. I wanted to be sure of my figures, but the Government has evaded a reply. It is disgraceful that they should say that the information is not available. It is their business to know how many Christian settlers have been expelled and whether their place has been taken by other Christians, for if the land is not being re-allotted, then at least half the village will become a mission estate, for it is as certain as the night follows the day, that all the poorer section of the original settlers will have disappeared from the scene when the time for the grant of proprietary rights comes, for the men with half a square or even those with one square who are now dead, leaving behind several sons, can never, never be in a position to pay regularly for 30 years the instalment at the existing Government rates, for there is little left to pay after a man has fed his family and paid the Government and the mission dues. Fortunately, the Salvation Army seems to be changing its policy since they became aware of the questions I have asked regarding their trusteeship. They have some more expulsions in hand and have advertised for applications to fill the vacancies that will be thus caused. I wish I had time enough to read out the conditions—especially as some novel ones have been introduced.

Speaking of these expulsions, Sir, I would like to rouse the conscience of Government, that is, if it is possible to rouse the conscience of the mighty on behalf of the poor when they are being oppressed, by another wielder of might. Is it right, in this year 1943, when our minds are stirred to their very depths, to take up cudgels in the defence of justice and fairplay, that the Government should take refuge behind the excuse of having no direct dealings with the Christian settlers? If the claims of the Unionist Party on behalf of zamindars, which should include even their humble Christian brothers, are not a sham and a vote-catching device, then it is their duty to intervene and to see that no injustice is perpetrated. A group of men are under notice to quit, for being in arrears in payment of instalments towards the price of the land. Beg, borrow or steal, they have collected the required amount and though the elders of the community have intervened and pleaded, the payment is not accepted. That sufficient indulgence has already been shown, is no reasonable argument, when full payment is being now offered, especially as heavy interest is charged during the period of indulgence. Twenty seven years of connection with the land, starting when it was in a virgin state, is not a consideration which should be brushed aside like this. And the irony of the situation is that the courts are required to enforce the decision of the arbitrator, who is himself also the complainant. It is part of the agreement with the Christian settlers that the Head of the Mission will be the arbitrator when there is dispute between the Mission

Directorate and the Christian tenants. I doubt if it is legally valid. I have no doubt it is immoral.

The replies to my Assembly questions, obviously dictated by the local Salvation Army Officer, justify all the financial oppressions and deprivations of rights on the ground, that the money earned by the Salvation Army is utilised for the benefit of the Indian Christians themselves. Does Government really believe in this justification? If so, may the good Lord have mercy on the Punjab! We have on this basis no right to dream of independence. We should rather pray for the perpetuation of the good, old efficient rule, when so much was done for our benefit. Foreign domination, if in the interest of the ruled, should on this basis never be objected to. The domination of the village by the Salvation Army is killing the very soul of the people, sapping their manhood. "*Pet ki khatar*", they have to submit to restrictions under which no other part of the community suffers. It is a heinous crime for these people even to become members of any progressive organisation of the community. They dare not hold a meeting of the Indian Christian Association there. I may go there in my capacity as a member of the Assembly, but none may invite me as President of the Indian Christian Association. The sooner this false atmosphere ends the better. It will be good for the community and good for the Salvation Army. Both will re-find their souls. The Salvation Army does not realise that they are harming their real mission work by dabbling in worldly power. They have no means to learn from the experience of other missions, as they are like a lone wolf. They do not participate in the amity of Missions. They are not members of the United Church and Mission Councils of other denominations. I feel exceedingly sorry to speak of the Salvation Army as I have done. The Salvation Army as such is a unique organisation. I admire it intensely. I have supported it morally and financially. I continue to believe in its utility and its future. My criticism is limited to this one particular unfortunate incident in its history. Here they have gone beyond their depth. This was not a settlement of criminal tribes. The methods they have found successful in that sphere can only bring them discredit when applied to a normal village like Shantinagar. I wish it had been possible to leave the Salvation Army out altogether from the presentation of my case. But I could not help it. Apart from the fact that I hate to speak badly of any mission, this is the unwise thing I have done for myself for it may cost me many votes. But it was a duty I had to discharge and whether I win or lose, I think I have done right in causing the case of Shantinagar being placed on the record of this august House. However, Sir, my real quarrel is with the Government. They are the real trustees of the minorities and of the suppressed classes. Are they doing their duty to my community? Are they being fair to us? Are they justified in their attitude of non-intervention? Are they right in their shyllock-like demand of the pound of flesh from us, when they have shown such humanity to all others?

Sir, may I plead through you that Government should consider the case of Shantinagar sympathetically? They should reduce the price to Rs. 2,500 as they have done in the case of thousands of others, even those who were richer and better placed. They must also remember that thousands of others, Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh peasants who were given allotments at the same time as the Christians and the scheduled castes, had from the very outset been asked to pay only Rs. 2,500 per square. The old Government had deliberately fixed a higher price for the suppressed classes. The record in the Colony Manual reads thus—

"These proposals (—that is to settle the Christians and scheduled castes) were accepted by the Punjab Government, and though the arrangements actually made differed in different cases there was this feature common to all that full market value was to be charged as compared with the half market value, subject to a maximum charged to ordinary peasant colonist".

This was done in pursuance of a deliberate policy. The Manual records the reason thus—

"As it was undesirable that Government should use its position as the proprietor of large tracts in such manner as to upset the existing social and economic..... might be authorised to give a definite negative to the expectations of certain missionary bodies that land would be allotted to landless Christians on terms similar to the ordinary peasant terms".

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In the pre-autonomy days this attitude was understandable and it was a liberal act for landless Christians to be given land at all whatever the price. But much water has passed under the bridge since then. Socialism is in the air. The Unionist Party is pledged to champion the cause of the suppressed classes specially. A *bradri* of zamindars has been brought into conscious being and Christians of certain districts, including the district in which Shantinagar is situated have been admitted to the *bradri*. They are regarded as as good and genuine peasants as those belonging to any other religion. Where then is now the justification to demand from them more than double the price which other peasants had to pay on the simultaneous allotment of land?

If, however, the Government is averse to disgorging money already received let it be content with the money already received. It is over Rs. 4,000 per square.

But in the case of those who are in possession of half a square only, the price charged in any case should not be more than Rs. 2,500 even if it means some refund. These people could not have afforded to pay the heavy instalments and are under a debt with heavy interest in making a part of the payment they have made.

As regards those who have two squares or more, there is I admit no case on the score of poverty. But they have a strong case on the score of equity. When others like the rich people who obtained land in the auction of 1925 have been charged Rs. 2,500 only, what harm is there in treating them on the same basis? If, however, the lot of the Christians has to be hard, then for God's sake, give those who are able to pay, their freedom at least. Issue an order that they will not have to wait till the completion of 80 years, now extended to 85 years. The Salvation Army should be authorised and required to let them have the proprietary rights as soon as they have paid the price in full. May God grant our Government wisdom to do justice in the matter.

**Minister of Education** (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye): Mr. Speaker, on Thursday last it was my friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal who initiated this discussion. Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal occupies a unique position in this House. Some gentlemen say that he is a common factor of the various parties in this House. You, Sir, being a scholar of Punjabi or I may call it Gurmukhi, would translate the common factor as *sanjhi billi*. (An honourable member: Fifth columnist). I am afraid we do not allow any fifth columnist on this side of the House. He sits at the edge of the Unionist bloc and is a creature of circumstances and, more often than not, is affected by environments. The point from where the Opposition begins is very close to him. (Laughter). On Thursday he assumed the roll of the Leader of the Opposition, no doubt in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition. He was well briefed, he had only asked his Manager to prepare the brief for him as he admitted before me half an hour ago, but his facts were not correct.

**Sardar Santokh Singh**: It is unparliamentary to say that he had a draft written by his Manager.

**Mr. Speaker**: That is unparliamentary.

**Minister**: I withdraw. I did not mean any disrespect. I thought it was his intention that I should offer this explanation on his behalf. This is what I understood. On one side he criticised us and said, "Why do you embarrass the Public Service Commission, who do you every time require them to recommend names according to the various communities" and in the same breath he turned round and criticising the Government said, "You have been in office for six years and the non-Muslims have not had a fair deal at your hands". I gave him credit for the research done by him. He went as far back as 1937 and he quoted figures for each year to show that at the hands of this Government the non-Muslims had not had a square deal. I am afraid the facts and figures quoted by him were not correct. He was then referring to the Provincial Civil Medical Service. He said that in 1937 thirteen officers were recruited out of whom only four were non-Muslims. The correct figures are that 12 officers were recruited and the number of the non-Muslims was no doubt only four. But the present Government can scarcely be criticised for this. We were not, in office

throughout the year 1937. This order was passed by my predecessor and at the time they had no set policy as regards the share of the various communities in the public service. What was then pointed out to my predecessor was that the Muslims in 1937 had only 88 per cent share in this service and the Honourable Minister ordered that they should be recruited to the extent of 66 per cent. Then the Rai Bahadur said that in 1938 out of four officers there was only one Hindu and the rest were all Muslims. I have to inform the honourable member that this Government made no recruitment in 1938. The Rai Bahadur again said that in 1939 fourteen officers were recruited. There again he is wrong. I have to point out that in 1938 and 1939 no recruitment was made. In 1940, according to Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal, fourteen officers were recruited. In fact they were fifteen and out of them eight were Muslims and four were Hindus and three were Sikhs. In 1941 the total number recruited was 20 and the Muslims were 10 and non-Muslims 10. In the year 1942, 40 officers were recruited and Muslims were 20 and non-Muslims 20. I hope my honourable friend, when he raises a question of this importance in future, will make sure of his facts before stating them on the floor of the House. I am always at his service; if he has got any doubts he can come to me and I shall always give him the necessary information.

I have just a few words to say in reply to what Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha has said. Before I say anything I have to submit that ever since 1937, our relations with the University have been of a very happy and cordial nature. It is true that during this period some requests had been made and that all of them have not been granted. As regards the grants that have been made available to the University, the salient fact stands out that in 1937 the total of this grant was Rs. 2,76,000 and today it stands, according to Mr. Singha's own admission at Rs. 8,25,000. There has been an increase in the neighbourhood of 18 or 20 per cent. In 1937 when the University decided to have a whole time paid Vice-Chancellor and they had no money available to meet the cost, a request was made to the Punjab Government and the Government granted a cent per cent grant. Later on, in 1938 and 1939, a request was made for a grant of 30 thousand rupees to provide accommodation for Technical Chemistry Laboratory. The Government considered that request and were inclined to grant a cent per cent grant but in view of financial stringency, they decided to make two or three bites. Ten thousand rupees were made available and it was our intention to make a further grant in the succeeding years. Somehow or other, the University authorities were not able to make up their mind as regards the location of the Laboratory. It took some time and the ten thousand rupees which were paid to the University, remained with them. Later on, we not only allowed them to utilise this amount of ten thousand rupees, but made an additional grant of ten thousand rupees. In 1941, we gave them a grant—though not a cent per cent one—for a Science Museum. Later on, a grant of 1,500 rupees was made to the University to defray the expenses of the University Training Corps class. It was only last year that we gave them a grant of Rs. 8,500 to purchase that valuable collection of manuscripts and books which were being offered to the University by Professor Sherani. As regards those grants which we have not been able to make, they are grants like these: To construct a compound wall round the University Grounds, to make a grant to the University for purposes of constructing a Swimming Tank for ladies. These two were refused not only on financial grounds but even during normal days the Punjab Government would perhaps prefer to spend the money available on more useful purposes, such as primary education and the expansion of girls' education.

Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha has drawn my attention specifically to two items, namely the grant for pharmacy and the grant for geography. As far as pharmacy is concerned, it was pointed out to the University that a grant of this nature would not be admissible under the head "Education", but if they make a request to the Department of Industries or even to the Medical Department, it would be considered. If this request is made, I assure him that it will be considered on merits. As regards geography, the proposal was turned down by the Government solely on financial grounds. But now that we have got some surplus, I may give this assurance that if this request is repeated, we will be able to meet the University at least half way, and perhaps may be prepared not to wait for another year.

[Minister.]

but to anticipate the vote of this House and grant them this amount within a year. In view of what my honourable colleague, the Finance Minister, has done in the matter of raising salaries of the teachers, to which references have been made from all sides of the House, I was unable to press this demand before the House as the new scheme which has been introduced will cost the Government ultimately to the tune of 16 lakhs. I have nothing more to say.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Mr. Speaker, a great deal has been said from both sides of the House as to the General Administration. Honourable members, who spoke from the Ministerial benches, have also made a good many complaints. Some of them, like Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali and even Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad, were compelled to complain that this Government has done precious little to reduce the expenditure under the head 'General Administration'. Side by side with the increase in revenue, the expenditure under the head 'General Administration' has also risen. If this increase in expenditure had been under the beneficent departments, one would have nothing to complain, one would have nothing to grumble about, but as it is, most of this increase is devoured by salaries of the extra staff, by special pays and by special allowances. I will refer the House to pages nos. 98 to 106 of the Secretary's Memorandum. The peculiar feature of these pages and the explanations that are given therein is that generally the staff is first asked for a certain period. It is given, it is allowed. Then the renewal is applied for, that also is granted. Then again it is said that now it has become very necessary to have it as a permanent establishment. So after three stages, the staff, which was engaged originally only upto a certain date, becomes permanent and it adds to the burden of the provincial exchequer. That is my complaint and it has been rightly complained by the members from both sides of the House that this Government has done precious little to keep their expenditure under control or within bounds. Chaudhri Riasat Ali quoted facts and figures to show that although there were posts which could be dispensed with according to the report of the Retrenchment Committee, although the work in those departments has been retarded on account of war—it is certainly not making the same progress as it would have done in normal times—still far from reducing the staff this Government has gone out of its way and sanctioned more and more staff with the result that the expenditure has risen all round, and in some departments especially the Police, it has reached its climax and risen during the last 6 years by 72 per cent. With regard to this increase in the expenditure under Police, I will just quote a few extracts from the report of the Retrenchment Committee to show what the Honourable Finance Minister, the Chairman of that Committee and other members who were mostly the gentlemen belonging to the Ministerial benches, thought of the expenditure under Police. I am quoting from page 101. It is not my language, it is not the language used by anyone sitting on the Opposition benches, but it is the language of those who sit on the Ministerial benches, it is the language of a Committee presided over by the Honourable Finance Minister himself. It says :—

"But comparing the Punjab with other provinces it will be seen that the United Provinces with a corresponding staff are spending nearly a lakh less, and Madras and Bombay have but a total of 4 and 5 officers, respectively, in their Criminal Investigation Departments, compared with the 10 in the Punjab. Their budget provision too is much less than that of the Punjab. It cannot be said that the terrorist and other subversive movements have been more in evidence in the Punjab than in other provinces in India. It must also be remembered in this connection that the population of the United Provinces and Madras is more than twice that of this province. It is difficult, therefore, to justify the very big superior staff in this province".

Thus, Sir, is the report issued by the Retrenchment Committee in the year 1939. What has been its result? I should say it has been thrown into the waste paper basket. Rather than reduce staff, this Government has been pleased to sanction more superior posts, one after the other with the result that the expenditure under the head Police alone has gone up by 72 per cent during the last six years. That is not all. This Committee took pains to thoroughly investigate matters and further on, on page 108, they said :

"We therefore recommend that one post of Superintendent of Police in the Criminal Investigation Department should be abolished".



It is a very clear cut recommendation that one superior post must be abolished. Further on on the same page they say :

"We are of the same opinion as regards the Deputy Superintendents in the Criminal Investigation Department and recommend that one post of Deputy Superintendent should also be abolished, thus fixing the number at four."

That is not all. On page 106 they say :

"We would make no distinction between Indians and Europeans. But we strongly recommend that the cadre of European Sergeants as such should be abolished".

It is a very laudable thing indeed. But I do want to know as to what has come out of this recommendation. Was it made only on paper to please and hoodwink the public or has it been followed by any definite result? If nothing has been done, then we have a right to know as to who is the gentleman responsible for shelving this very important report.

Again, Sir, on page 107 they say—

"It was noticed that Government had created the post of Inspector General-Police, Traffic, whose duty it was to control.....and the committee sees no reason for the retention of this post".

Without being unnecessarily long I would bring to the notice of this honourable House that cut and dried recommendations, after thoroughly going through the state of affairs were made by the Committee some five years ago, but little did they know that instead of affecting retrenchment this wise government would go out of its way to add to the burden of the public exchequer. I have just said that the expenditure on Police in this province within the last six years has risen by 72 per cent and this notwithstanding the advice and notwithstanding this very lucid report of the Retrenchment Committee whose recommendations, if accepted, would have brought about considerable reduction in the expenditure to the great relief of the poor tax payer of the province. I therefore ask and ask with all the emphasis I can command as to who has been responsible for not taking action on the report of a committee which was presided over by the Honourable the Finance Minister himself. This point has been raised on the floor of the House more than once and luckily this time we have been helped by members speaking from the ministerial benches as well. They have at least felt that there was absolutely no reason why this report should be shelved without any action being taken thereon for such a long time. I think that time has come when Government in its own interest, and for its own fair name, should come out with an explanation for the delay caused in the way of the recommendations being accepted. May I in all humility and in the name of the poor tax payer appeal to the Premier that he should rise to the occasion and have this report gone into and whatever retrenchment if possible should be made without any further loss of time.

I have said, Sir, that if you peruse pages 98—107 of the Secretary's lucid memorandum you will come to the conclusion that there has been an increase in the salaries and the establishment all round. There was however a welcome reduction of Rs. 19,000 on account of pay of Parliamentary Secretaries, because some of the posts were kept in abeyance for some time. I am not concerned with the reasons why these posts were not filled, that might be due to rivalry among the prospective incumbents or due to other reasons with which I am not concerned. What I am concerned with is this, that if the posts could be kept unfilled for some time, is there any reason why they should not be kept unfilled for a much longer time? After all the Assembly is not meeting for very long. After last year's session there was only one session this year and for not more than three weeks. Is it necessary that there must be so much paraphernalia of Parliamentary Secretaries, not only Parliamentary Secretaries but Parliamentary Private Secretaries as well? Nothing would be lost if these posts are not filled, if not for ever, at least for a long time. Let the Ministers see whether it is necessary to burden the province with so much expenditure which to my mind does not seem to be doing any appreciable good. This is only a suggestion. I know the Government with a big majority at their back can do whatever they like. This big majority however makes it all the more necessary for the Government to see that not a penny was wasted which could be saved. I have made the suggestion in all sincerity to the Premier and hope he will give attention to it and if possible he will refrain from filling any unnecessary posts if he could do without them.



[S. Santokh Singh.]

Communal harmony is a very good thing and I do compliment the Government upon what little it has done for achieving it. The Government did not answer questions on the floor of the House simply because it suits them to say that they savour of communalism. On the one hand, they say this and on the other, admissions to the educational institutions are being made on communal basis. It is rather disgraceful that, on the one hand, you talk of communal harmony and at the same time you admit boys and girls to the educational institutions on communal basis. It really does not befit you to say that you are doing everything possible to bring about communal harmony in the province. I find to our shame that efforts have been made to change the established ratio in favour of one community to the detriment of others. I have been informed that in the medical school the number of students of a particular community has only recently been raised from 40 to 50 per cent. I do not know where all this will lead us to, and how do we expect to bring about communal harmony and restore goodwill among the people, when in all our actions we are guided by communal considerations alone?

I am glad that a good deal has been done by the Government for the national war front, but it is a matter of surprise to me that the national war front organiser is a non-Indian. I am sure that the ministerial benches will agree that in such an important matter the organiser should be an Indian. I only hope that now that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Premier something will be done to entrust this most important work to the charge of an Indian, whoever he may be. In such an important matter like this, we should have an Indian organiser for the national war front.

There is another matter which is agitating the mind of the public in the province and it relates to the stocks of food grains that have been acquired by the Government. The Government has gone out of its way in applying the Defence of India Rules and seizing the commodities of the dealers not that the Government wanted those commodities for the use of the poor but for making profits. Had they got those commodities for the use of the poor people of the districts, there might have been some justification in doing so. But the painful fact is that those commodities were requisitioned not for the benefit of the poor as I have said, but they were despatched to other districts with a view to make huge profits amounting to Rs. 2 or 3 per maund over them. I had a talk with the Honourable Minister for Development on this matter this morning. A considerable quantity of gram and wheat came from the Mianwali and Shahpur and other districts and were sold in Okara and Amritsar at huge profits. Is there any justification in treating the dealers in such an unsympathetic manner, I ask? We do know that the Defence of India Rules are very comprehensive and anything can be done and anybody can be hauled up and put behind the bars. But the Government should have some regard for the people whom they are placed under them, if for no other reasons than for its own fair name. I really fail to understand why Government should apply the Defence of India Rules in matters like this, and against one section of the people. The Honourable Minister shakes his head. Shaking his head will not do. He will have to come out with facts and figures to controvert what I am saying. I repeat, and I know this from personal knowledge, that from most of the places gram and wheat have been requisitioned under the Defence of India Rules and have been sold at huge profits. I am sure the Honourable the Finance Minister while preparing his balance sheet will bear in mind what I have said. Unless something goes wrong in the meantime with the quantity of wheat and gram taken, there is going to be a huge profit. I have nothing to say whether the Government make profits or incur losses, it is their own business; but to apply the Defence of India Rules for requisitioning commodities which are to be sold for making profits does require some explanation from the Government. The Honourable Development Minister will have to justify this action of his department and for doing so he will have to go through his facts and figures carefully, as he is dealing with one who is perhaps acquainted with all these things more than anybody else in this House.

There is another complaint that I have to bring to the notice of this House and that is that the efficiency of the Government officers is progressively deteriorating and that there-

as been too much of interference by the Government, even in matters which should have been the exclusive concern of its officers alone. One of the honourable members has just now handed over to me a case that was decided by the A. D. M., Lyallpur, with regard to 15 civil disobedience prisoners of Jaranwala. These gentlemen were sentenced to two years' imprisonment and appeals on their behalf have been filed in the High Court. Their file has not been sent to the High Court in spite of the demand made from the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner says that the file has gone to the Home Secretary and he cannot call for it from him. I really fail to see what the Home Secretary has to do with this file which is the subject matter of an appeal in the High Court.

**Premier :** May I submit that the matter is under the consideration of the High Court and is *sub-judice*. The honourable member cannot therefore make any reference to it in the House.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** I am not saying anything as to the merits of the case. The question of the production of the file is certainly not *sub-judice*.

**Premier :** It is for the High Court to send for the file and for the District Magistrate to produce it. The House has nothing to do with it.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** An appeal has been filed in the High Court and it is to be the misfortune of these people who are in jail that the file cannot be traced.

**Premier :** The honourable the Leader of the Opposition can leave the High Court to look after themselves. Why should he take up a matter which is under correspondence between the High Court and the District Magistrate?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** The High Court has already requisitioned the file from the District Magistrate.

**Premier :** The High Court can take suitable action.

**Mr. Speaker :** What has this House got to do with it? The matter is between the High Court and the District Magistrate.

**Premier :** The District Magistrate as such is under the High Court and it is a matter between the High Court and a subordinate officer of theirs.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** The Home Secretary is not subordinate to the High Court.

**Premier :** I said the District Magistrate.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** I will not deal with the matter any further but leave it to the public to judge for themselves whether it is not a case of undue interference on the part of the Government, and whether or not it amounts to progressive deterioration of the efficiency of the officers.

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat) : Sir, the General Administration Command always brings forth a lot of criticism from honourable members opposite. This time, unfortunately, the main Opposition being away, those who are here have tried their level best to fill the gap. I appreciate their efforts. It is an admitted fact that a democratic system of Government cannot function efficiently without constructive criticism. For the last two years members of the Ministerial Party have also been allowed to have their say. On the other day an honourable member from this side of the House had a talk with me and asked my permission to criticise the budget and I told him 'Yes, criticise, by all means.' But I regret to say that this time the standard of criticism has deteriorated a bit—I am particularly referring to criticism which attributes communalism to the Government as such. Communal outbursts can be easily avoided with advantage to both sides and this House has established a convention—and a very healthy one—that questions which are communal in nature should be treated as unstarred ones, so that their replies can be sent to honourable members and they are not agitated in the House. I am sure members on both sides of the House do realise their responsibility, and know perfectly well that by making bitter speeches they affect the atmosphere outside this House. Whenever such a speech started it acts like an echo, or infection and another takes it up and on it goes.

[Premier.]

If honourable members make a little allowance for others and keep their heads cool, I am sure most of the bitterness can be avoided. Of course fair criticism is always welcome and it affords us an opportunity to present to the public our side of the case.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Can you name anybody from the Opposition who has indulged in unfair criticism and abuse ?

**Premier :** I was referring to actors who unwillingly play into the hands of the opposition and in such a role there are bound to be slips. They are after all actors and not genuine performers.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Actors can be had from that side of the House and not from this.

**Premier :** I am glad to hear from the honourable member that he knows that the actors are not genuine.

Some of the points have been dealt with again and again by honourable members and I will therefore deal only with the important points that have been put forward. The first point made was that since we have a surplus budget, why should not the Sales Tax be remitted ? I would remind the House that we have already made many concessions so far as the Sales Tax is concerned, not because of the agitation but because those were justified. But the position at present is totally different. Though we have a surplus budget we have large expenditure to face on account of the war and otherwise also. Not only that. We have got dearness allowance to give to our staff which I am afraid will do away with most of the surplus which the Honourable Finance Minister has announced. (*An honourable member :* Has it not been accounted for in the budget ?) Some of it has been and some not, because the prices are rising, and as I said the other day another liberal dose of dearness allowance is at present under consideration. At the same time as you know enormous profits are being now made by the classes to which the Sales Tax applies and I do not think anybody who goes into the question dispassionately would say that there is a case for any relief or remission. This tax can neither be said to be vindictive in spirit nor heavy in incidence. It is only meant to bring about a balance or equilibrium in taxation as far as possible between various classes living in this province. Besides, if honourable members would only realize how money is being spent on beneficial activities they would not grudge paying this tax, especially under the present extraordinary state of affairs where large profits are being made by the traders.

Then, certain members referred to supersession of municipal committees. My colleague, the Minister for Local Self-Government, is not present now, otherwise he would have answered the criticism. Anyhow, since I have been in charge of that department till recently I can reply to them. There are only a few superseded local bodies in the province and I need not go into their history. It was the misdeeds of the municipal commissioners concerned that brought about their supersession. We all like to allow civic rights, but we cannot allow civic rights to degenerate into license. The rights of the general population suffered because of the misdeeds of the municipal commissioners and the Government had to intervene. Reference was specially made to Sialkot and Lahore Municipal Committees. I have repeatedly said that this Government did not bring about their supersession. It was only a legacy from the previous Government. Honourable members may know that we have passed the City of Lahore Corporation Act and it is now in force. Wards and electoral rolls are being prepared. As soon as circumstances permit, and when the question of holding elections can be opened, this corporation will be constituted. Till then the constitution of the Corporation has to wait. We cannot start a campaign of electioneering in the middle of the war. But I may assure the House that as soon as circumstances permit, these local bodies would be re-constituted.

Next, the question of levying new taxes during the war was raised. Some of my colleagues have been either misquoted or meanings which are not there, have been read in their speeches. I know that one of my colleagues while referring to something which he

would advocate after the war did not mean to say that he would do so now. There are many theories as to what should be done after the war. For instance, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh and his friends have their own theories and we have our own theories. My friends opposite may have his own ideas in the matter. All this does not mean that anything is going to be done at present. Honourable members are fully aware of the statement made on this subject by my late predecessor, Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. That is the position to which we stand committed. There is no intention of immediately levying any fresh class taxation. That is our present position and I must say that an unnecessary scare has been created where none exists. No prophet can say what is going to happen after the war. We do not know whether we will have our own way or whether somebody else will have his way.

Now, I come to the case of backward classes. I was very much amused to find my friend Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal advocating the cause of the poor and the backward classes. But I wish he had not in the same breath referred to matters which tell a different tale. He mentioned the Hydro-electric Scheme and other matters which gave the secret away. Anyhow I am grateful to him for what he said. As far as solicitude for the welfare of backward classes and tracts is concerned, no party can lay greater claim to it with a clear conscience than the gentlemen sitting here. Their past record speaks for itself. The honourable member mentioned that the scheduled castes did not get this year the grant of Rs. 10,000 allotted to them. The reason for it is this. The labour of sinking wells for them costs us more now than before. Moreover, materials too are not available. If labour and materials become available I shall give them more. I may add that it has since been decided to restore the usual amount of Rs. 10,000 also. (An honourable member: How much have you spent on their behalf during the last six years?) Whatever was provided for in the budget. I have not got the figures with me at present. The test of the pudding is in the eating thereof. The fact that these representatives of the scheduled castes are sitting on these benches is a proof of what they have been getting. If the honourable member will address the Director of Information Bureau he will get detailed figures.

Some reference was made to the barring of civil courts. To the best of my knowledge no interference from the executive is possible or has been made in the working of civil courts. If the reference is to the barring of interference by civil courts in respect of cases under the Alienation of Land Act, and certain other Acts I may say that that policy has been in existence ever since the passing of the Act and that policy has been followed in our recent legislation on the subject. That point has been debated at length on the floor of this House and I do not therefore propose to enter into that controversy now. The object of that policy is to save the poor and the backward, for whom so much regard has been professed by the honourable members, from litigation, and for that reason they are kept away from civil courts. They can go to the Collectors and get their decisions. I must therefore strongly repudiate the charge that there has been any interference on the part of the executive in the working of the courts.

Then I come to the Public Service Commission. It was complained that where only one vacancy had to be filled the Public Services Commission directed to recommend more than one name. I was not present to hear the complaint of the honourable member but that I understand was its gist. The honourable member, I think, is under a mistaken impression that the Public Services Commission is the appointing authority. It is not so. It is only an advisory body of the Government. It is the Government that is the appointing authority. What the Government has to see is that it does not appoint somebody who is not competent for the job. Therefore the Commission recommends two or more names of candidates whom it considers suitable for a job and the Government after taking various points into consideration, such as the representation of backward classes, the war services of the candidates and so on, makes its own selection out of the candidates recommended. The Commission is only an expert advisory body at the disposal of the Government and it recommends two or more candidates that are available and suitable for a job, so that we may select from among them. Then there are other considerations that have

[Premier.]

to be taken into account. In this province there is unfortunately the question of communalism. How can we overlook the giving of communal share to the various communities. The Punjab Government has devised a formula called the Bloc System which is well recognised. We are following that system to its arithmetical calculation. No one can deviate from it unless Government's special sanction is obtained. How can we follow the system unless we allot posts community-wise? Supposing the posts went by educational qualifications, it would not be possible to keep up the communal proportion according to the Bloc System. Government in order to do fairplay wants that it should remain the appointing authority and not delegate its own powers to the Public Services Commission which, as I have said, is only an advisory body.

4 p. m.

Then the same member went on to say that expenditure on beneficent departments activities has not risen in proportion to increase in income. I do not claim to be an arithmetician and would not go into minute calculations as to what the proportion comes to. But I have just been handed some figures which go to show that while the Punjab is spending on beneficent activities Rs. 8,75,600, Bengal, which is a much bigger province and has large income, is spending Rs. 3,76,000. The honourable members opposite can work out the proportion themselves. It should also be borne in mind that we have created two funds for beneficent activities and we are regularly increasing these funds. While considering our expenditure on beneficent departments these two funds should not be lost sight of.

Then as regards the criticism about the Hydro-Electric Scheme, the less said the better. The honourable member knows that there are two points of view. Some people think that private management of utility services like electricity should be allowed to continue, while others hold the opinion that all utility services should be controlled and managed by the State. If Government takes over any utility undertaking it will be after paying due compensation to the persons concerned and at the expiry of the full term of their licence. For obvious reasons I am reluctant to go into this matter further as it is *sub-judice*.

Then there was criticism about war publicity, and it was stated that the "Jang" Akhbar is of no use.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That was declared by the National War Front Conference in their meeting which was held in early December.

**Premier :** I entirely endorse the view that expenditure incurred on "Haq" during the last war was a waste and that it is only the ordinary news papers that can be profitably used for spreading information regarding the war. It is the latter policy which is being followed now. There is no change. The paper "Jang" has been started with a different object. It is intended to supply the National War Front workers with talking points for their lectures that they have to deliver in the country side. Anyhow the "Jang" is not a paper for publicity purposes.

An objection has also been raised that Government have not come forward with any specific proposals for bringing about communal harmony. I can say that there again it only shows lack of information. If the honourable members were interested to find out what the Communal Harmony Board has done, they would know what a lot has been done, and Government is considering the suggestions that have been put forward. But the critics themselves have not come forward with any concrete suggestions either. It is necessary for the peace and tranquility of the province that we should make every effort to bring about complete communal harmony. Any suggestions will always be welcome.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** Lot of suggestions were made last year during the discussion on General Administration.

**Premier :** After leaving the criticism of Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal, I would refer to some of the criticism made by Mrs. Duni Chand. She said that there was no disorder in this province and arrests have been made without any rhyme or reason. I need not say what happened in the rest of the country.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** You said you were not responsible for them, then why are you taking the trouble of answering the charge ?

**Premier :** I was only saying that she said nothing had happened. Perhaps the honourable member did not follow the events. Sometimes they seem to have missed them altogether. There were derailments and there were acts of sabotage here and there in this province also, though of course luckily without much damage. That does not mean that we should have taken no preventive measures. As it is, out of 500 persons detained about one-fourth have already been released.

Then she referred to her husband not being allowed to go to Bombay. That matter did not rest with us alone. When a detenus wants to go to Bombay, surely another provincial government is concerned and has to be consulted.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** You are helpless.

**Premier :** My honourable friend again says that we are helpless. That is not the case at all under provincial autonomy. If there is an all-India matter, naturally it has to be dealt with on an all-India basis. Broad principles have been laid down by the Central Government, and local action has to be taken on the lines of those broad principles. As I said the other day if anybody detained feels that he is prepared to give up the rebellious movement and not thwart the war effort and would now try to save the country from foreign aggression, he could be set free. Government has already let out genuine Communists among the detenus there are men of all sorts, even dacoits, and it is not possible for me to take their professions at their face value, but I have been examining genuine cases and I am prepared to redress their real grievances.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What about Sardar Hari Singh ?

**Premier :** I am willing to examine any genuine grievances of the detenus and redress them. Government policy is to be as humane as possible, subject to one condition that jails do not become political clubs.

I need not take up references to the alleged abuse of the Defence of India Rules as no specific instances have been quoted.

Then I come to the speech of my friend Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar. He said that there have been embezzlements in the collection of war funds in Ludhiana and Gujranwala. Existence of corruption cannot be denied. There are black sheep in every community and in every class including Government servants. If information is given to us, we are prepared to look into and deal with delinquent persons severely. We have no powers to dismiss Government servants by a stroke of the pen. We want proof for any charge that is made. The honourable member himself said that cases have been instituted in Ludhiana and are now *sub-judice*. Similarly if there are complaints in Gujranwala, give me the necessary information and I shall deal with the matter.

It is mentioned that some of the means of collecting funds are objectionable. Entertainments are a good mode of collecting war charity funds because the individual pays without any difficulty and gets something in return as enjoyment. But if there is coercion or if any unfair means are adopted, I shall only be too glad to deal with the people's fault if I get definite information. Orders have already been issued that no collection of funds should be made along with revenue assessment, but offenders can only be dealt with if definite proof is forthcoming against them. Otherwise this House itself would hold me responsible for unjust or wrongful dismissals. I will be questioned why such and such a man has been dismissed and so on. We are not like Goering who dismissed 28 out of 32 police officers in Prussia on one day on taking charge of Police. We have not got such powers here nor do we wish to have such powers.

Regarding standard cloth, I have made enquiries and I understand that no scheme has yet been approved by the Government. I am however asking the department concerned to look into the matter and devise a scheme which is fair and equitable to all concerned.

[Premier.]

I would not like to refer to the criticism of my honourable friend, Khawaja Ghulam Samad, because it has been answered by some of the previous speakers. But lest there should be an impression that there has been no fair play to his community in services in his division, I would just like to give some figures without any comment. The percentage of Muslims in Ambala is 28. Their representation in the office of the Commissioner is 34.1 per cent and in the offices of the Deputy Commissioners is 39.6 per cent.

With regard to the complaints of my honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Singh regarding the Christian settlers in Shantinagar and the Salvation Army, it is unfortunate that these two peaceful bodies are quarrelling. The department will look into the matter and see how peace can be maintained between them.

With regard to the expenditure on police objections from my friend, Sardar Tej Singh Swatantar and other Communists, could be understood. But I cannot understand the objections of my honourable friends over there to the increase in police expenditure. The police is intended mainly for the safety of the wealthy. If the police were not there, who will suffer? Not these zamindars, who have nothing to lose or to be afraid of. It is only the wealthy and those living in cities who are being looked after by the police. The police is for the peace and tranquility of the province. So I expected my honourable friends opposite to support me instead of criticise me in this respect. I assure them that it is for their own safety and insurance and for the peace and tranquility of the province that I cannot reduce the expenditure on the police unless the times become normal. If police are necessary in normal times, they are all the more necessary in these times of war and strife.

My honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, referred to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee and further said that our efficiency is deteriorating. With regard to the Retrenchment Committee, as honourable members know, the Retrenchment Committee had been appointed on suggestions made by this side of the House. It was presided over by my honourable friend the Finance Minister and the committee made certain very useful suggestions. Some of them were given effect to before the war started. But in war time no retrenchment is possible. Anybody who retrenches in war time, may be in police expenditure or in the army expenditure, will be committing suicide. The recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are there and when conditions are again normal it will be seen how far further retrenchment can be effected.

Regarding Parliamentary Secretaries, some of my honourable friends opposite have been calling my friends here "late" parliamentary secretaries. I say that the Parliamentary Secretaries here are very much alive and kicking. If we have not appointed more, it is only because we are trying to save the tax payers' money as far as possible. But if my friends over there want them, I shall take steps to fill the vacant posts of Parliamentary Secretaries.

With regard to admissions to educational institutions on communal basis, I do deplore that it is necessary. But can the honourable members opposite suggest a way out as to how otherwise we can give representation to the backward communities and classes? The services of the country must be shared by all. Every element in the Punjab must have its due representation. How can we do that without some such arrangement as we are now having? The intentions of the Government at present are to stick to two important formulas. One is Sir Fazl-i-Husain's formula for representation in local bodies. If we deviate from it, I do not know what row there will be that there is injustice and hardship on one community or another. The second is the Bloc system. My friend Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal, who has of late become a research scholar, has been able to dig up a single instance of injustice in the recruitment of medical men. That took place before this Government came in. Suppose the mistake had been committed after our taking over, what would have been the result? Unless we admit people to educational institutions in communal proportions, we cannot have communal representation in services later on. So it is a vicious circle. Circumstances being what they are, we cannot hoodwink ourselves. So we must abide by these two principles.

Then there are two other matters, I would like to refer to. I was not present in the house when an honourable member over there brought in certain high theories of politics. This is a demand for general administration. I have no mind to enter into politics of that sort, nor am I concerned with those high political theories on this grant. But my policy is that I stand by the commitments made by my worthy predecessor, the late Sir Sikander Hayat-Khan.

Then there is one point more to which I would like to refer before I close my speech and that is about the liberty and freedom for the country. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantra referred to it at great length. He said, "Why are you helping the Britishers? He is not letting you have your freedom". The position is this. The Axis powers, whatever their professions may be, are the greatest enemies of liberty as we understand it. Wherever they have gone liberty has disappeared. The Britisher has at least given liberty in the dominions and in the colonies and we have till now come to the stage of provincial autonomy. What more has the Britisher promised? Complete freedom at the end of the War. I think it is impossible for him to go back on it. When we have all these promises, why should we not join with him and save our motherland from foreign aggression? But the philosophy which cannot understand is that of the communist group. They want to help in the War effort because Russia is in, because China is in. I want to help in the war effort because my country is in danger (*cheers*). I want freedom of my motherland of a type that suits our circumstances but not in any way of a foreign type or an imported one. This is our position and with these words I close my remarks. (*Loud applause*).

**Sardar Lal Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural): Mr. Speaker, I would not have taken the time of the House at all, had it not been for some remarks made by my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, who is not in his seat now. I do not know what at all he was doing because he was criticising something which had nothing to do with this House. He was not criticising the Government when he introduced the Azad Punjab Scheme into his House. Nobody had mooted this point into this House. I do not at all understand what was the point of his criticism at all. It was meant simply for catching some votes outside. The convention of this House is that the debate should be confined within the four corners of the General Administration. The subject of Azad Punjab or the delimitation of boundaries has nothing to do with this House. If at all it has to do anything, it has to do with the Central Government (*hear, hear*). By introducing this subject he has been only stabbing his own community, which he was professing to represent, behind their back. (*Interruption*). Some say that he was not representing any community. That was the point I put to him. He came to this House as a Sikh and he admitted the fact that he was a Sikh and he would represent the Sikhs here but he tried to stab them in the back. I, therefore, feel that he was very unfair. I won't go into the merits of the scheme at all. (*Voices: Question be now put*).

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,26,400, be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1944, in respect of General Administration.

*The motion was carried.*

#### INDUSTRIES

**Minister of Finance:** I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,09,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1944, in respect of Industries.

**Mr. Speaker:** Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,09,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1944, in respect of Industries.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal:** (North-Punjab, Non-Union Labour) (*Urdu*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, my object in moving this cut motion is to raise discussion on the general policy of the administration of the Punjab Government towards industries.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 23rd March, 1943.*





# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Tuesday, 28rd March 1943.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8551. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state regarding the security prisoners, Bhagat Singh, of Mahilpur, Jarnail Singh, of village Bhungarni, and Mukand Singh of Behbalpur, district Hoshiarpur, the following facts :—

- (a) the place of detention ;
- (b) the treatment accorded ;
- (c) the weight on admission into the jail ;
- (d) the present weight : and ;
- (e) the present state of health ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that Bhagat Singh of Mahilpur is detained in the Montgomery district jail ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

#### ARREST IN CONNECTION WITH INDEPENDENCE DAY

**\*8552. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of arrests made in the province in connection with the celebration of the Independence Day on the 26th January, 1943 ;
- (b) the grounds on which the above-mentioned arrests were made ;
- (c) the number of the arrested persons released since then ;
- (d) the number of those who were brought up for trial ;
- (e) the number of those among the persons mentioned above who are detained under the Defence of India Rules ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

\*8553. **Sardar Hari Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Congress security prisoners arrested and detained in the Punjab since the 9th August 1942;

(b) the number of those among the persons mentioned above who have been released so far;

(c) the number of those among the persons mentioned in (a) who actually infringed the law;

(d) the number of cases of the cutting of telegraph wires, removal of rails or attempt to remove rails in the province since the 9th August, 1942, which have come to the notice of the Government;

(e) the number of arrests and convictions made in connection with the cases mentioned in (d)?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the Honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### MUSLIM GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND ZUHAR PRAYERS

\*8566. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any Government orders exist for the Muslim Government servants affording them facilities to say their Zuhar prayers on working days; if not, the reasons therefor and the action that he proposes to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): No specific orders exist affording facilities to Muslim Government servants to say their Zuhar prayers on working days, but the convention is that they are permitted to do so.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: May I know whether any restriction is placed by the Heads of Departments on the subordinates asking for permission before they go to say their Zuhar prayers?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: I have already said that the convention is that they are permitted to say their prayers. I am not aware of any restrictions.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: I want to know whether he is aware or not whether recently any orders have been passed by any Head of Department that the subordinates should ask for permission before they go to say their prayers?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: I am not aware of it, but if the honourable member gives notice of that question, I will answer it.

## SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

**\*8578. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that representations recently made by the detenu named Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar to His Excellency the Viceroy of India and His Excellency the Governor of Punjab regarding maltreatment meted out to him by Mr. Wace, D. I. G., C. I. D., Punjab, during his detention in Lahore Fort from March to September, 1942, were withheld, if so, by whom and the authority under which the representations were withheld ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** This prisoner is detained under the orders of the Central Government to whom all questions about him must be addressed.

## REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO INTERVIEW SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

**\*8579. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Amar Nath, an Advocate of the Lahore High Court was refused permission in September 1942, to have interview with Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar in Campbellpur Jail who wanted to have necessary information regarding a civil suit case, if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Sardul Singh Caveeshar is detained under the orders of the Government of India, and questions about him cannot be raised on the floor of this House, and should be addressed to the Central Government.

## SUPPLY OF WRITING MATERIAL TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8580. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications received by Government from 1942 Civil Disobedience Prisoners for permission for the supply of writing materials at their own cost during the last six months or so and the action taken on each of these ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the permission sought for in the application mentioned above, has not been granted ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## CLOTHING TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8607. Doctor Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the 1942 Civil Disobedience Prisoners were allowed clothes meant for 'B' Class prisoners for sometimes in the beginning and later on they were given clothes meant for 'C' class prisoners, if so,

[Dr. Sant Ram Sethi]

when this circular regarding the change of clothing was issued and the reasons therefor ?

(b) whether the Government intends to give 'B' class prisoners clothing to these detenus who are unable or unwilling to use their own clothing ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of this House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### PUNJAB GOVERNMENT GAZETTE AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8608. Doctor Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government Gazette is not delivered to the 1942 Civil Disobedience Prisoners who are M. L. As. if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, M. L. A., while a detenu in the Shahpur Camp Jail, wrote to the Government asking for the delivery of the Punjab Government Gazette regularly to him, if so, whether any reply was sent to him, if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Government intend to supply the Punjab Government Gazette to the M. L. As. confined as detenus in certain jails in the Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### FOOD ALLOWED TO DETENUS

**\*8609. Doctor Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the total cost per day of the food allowed to the 1942 detenus viz., Rs. 0-9-8, is utterly inadequate in view of the rapid rise in prices of wheat and other eatables ; if so the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### CORRESPONDENCE OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8631. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the concessions which are allowed to the prisoners and the detenus of the Civil Disobedience movement of 1942 in the matter of writing or receiving letters ;

(b) the restrictions placed upon the letters written or received by the said prisoners and the detenus regarding their subject matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the Honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### GAMES FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8632. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any facilities in the matter of games of any kind are allowed to the prisoners and the detenus of the civil disobedience movement of 1942 ;

(b) if so, in which jails and their nature respectively ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Indoor games are allowed in all jails at the prisoners' own expense.

#### SHAHPUR JAILS

**\*8633. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for abolishing Shahpur Jail ;

(b) whether it is a fact that this jail had been at one time a Jail reserved for the Tubercular prisoners and whether this fact had any thing to do with the abolition of this jail ;

(c) the reasons as to why this jail was selected for the earliest batches of the prisoners and detenus of the Civil Disobedience movement of 1942 ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Shahpur jail has not been abolished.

(b) No.

(c) It was not so used.

#### MR. JUGAL KISHORE

**\*8647. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Jugal Kishore of United Provinces was arrested by the C. I. D. Police in Lahore on the night of 22nd February 1948 ; if so, where is he being detained at present ;

(b) what is the charge against him, and whether anything incriminating was recovered from him ;

(c) whether it has come to his notice that he is being compelled by unfair means by the C. I. D. to make a confession suited to the requirements of the Police ; if so, why ;

(d) his weight at present and his weight at the time of his arrest ;

(e) whether he is being tried in the court of law and whether he is allowed to interview his people outside ;

[Pt. Muni Lal Kalia]

(f) whether he is allowed to supplement his diet ;

(g) whether he is allowed to have morning and evening walks daily ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

MESSRS. DURGA DASS KHANNA AND BENI PRASAD

**\*8648. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Durga Dass Khanna, an advocate of Lahore High Court and Mr. Beni Prasad of United Provinces were arrested by the Lahore C. I. D. Police, on the 23rd February 1943, if so, under what law and the place where they are being detained at present ;

(b) their weight at present and their weight at the time of arrest ;

(c) whether Government intends to try them in the court of law; if not, why not ;

(d) the kind of the diet given to them and whether they are allowed to supplement their diet from outside ;

(e) the facilities, if any, given to them regarding the delivery of newspapers to them ;

(f) whether they are allowed to have their morning and evening walks daily ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

INTERVIEW WITH BHIM SEN SACHAR

**\*8649. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Sardar Kapoor Singh M. L. A., Secretary, Punjab Assembly Congress Party, recently applied for permission to the Punjab Government to interview Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, Leader of the Congress Party, who is being detained in Sialkot Jail under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules in connection with the forthcoming session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Sardar Kapoor Singh, M. L. A., applied to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, Punjab, for permission to interview Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar. No interviews are allowed with persons detained in connection with the civil disobedience movement. Sardar Kapoor Singh was given permission as a special case to interview Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar subject to the usual conditions governing interviews with security prisoners, but he did not avail himself of the concession.

**8651. Cancelled.**

**LALA JAGAN NATH**

**\*8652. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Lala Jagan Nath, Labour Welfare Officer, Sir Shri Ram's Delhi Cloth Mills, Delhi, was arrested under the orders of the Government Punjab, in December, 1942, in Delhi ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Lala Jiwan Dass, the father of the above-named detenu, made a representation to the Punjab Government in the first week of January, 1943, that his son, Lala Jagan Nath, had not taken part in politics since he resigned the membership of the Servants of Peoples' Society two years ago, when he joined the office of the said Mills in Delhi ;

(c) if the replies to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the arrest of the person mentioned in (a) and the rule under which he is detained ;

(d) whether the Government intends to try him in a court of law ;

(e) the period and place of his detention ;

(f) the weight at present and at the time of arrest of the above named detenu and his general state of health ;

(g) the facilities, if any, allowed to him regarding diet, newspapers, allowance and interviews.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**ASSAULT ON INDIAN LADY NEAR GRAND HOTEL LAHORE**

**\*8653. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any enquiry was held into the incident of assault on an Indian lady, alleged to have been made by some British soldiers in the first week of May, 1942, near the Grand Hotel on Nicholson Road, Lahore ;

(b) what action was taken on the aforesaid enquiry ; if no action was taken, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes. A thorough enquiry was held into this incident by a gazetted police officer.

(b) The case was sent for cancellation, as investigation showed that no offence had been committed. The Magistrate accepted the recommendation and filed the case.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** Who was the person who investigated the case ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** A gazetted police officer.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** Was he some Indian officer or European ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Indian Gazetted officer.



**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the report of the investigating officer be laid on the table of the House ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No, Sir.

#### DETENUS

**\*8676. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many detenus in the Punjab have been set free up to the end of January, 1943, as a result of enquiry in to individual cases of detenus ;

(b) the number of Punjabi detenus now undergoing detention under the orders of the Punjab Government and of these how many are M. A. Ls. of the Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) and (b) : A statement on the subject was made in the general discussion on the Budget. Including civil disobedience detenus rather more than 200 persons detained under rule 26 have been released up to the end of January 1943. Including again civil disobedience detenus rather less than 550 persons, including 15 M. L. As. are at present in detention under rule 26.

#### GOVERNMENT PONDS NEAR OLD SHEIKHPURA TOWN

**\*8650. Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that the existence of Government ponds in the vicinity of the old Sheikhpura Town is responsible for malarial conditions in the said town. ;

(b) whether he is further aware that the non-existence of a drainage in civil area is also a cause of malaria due to stagnation of waste water ;

(c) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, whether it is intended to undertake any scheme in the near future for the drainage of waste water from the civil area in that town, and if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a), (b) and (c) : I am informed that the drainage systems in both the old and the new towns are satisfactory and that for certain new abadis the Municipal Committee is preparing a scheme. As regards the ponds referred to by the honourable member, there are three, and their contents are normally pumped into a certain drain through which they find their way into the Deg Nalla. For some time in the recent past, pumping was, however, stopped in order that the ponds might remain full for A. R. P. purposes. This may have given rise to complaints as to mosquito breeding. I am, however, glad to be able to inform the honourable member that the pumping was re-started in February and the trouble should now be at an end.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR TEACHERS OF DISTRICT BOARD, LUDHIANA

**\*8674. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Friday, the 19th February 1943, was observed by all the District Board teachers of

Ludhiana as a day of mourning ; and whether Government received any representation or memorials from the teachers in which they had given expression to their grievances regarding the conditions of their service ;

(b) whether it is a fact that ever since 1932 these teachers have received no increments in pay ;

(c) whether it is a fact that it is now proposed to further reduce their emoluments ;

(d) whether these teachers have been granted any dearness allowance, if not, whether it is proposed to consider this aspect of the question in view of the prevailing high costs of living ;

(e) what proportion of the educational expenditure of Ludhiana district Board is met by grant from the provincial exchequer ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

#### DOMESTIC TRAINING SCHOOL, PUNJAB

**\*8564. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of girl students admitted into the Domestic Training School Punjab for Lady Welfare Workers in 1941 and 1942, showing the number of stipendiary and non-stipendiary students ;

(b) the number of successful girls out of those admitted in 1941 giving separately the number of stipendiary and non-stipendiary students ;

(c) the number of those who got appointments in 1942 out of those who passed from the above-mentioned institution ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : (a)

Year			Total number of girl students	Number of Stipendiary students	Number of Non-Stipendiary students]
1941	..	..	44	41	3
1942	..	..	44	39	5
(b) <i>Number of successful girls—</i>					
1941	..	..	44	41	3

(c) 37 (27 substantive and 10 temporary).

#### LADY WELFARE WORKERS.

**\*8565. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the names of those Lady Welfare Workers in the Province who got appointment this year, giving the number of stipendiary students among them separately ;

(b) whether any non-stipendiary student has also got a job during the period, if so, her name ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : (a) and (b) The number of Lady Welfare Workers who got appointments in 1942-43 is 87, out of whom 34 were stipendiary and 3 non-stipendiary. It is not the practice to give names.

### ROADS

**\*8675. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the length of new roads in the province opened up by the Punjab Government during the last six years ;

(b) the length of katcha roads in the province metalled during the last six years ;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that large areas of rural Punjab remain unprovided by roads almost as they used to be before Provincial Autonomy, ; if so, how does the Government propose to rid the Province of this great handicap to the poor agriculturist ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** (a) 1,640 miles permanent road.

(b) About 900 miles.

(c) Although it is true that there is still immense amount to be done in the matter of rural roads, it would not be correct to infer that there has been no improvement of position in this connection since the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy. A great deal has already been done and village panchayats are also empowered under the Act to improve the village roads. The Government realises the importance of such communications and is taking steps to draw up a new road programme to be put into action as soon as conditions permit.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** May I know whether the length of katcha roads which were metalled in the province during the last six years runs through rural or urban areas ?

**Minister :** I should like to have notice of that question.

### FOOD CRISIS

**\*8554. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government has expressed any views to the Central Government on the question of the current food crisis and its solution, if so, what are those views ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : *First part :* Yes, on several occasions.

*Second part :* It is not possible to give a satisfactory reply in view of the extent and complexity of the problem ; if questions are asked about specific aspects of the problem, I will consider what information can properly be given.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Cannot the Government lay on the table the reply sent by the local Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid I cannot do so.

ARREST OF CONGRESS LEADERS AND POLITICAL SITUATION.

\*8555. **Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government has expressed any views to the Government of India on the political situation created as a result of the arrest of Congress leaders on the 9th August, 1942; if so the nature of those views?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

JAGJIT SINGH

\*8556. **Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the place of detention at present of the security prisoner Jagjit Singh, B. A., of Bundala, district Jullundur,;

(b) Why he has been transferred to another Jail from the Central Jail, Montgomery, where he was formerly confined?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) District Jail, Multan.

(b) He was transferred from the Central Jail, Montgomery, for administrative reasons.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Can the honourable member tell me what the state of his health is now?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** I should like to have notice to reply to this question.

JUMA PRAYERS

\*8567. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has ever been drawn to the Government Circular No. 1272 (Home—Genl.), dated 8th January 1918, requiring Government officials to take leave for saying the *Juma* prayers;

(b) whether any further instructions exist under which permission for saying prayers need not be obtained, if not, the action that Government intend to take to modify the above-mentioned order?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes.

(b) No. But leave of absence to say their *Juma* prayers is granted to those who ask for it and Government do not, therefore, intend to take any further action in the matter.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** What does the honourable member mean by 'those who ask for leave'?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** Those who want to say prayers.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will they have to apply to the officer in charge of the office or the head of the department for permission?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If verbal permission is asked the office superintendent would give leave to those gentlemen who want to say prayers.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** That is, all members who want to say prayers will have to ask for permission, is that so?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes, Sir. Surely my friend does not want that a person who does not want to say prayers should be given leave.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Only those Muslims who regularly say prayers would go to say prayers. They should not be made to ask for leave for saying prayers. A person who does not say his prayers will never go. It seems absurd that Muslims should ask for leave from the office superintendent to say their prayers.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that those Muslims who want to say prayers if they ask for leave it would be given to them.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know if an office is a school where pupils ask for leave for such things?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** My honourable friend can hold any opinion he likes.

#### SETH SUDARSHAN

**\*8581. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Seth Sudarshan, M. L. A., Chief Whip of the Punjab Assembly Congress Party wrote to the Government to make arrangements for treatment of his dental trouble in October last when he was detained in the Multan district Jail, if so, the action, if any, taken in the matter?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### ASSEMBLY DAK FOR M.L.A.S. DETAINED IN JAILS

**\*8582. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly who are at present detained in various jails of the Punjab are not allowed to receive their Assembly Dak, including Agenda papers, Assembly debates, copy of the Punjab Government Gazette and bills for compensatory allowance which are sent to them for signatures by the Assembly Office, if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House.

but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SUPPLY OF WRITING MATERIALS TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS

**\*8610. Doctor Sant Ram Seth:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any circular was recently sent by the Inspector-General, Prisons, Punjab, asking the Superintendents, District Jail, Sialkot, to invite applications from 1942 Civil Disobedience detenues for permission to have writing material at their own cost ;

(b) the number of such applications received so far ;

(c) the number and names of those of the above-mentioned detenues to whom permission for the above purpose has been given ;

(d) the reason for refusing permission to others ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### DETENUS AND CONVICTS

**\*8611. Doctor Sant Ram Seth:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Lala Bhim Sen Sachar, Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, while a detenu at the Shahpur Camp Jail, sent a number of representations and telegrams to the Government regarding various hardships experienced by the detenues and convicts of 1942 Civil Disobedience Movement ?

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Sachar applied for a copy of all these telegrams and letters and that the application was rejected ;

(c) what action if any has so far been taken on the aforesaid representations ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SUPPLY OF NEWSPAPERS TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8612. Doctor Sant Ram Seth:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the 1942 Civil Disobedience Prisoners confined in the jails other than the jail at Sialkot are supplied with the "Tribune" and the "Civil and Military Gazette" by the Government ;

[Dr. Sant Ram Seth]

(b) whether it is a fact that the 1942 Civil Disobedience Prisoners confined in the Sialkot District Jail are not supplied with the "Tribune" and "Civil and Military Gazette" even at their own cost;

(c) whether the above-named detenus are allowed to purchase the "Statesman"; if so, the reasons for this discrimination in the matter of the supply of newspapers?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SARDAR GOPAL SINGH QAUMI AND SHAHPUR JAIL

**\*8634. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be please to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Gopal Singh Qaumi had got his knee-cap fractured on account of slipping on the slippery ground of Shahpur Jail;

(b) whether he has recovered from the accident; and if so, for how many months he had to be confined to bed before recovery?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) No; it was only a swelling of the joint of right knee which he had injured.

(b) Yes, for one month and eleven days.

#### WOMEN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS.

**\*8635. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many ladies have been so far put in prison or detained in connection with Civil Disobedience Movement of 1942;

(b) How many of them have since been released;

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR

**\*8636. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Rajkumari Amrit Kaur is still under restriction; if so, how long it is intended to subject her to the restrictions imposed upon her?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): First part: Yes.

Second part: As long as it is considered necessary.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S FAST

**\*8656. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government of India recently consulted the Provincial Government on the question of Mahatma Gandhi's 21 days' fast ; if so, the advice tendered by the Punjab Government ;

(b) whether any correspondence has lately passed between the Central Government and the Punjab Government on the subject mentioned above ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question.

**\*8673. Sardar Lal Singh :** With your permission, I withdraw my question No. 8673.

ALLOWANCE FOR FAMILIES OF DETENUS

**\*8677. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many families of detenus of the Civil Disobedience Movement 1942, from the province are being given subsistence allowance, and what is the scale of these allowance ;

(b) the highest amount of allowance being given to a detenu of the above mentioned category or his family and to whom is it being given ;

(c) the lowest amount of the above-mentioned allowance being given and to whom ;

(d) whether any allowance is being given to the family of Master Kabul Singh, M. L. A., if so, whether there has been any revision in the amount of Rs. 15 sanctioned for him sometime ago ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : The time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND CONVICTS

**\*8678. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Civil Disobedience detenus and convicts 1942 refused to be locked up in Kacha cells when asked by the jail authorities at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner, Mianwali, in the local district jail on 20th December 1942 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the jail authorities resorted to force in locking up the prisoners ; if so for how long this practice continued in the said jail ;

(c) whether it is a fact that detenus Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, M. L. A., Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, M. L. A., and Munshi Hari Lal, M. L. A., were bodily removed by the jail warders and convict warders for being locked up from evening till morning in kacha cells in that jail, if so, the authority under which the Civil Disobedience detenus and convicts were treated in that manner ?



**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND CONVICTS

**\*8679. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Mianwali, ordered the District Jail authorities on 20th December 1942, to lock up the Civil Disobedience Detenus and Convicts in separate kacha cells of the District Jail, Mianwali;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that he got it done in his presence without making proper urinal arrangements for the prisoners;

(c) whether the said Deputy Commissioner acted under any specific instructions from the Government in that manner and if not, the rule and authority under which he ordered the locking up of the detenus and convicts in separate kacha cells;

(d) whether this matter was referred to the Inspector General Prisons, Punjab; if so, with what result?..

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### HANDCUFFING OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8680. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the practice of handcuffing all Civil Disobedience prisoners, whether they be members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly or other persons of high social status, in the course of their journey undertaken on transfer from one jail to another has of late been renewed; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that instructions were issued by Government somewhere in 1942, discontinuing the practice of handcuffing satyagrahi prisoners on their transfer from one jail to another; if so, whether those instructions have been superseded;

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to give this information.

#### CLERKS IN ENGLISH OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, AMBALA

**\*8568. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of clerks working in the English Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, together with their names and designations?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): A list showing the designations of 22 clerks working in the English Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, is placed on the table. It is not in the public interest to give the names of the officials working in these posts.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: May I know what public interest is involved in not giving the names?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: Because the inference to be drawn is communal and it is the policy of the Government not to answer communal questions.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: May I know whether he is aware as to how many out of those 22 given in the list are Muslims?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: It is not the policy of the Government to answer on the floor of the House questions savouring of communalism. I therefore regret I cannot answer this question.

*List of clerks working in the English Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala :—*

*Designation*

Stenographer to Deputy Commissioner.	Bills Clerk.
Petrol Rationing Clerk.	Assistant Bills Clerk.
II Petrol Rationing Clerk.	War Clerk.
Motor Clerk.	Price Control Clerk.
II Motor Clerk.	Local Fund Clerk.
Money Lending Clerk.	Local Fund Clerk II.
Arms Clerk.	Typist I.
Soldiers' Board Clerk.	Typist II.
Head Clerk.	Diarist and Despatcher.
Record Keeper.	Statistical Clerk.
Assistant Record Keeper.	Development Clerk and Librarian.

**CYCLE ALLOWANCE FOR GAUGE READERS.**

**\*8614. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gauge Readers (Pansal Nawis) of the Irrigation Department have to travel a number of miles daily on the banks of the canal to read gauges on the head and tail of the canal which it is not possible for them to do on foot and that these Gauge Readers have to use their private bicycles for the purpose which their meagre pay does not allow them to maintain;

(b) whether it is a fact that no cycle allowance is paid to them even though it has been sanctioned by the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Branch; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Government pays cycle allowance in cases where the maintenance of a cycle is considered necessary in the interests of Government work.

(b) No such case has come to notice.

**COMPLAINT REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF WHEAT IN THE LUDHIANA DISTRICT**

**\*8654. Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he received any complaint on February 22nd, 1948, from Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan, M. L. A., Pandit Muni Lal Kalia, M. L. A., Sardar Lal Singh, M. L. A., Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa, M. L. A., and Sardar Kapoor Singh, M. L. A., regarding the distribution of wheat in the Ludhiana district ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the complaint mentioned above serious charges have been made against the district authorities and Government agents through which the wheat was distributed to the citizens of the Ludhiana City ;

(c) whether any enquiry has been held or intended to be held into the allegations named in the above-mentioned complaint and the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ;

(d) whether he would be pleased to lay a copy of the aforesaid complaint on the table of the House ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tika Ram): (a) A complaint has been received.

(b) Serious but somewhat vague and general charges have been made.

(c) A report in the matter has been called for from the District Magistrate, Ludhiana, and his reply is awaited.

(d) A copy is laid on the table.

*Ludhiana February 11, 1943.*

**The Honourable Minister of**

Development, Government, Punjab.

Dear Sir,

We find that the Government is distributing some 80,000 maunds of wheat, maize and gram at a concession rate to the deserving people in Ludhiana City. For this purpose, the district authorities have employed two agencies, i.e., the Grain Merchants Association as wholesale distributors and Depot-agents as retailers. The Government would supply wheat to the said Association at Rs. 6-6-0 per maund, while the consumers will get mixed flour at Rs. 7-8-0 per maund, leaving a net profit of Rs. 0-12-0 per maund after deducting Rs. 0-6-0 as grinding, etc., charges. Now this is the profit, if the two agencies choose to be honest and do not adopt unfair methods, which is unusual with these agencies.

The District authorities are thereby creating a lucrative business for these trading classes at the expense of the poor consumers. The net profit will in no case be less than Rs. 22,000. It cannot be denied that the authorities could, if they so desired, find more suitable agencies or methods for doing the same thing at much lower middle-man charges, and the substantial amount, so saved, could be utilized for helping the deserving citizens.

This is not the only objection to the system, but other forms of corruption, deliberately connived at by the authorities concerned are having free play. Several serious instances of corruption in this connection have been brought to our notice and the only courses left to us is to request you to kindly intervene and stop this scandalous state of affairs.

Yours etc. etc.

(Sd.) Chaudhri Mohammad Hasan, M.L.A.

(Sd.) Pandit Muni Lal Kalia, M. L. A.

(Sd.) Sardar Kapoor Singh, M. L. A.

(Sd.) Sardar Lal Singh, M. L. A.

(Sd.) Sardar Gopal Singh, Khalsa, M. L. A.

LACHHE SHAH OF LAHORE

**\*8655. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons applied for licence to sell sugar on behalf of the Government in Lahore, when the sale of sugar was controlled ; if so, the list of the rejected and the accepted candidates, together with the reasons for which they were allowed or disallowed to sell sugar ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Rai Bahadur Lachhman Dass commonly known as Lachhe Shah of Lahore had the monopoly for the sale of sugar for a considerable time ; if so, the period for which he held the licence and the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : (a) Yes—The list of persons who have been granted licences for the sale of sugar in Lahore is placed on the table. As regards applications rejected Government do not consider the result would be commensurate with the labour involved in preparing a list of rejected applicants as the number of such persons is very large.

(b) No. Rai Bahadur Lachhman Das was appointed as a custodian of the stock and financier during a short period when the sugar situation in Lahore was extremely uncertain and of acute shortage. He was not granted a monopoly at any time.

REPORT TO POLICE STATIONS BY INTERNEES

**\*8558. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the total numbers of internees in the various villages and towns of the province under the defence of India Rules, are required to report to their police stations every Sunday ;

(b) the reasons for which this condition is imposed upon the internees mentioned above ;

(c) the number of those cases with respect to (a) in which the police station are situated at the distance of more than 5 miles, 10 miles, and 15 miles from the places of their internment, respectively ;?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) 141.

(b) Facility of supervision.

(c) Internees are required to report at the local (generally the nearest) police station. Information regarding distances is not readily available. If the honourable member will refer to any particular case, enquiries will be made.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*8613. Doctor Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of the Civil Disobedience Prisoners and Convicts of 1942, separately, district-wise, up to the 31st of January, 1943 ;

[Dr. Sant Ram Seth]

(b) the number and names of detenus and convicts district-wise released after completing their full terms under section 129 of the Defence of India Rules ;

(c) the number and names, district-wise, of those released on humanitarian grounds and on tendering apology, separately ;

(d) total number of Civil Disobedience detenus and convicted prisoners on 31st January, 1943 ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of this House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

QUESTIONS FOR PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY DETAINED  
M. L. As.

**\*8621. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some questions for the Punjab Legislative Assembly were sent up by the detained M. L. As from the Muzaffargarh jail, through the jail authorities, in the year 1940 ;

(b) whether those questions were passed on to the Secretary, Punjab Legislative Assembly ;

(c) the subject matter of these questions ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) It is not known as they were sent in original to Deoli for further action and never returned.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the procedure in regard to the sending in of questions by those members who are in jails ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If they wish to correspond with the Punjab Legislative Assembly Office, the letters which they send to the office will be included in the number of letters which they are allowed to write.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is there any rule debarring the Assembly members from sending questions from the jails ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Then, why are they not allowed to send in questions ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Because, as I have just stated, such correspondence with the Assembly Office will be included in the number of letters allowed and that number cannot be exceeded.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Do you include the sending of Assembly questions in the category of letters ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Any correspondence is a letter.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah:** Were they allowed to send questions during the next period ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** I want notice.

#### PERSONS DETAINED UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

**\*8637. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of persons detained under rule 129 and rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, respectively, since 9th August, 1942 and still confined in jails ;

(b) the number of such of them who have been released since August 1942 ;

(c) the total number of persons restricted under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules since 9th August, 1942 ;

(d) whether the Government intends to release all or any of them and ; if so, when ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### HANDCUFFING OF DETENUS, UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS AND CONVICTS

**\*8638. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the detenus, under-trial prisoners and convicts, when taken from jails to courts and brought back and when taken from one jail to another have been invariably, since the start of Civil Disobedience Movement of 1942, taken in handcuffs regardless of their social status, education, age or character ;

(b) whether it is a fact that when brought into courts they have been kept in handcuffs and sometimes handcuffed on both hands ;

(c) whether it is a fact that as regards the handcuffing the standing instructions and the instructions issued from time to time by the Government have been honoured more in breach than in observance ;

(d) the reasons, if any, for this kind of treatment ;

(e) whether it is within the knowledge of the Government that in many cases groups of political prisoners and detenus have been chained together and taken in that condition from one jail to another for long distances ;

(f) whether any cases have come to the notice of the Government in which any of these political prisoners and detenus may have escaped or may have attempted to escape from the police custody ;

(g) whether it is a fact that Doctor Gopi Chand Bhargava, ex-Opposition Leader and Lala Bhim Sen Sachar the present Opposition Leader and other members of the Assembly have been handcuffed from time to time on their transfer from one jail to another ;

[L. Duni Chand]

(h) whether the Government has ever intervened in the matter ;

(i) the reasons for allowing the said state of things to continue ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to give this information.

#### DETENUS AND CONVICTS

**\*8639. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that all the detenues and convicts detained and convicted in connection with 1942 Civil Disobedience have been made to travel, without any exception in prison vans or in third class carriages while being taken from one place to another ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many cases they had to spend sleepless nights while in travel for want of sleeping accommodation ;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the course of previous political movements, the political prisoners were treated differently in this respect and, if so, the reasons for the change of treatment ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of this House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON PUNJAB PRESS REGARDING NEWS OF MAHATMA GANDHI'S FAST.

**\*8657. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any special restrictions have been imposed regarding the publication of news by the Punjab Government on the Punjab Press with regard to the 21 days' fast of Mahatma Gandhi ;

(b) whether any Press conference was called by the Special Press Adviser, Punjab, on the 10th February, 1948, after the commencement of the above-named fast ;

(c) the nature of the restrictions imposed on the Press and the instructions given to the Press representatives at that conference ;

(d) whether any action has been taken so far against the defaulters ; if so, what ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) Yes. Some of the Editors were asked to assemble at a meeting held on 10th February, 1948.

(c) It is not in the public interest to disclose the nature of the discussions held.

(d) None.

CENSOR ON NEWSPAPERS

**\*8658. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a general suppression of news in the province and precensorship is imposed upon the newspapers requiring them to have their messages censored by the Special Press Adviser, Punjab, even though these messages have been allowed for publication by the Central Press Adviser or any other provincial authorities ;

(b) if so, when this order was enforced and the period for which it has been enforced ;

(c) whether there are any standing orders to the newspapers and the news agencies in the Punjab not to report any action taken under the Defence of India Act, unless it is passed by the Special Press Adviser, if so, why ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) There is no suppression of news in the province nor is there any pre-censorship order imposed on newspapers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) None, but of course newspapers are at liberty to consult the Press Adviser for guidance whether publication of any news would amount to a prejudicial report.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know if there is any tainting of the news ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No, Sir.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MIANWALI AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE  
DETENUS

**\*8681. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he received a copy of the telegram dated 1st January 1943, sent to the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, by the four M.L.A.s (Civil Disobedience Detenus 1942) confined in the district Jail, Mianwali, complaining against the insulting and provocative attitude of the Deputy Commissioner, Mianwali, who ordered these prisoners to be locked up in cells even at night without making proper arrangements for urinals and who called them Nawabs for their not having cooked their meals with their own hands ; if so, the action taken or intended to be taken thereon ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN RECRUITMENT TO SERVICES

**\*8684. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Honourable the late Premier had given assurances time and again on the floor of the Assembly that in



[R. B. L. Gopal Das]

recruitment in services no community or section of a community as such will be debarred : if so, whether these assurances have been observed in practice ;

(b) whether in an advertisement sent by Mr. M. R. Ahmad, Secretary, Appointment Committee, Timber Supply Circle, and published in an English daily newspaper, dated the 8th February 1948, applications were invited for filling certain posts from all except non-agriculturist Hindus and Sikhs ; If so, the reasons why non-agriculturist Hindus and Sikhs were disqualified ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. A large number of non-zamindar Hindu and Sikh candidates duly selected were already available on the waiting lists to fill up the posts allotted to them according to the block system.

#### ARREST OF BHAI BAHADUR SINGH

**\*8699. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the date on which Bhai Bahadur Singh, son of Bhai Ishar Singh village Bhambari, Thana Sri Hargobindpur, district Gurdaspur, was arrested ;

(b) the place from which he was arrested ;

(c) the reasons for his arrest and detention ;

(d) the state of his health ;

(e) whether the Government has considered the question of his release ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) 4th April 1941.

(b) Calcutta.

(c) He was arrested for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order.

(d) Satisfactory.

(e) This matter is under consideration.

#### NARAIN SINGH GUNCHA

**\*8700. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether one Narain Singh Guncha, No. 821, Havaldar Clerk of Chak No. 38, Jhang Branch, Thana Thikriwala, district Lyallpur, was arrested by the Punjab Police in Bareilly (U. P.) from Company C. S. T. B. No. 5 Battallion in October 1942 ;

(b) the offence for which he was arrested and for which he is detained now ;

(c) the date on which he was brought to a Punjab Jail ;

(d) the name of the jail in which he is detained ;

- (e) the present state of his health ;
- (f) whether the Government has considered the question of his release, if so, when ;
- (g) whether any interviews with him have been allowed ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question.

**BHAGAT SINGH**

**\*8703. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Bhagat Singh of Mahalpur, a security prisoner, detained in the Montgomery Jail, is suffering from Gall-stone, chronic constipation, severe headache and hernia, ;

(b) whether it is a fact that he has applied to the Government for a better medical treatment even at his own expenses ;

(c) his weight on the date of admission into the Jail and now and the state of his health at present ;

(d) whether it is a fact that he is being given the diet prescribed for 'C' class prisoners ;

(e) the measures the Government has taken to safeguard his health ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) His weight on the date of admission into jail has not been ascertained, but it has been reported that he is not suffering from any acute distress.

(d) Yes, supplemented by special diet prescribed by the jail doctor.

(e) He is treated in the jail hospital, when necessary.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know who gave this information ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The authorities concerned.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Why have they not given any information regarding the weight of the prisoner ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that his weight at the time of admission was not ascertained.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it not required under the rules that every prisoner must be weighed before he is admitted to a jail ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** As this prisoner was transferred from one jail to another, his weight could not be ascertained.

## HEALTH OF DETENUS

**\*8704. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the present condition of health of the following detenues in Jails given against their names :—

Sodi Pindi Dass	..	..	Gujrat Special Sub-Jail.
Sardar Santa Singh Gandiwind	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Sohan Singh Bhakna	..	..	Ditto
Chaudhri Tikka Ram Sukhan	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Harkishan Singh Sarjit	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Boota Singh Baber	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Gainda Singh	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Dasaundha Singh	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Ujagar Singh Bilga	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Rur Singh, M. L. A.	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Mehar Singh, Giani	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Kesar Singh	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Ram Singh Majitha	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Sadhu Singh Barapind	..	..	Ditto
Comrade Ram Kishan Bharolian	..	..	Ditto
Sardar Bhagat Singh Mahalpuri	..	..	Montgomery Central Jail.
Sardar Dulla Singh	..	..	Multan Central Jail.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Good, except security prisoner Ujagar Singh Bilga who is reported to be suffering from Trachoma and Trichiasis. He has been ordered to be removed to the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, for operative treatment.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the state of health of Sodi Pindi Das ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that the health of all other prisoners except Ujagar Singh Bilga is good.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is Sodi Pindi Das not suffering from any disease ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Not that I am aware of.

**Premier :** He is quite hale and hearty.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was his name entered in the hospital register ?

## INTERMENT OF CERTAIN M. L. AS.

**\*8713. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that following persons were interned in their respective towns or in certain localities after their release from jails recently under the orders of the Punjab Government :—

1. Lala Duni Chand, M. L. A.
2. Mr. Duni Chand, M. L. A., Bar at-law.
3. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia, M. L. A.
4. Sardar Hari Singh M. L. A.
5. Sardar Jaswant Singh, Manager, Gandhi Khadar Bhandar.

(b) If so, the law under which and the period for which they have been so interned ;

(c) whether the Government intends to try them in a court of law or remove the restrictions placed upon them and also state whether those internees who are the members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly are allowed to attend the Assembly session ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

FAST BY MUNSHI HARI LAL, M. L. A. AND SWAMI KISHAN CHAND

**\*8715. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Munshi Hari Lal, M. L. A., and Swami Kishan Chand, detenus in District Jail, Mianwali, undertook 21 days' fast with Mahatma Gandhi on the 10th February, 1943 ;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure of the Government to issue communique from time to time about their health ;

(c) the general state of their health during the said fast ;

(d) their weight on the 10th February 1943, and on 3rd March 1943 ;

(e) the diet given to them during the fast ;

(f) whether private doctors, relatives and friends were allowed to see them during the fast ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) and (e) Munshi Hari Lal, M. L. A., and Swami Kishan Dass (not Kishan Chand) undertook what they described as a twenty-one day fast in sympathy with Mahatma Gandhi. For the purpose of this fast Munshi Hari Lal prescribed as daily diet for himself—fresh and dried fruits at his own expense, as much milk and dahi as could be covered by the Government diet allowance of Re. 0-9-8, now Re. 0-12-8.

Swami Kishan Dass prescribed as daily diet for himself—

Milk	..	..	..	..	1 seer
Dahi	..	..	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ seer
Oranges	..	..	..	..	2
Dates	..	..	..	..	2 chhataks.

(b) In view of the diet prescribed and consumed by the two detenus their health was not affected ; so Government did not consider any communique was necessary.

(c) Excellent.

(d) Particulars were not furnished by the Jail medical authorities, presumably because their weights were not affected.

(f) No.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is Government sure that this information is quite correct ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes, Sir.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENT FOR NEWSPAPERS

**\*8716. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director of Information Bureau, Punjab, informed different departments of Government including the office of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province Joint Public Service Commission and Royal Indian Navy that no advertisement should be sent to the "Zamindar" newspaper of Lahore ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in August, 1942, the Tahsildar, Ferozepore, sent a number of advertisements for insertion in the said "Zamindar" newspaper of Lahore, but the Director of Information Bureau, Punjab, instead of sending them to the said newspaper "Zamindar" sent them to the "Ehsan", and the "Shahbaz" and "Inqilab", newspapers of Lahore ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said three newspapers, namely, "Ehsan" "Shahbaz" and "Inqilab" are receiving considerable sums out of the funds of the Punjab Government as the price of certain War Editions of their newspapers supplied to Government ; if so the amounts paid to them in this connection in the year 1941 and the year 1942 ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) No ; and in fact no advertisement was received from Tahsildar, Ferozepore, in August, 1942.

(c) The honourable member's attention is invited to the statement made by the late Premier on the floor of the House on November 25, 1940. The scheme has continued during 1941 and 1942.

#### MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE TO B. NATHI RAM

**\*8732. Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is paying any maintenance allowance to any of the persons restricted under the Defence of India Rules in places other than jails ;

(b) whether any maintenance allowance is paid to B. Nathi Ram, a communist, who was first detained in the Ambala Jail and then restricted within the limits of the town of Naraingarh, District Ambala ;

(c) whether B. Nathi Ram has made any representation to the effect that he does not possess any means of livelihood and that he should either be sent back to the Jail or be paid maintenance allowance ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) No ; he has been restricted to the limits of the Small Town Committee, Kharar, Ambala district, on his own suggestion.

(c) Yes ; in view of what has been stated in (a) and (b), no action was taken.

"KHADDAR BHANDARS"

\*8733. **Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many *Khaddar Bhandars* in the Punjab have been attached, seized or otherwise stopped from carrying on their business ;

(b) how many persons in charge of such *Bhandars* have been arrested and detained ;

(c) whether the Government intends to pay any compensation to the owners or organizers of the above-named *Bhandars* for the loss suffered on account of stopping their business ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No *Khaddar Bhandar* has been attached or seized in the Punjab.

(b) 20 employees of *Khaddar Bhandars* have been arrested for participating in subversive activities in furtherance of the Congress civil disobedience campaign. Nine of them are under detention at present.

(c) Does not arise.

PENSION FOR GAUGE READERS

\*8615. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the posts of Gauge Readers (Pansal Nawis) of the Irrigation Department are pensionable and whether according to the rules of their service they are entitled to get their half pay as pension on the completion of their service ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanafar Ali Khan) : Permanent Gauge Readers in the Canal Department hold pensionable appointments, the maximum pension admissible under the rule being Rs. 4 per mensem.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether the gauge readers belong to inferior service ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as I know, yes.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know the maximum pay of a gauge reader ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I would like to have notice of that question.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that only those persons belong to the inferior service whose pay is less than Rs. 25 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Probably the honourable member is correct.

LEAVE PERMISSIBLE TO GAUGE READERS

\*8616. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the leave rules in force for Government servants in the Punjab are also applicable to the Gauge Readers of the Irrigation Department ; if the answer be in the affirmative, the reasons as to why one month's leave on half average pay instead of on full average pay is given to the Gauge Readers after a year's service, and the action the Government proposes to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): The leave rules for other inferior servants in the Punjab apply equally to the Gauge Readers, who are allowed leave salary accordingly. No further action is therefore called for.

#### RESTITUTION OF MORTGAGED LANDS ACT

**\*8735. Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the action taken so far by each Deputy Commissioner in the province in connection with the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act; in case in any particular district no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): After the judgment of the Federal Court declaring the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act, 1938, to be *intra vires* Government decided that all cases under this Act pending in the districts should be proceeded with, but owing to the pre-occupation of the Deputy Commissioners and other superior revenue officers with war work, additional officers will be appointed to dispose of these cases in districts where the work is heavy. It is expected that they will start work in May.

#### PAY OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES AND PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARIES

**\*8659. Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any pay was drawn by the Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Private Secretaries of the Punjab Government after the Ministry resigned on the 30th December 1942 owing to the death of the late Premier;

(b) whether any order reappointing these Secretaries was passed?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes.

(b) No such order was necessary, as Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Private Secretaries were appointed by an order of the Punjab Government and continue to hold their offices until such time as their appointments are terminated or their resignations are accepted.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Is there any justification for these appointments?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** You might have asked that question in 1937.

**Premier:** If there is some justification for the Assembly, there is some justification for office bearers also.

#### KARTAR SINGH

**\*8701. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the conduct in Jail of the life prisoner Kartar Singh, son of Isher Singh, Jat, of village Barrar (Madhoke) thana Lopoke, Amritsar, lodged in the Old Central Jail, Multan;

- (b) the remission on the sentence he has so far earned ;
- (c) the exact or probable date of his release ;
- (d) the state of his health ;
- (e) whether the Government have so far received papers relating to his release for consideration from the jail authorities ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal** (a) Good.

(b) 2 years, 11 months and 8 days.

(c) This cannot be determined. The question of his release will be considered when he has completed 14 years including remissions.

(d) Indifferent.

(e) No.

#### RESIDENTS OF VILLAGE DHILWAN AS MEMBERS OF CRIMINAL TRIBES

**\*8702. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the date and the grounds on which the residents of the village Dhilwan, Thana Berki, were on mass declared as the members of criminal tribes ;

(b) whether any improvement in the conduct of the residents named above has been recorded since their declaration as members of the Criminal Tribes ; if so, whether the Government intends to remove the restrictions imposed upon them ; if so when ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) 23rd October 1906, on account of their criminal activities.

(b) No. Reply to the second part does not arise.

#### CENTRAL JAIL, HISSAR

**\*8734. Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the newly built Central Jail, Hissar, is ready for occupation ;

(b) whether it is intended to transfer all or most of the political prisoners or detenus to this jail ; if so, when ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) No.

(b) No decision has been made.

#### FEE CONCESSIONS FOR SONS OF TEACHERS

**\*8696. Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether he has recently received any representation from the Teachers Association of the various High Schools in the province relating to the grant of concessions in fee to the sons of the teachers in the schools ; if so, the action, if any, that the Government has taken on these representations ?



**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Yes; but for financial reasons it is not possible during the war to examine the question of extending the existing fee concessions for teachers' children admissible under paragraph 8 of Article 121 of the Punjab Education Code, XI edition.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO TEACHERS OF DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS

**\*8697. Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether he has recently received a representation from the Teachers Association of a large number of Government schools praying that, as an emergent measure, the expenditure incurred by the managing bodies of the denominational schools in the province on the grant of dearness allowance to their employees, should be regarded as approved expenditure in the calculation of grant-in-aid to such schools till at least the end of the war; if so, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take on this representation?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Yes. The honourable member apparently means non-Government schools. Information is being collected from the Divisional Inspectors and Circle Inspectresses of Schools as to the probable increase in the next year's grant to privately managed and local body aided schools if the expenditure on dearness allowances, at Government rate, is approved for grant-in-aid purposes.

#### WHEAT

**\*8557. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of wheat that has flowed into the various markets in the province after the lifting of the control;

(b) the main source from which the wheat is flowing into the markets, e.g., the profiteer, the big landlord or the peasantry?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tika Ram) :** (a) I regret that the information asked for is not available, and that the expense and trouble involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the advantages that are likely to be gained thereby.

(b) From all sources.

#### GOVERNMENT POULTRY FARMS

**\*8618. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing for the last 3 years—

(a) the expenditure, in detail, incurred on the pay of the staff, purchase of fowls and other miscellaneous articles for the upkeep of the gardens of the Government Poultry Farms at Gurdaspur, Lyallpur and Montgomery;

(b) the income derived from the sale of poultry stock stating therein in the remarks column whether these Farms are being run at a profit or loss to Government, and, in case of loss, the action that Government proposes to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tika Ram): (a) and (b) A statement showing the expenditure incurred and the income derived from the Poultry Farms at Gurdaspur, Lyallpur and Montgomery during each of the last three years is laid on the table.

The Gurdaspur Poultry Farm is the principal centre of research on poultry husbandry and the centre for imparting poultry instructions to the public while the Lyallpur Farm provides facilities for teaching poultry husbandry to the students of the Punjab Agricultural College. The Montgomery Farm is experimental with a view to determining the best breeds suitable for that locality.

In view of the functions which they fulfil none of these Farms is run on a commercial basis.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: I find that there is a loss of about half-a-lakh annually to Government. I want to know whether that loss cannot be avoided.

**Parliamentary Secretary**: In reply to the question I have informed the honourable member that the Gurdaspur Poultry Farm is the principal centre of research on poultry husbandry and the centre for imparting poultry instructions to the public while the Lyallpur Farm provides facilities for teaching poultry husbandry to the students of the Punjab Agricultural College. They are both very essential and it is not possible to do without any of them.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: I want to know whether there is any college in Gurdaspur too.

**Parliamentary Secretary**: In Gurdaspur we have the Research Centre.

*Statement showing expenditure, income and profit or loss in respect of Poultry Farms at Gurdaspur, Lyallpur and Montgomery for the last three years (i.e., 1939-40, 1940-41 and 1941-42).*

Year	EXPENDITURE ON		Other miscellaneous articles for the up-keep.	Total Expenditure	Total income,	Profit + Loss—	REMARKS
	Pay of staff, etc.	Purchase of fowls.					
Gurdaspur Poultry Farm							
1939-40	9,785	..	2,197	11,982	1,457	—10,525	
1940-41	9,775	..	2,182	11,957	1,568	—10,389	
1941-42	2,986	401	2,445	5,832	1,782	—4,050	
Lyallpur Poultry Farm							
1939-40	455	4	526	985	776	—209	
1940-41	498	57	505	1,060	504	—556	
1941-42	510	25	465	1,000	399	—601	
Montgomery Poultry Farm							
1939-40	168	17	328	513	349	—164	
1940-41	168	9	477	654	503	—151	
1941-42	168	30	626	824	493	—331	

## REALIZATION OF URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TAX FROM LAHORE AREA

**\*8692. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount realized since the time Urban Immovable Property Tax came into force both on account of land revenue and Urban Immovable Property Tax on the same property so far from the Lahore rating area and the number of assesses in this area who have paid both land revenue and the Urban Property Tax on the same property ;

(b) whether any instructions have been issued or are intended to be issued to the assessing authority for not levying both land revenue and Urban Immovable Property Tax on the same area ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) I regret that the information asked for by the honourable member cannot be supplied, as the time and trouble involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

## URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TAX

**\*8693. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount of the Urban Immovable Property Tax realised so far throughout the province and the total cost of collection, direct and indirect of the tax ;

(b) the purposes for which the proceeds of the tax have been utilised ; whether any relief has been granted to the poor from such proceeds and whether any of the objects outlined at the time of levying this tax has been fulfilled ;

(c) whether any towns in the Rohtak district are still exempted from this tax ; if so, the names of such towns and the reasons for their exclusion from the schedule giving list of the rating areas ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Tax amounting to Rs. 16,06,500 was realized up to November 1942. As regards the cost, the staff is employed in connection with the administration of the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act as well as the Punjab General Sales Tax Act. Details of the cost of collection of the property tax alone are not available. The combined total cost of collection up to March 31st 1943 will be Rs. 7,15,125.

(b) No details can be given as the income from the tax is not reserved for any specific purposes.

(c) Yes. The towns in Rohtak district to which the Act has not yet been applied, though included in the Schedule to the Act, are Jhajjar, Beri Bahadurgarh, Gohana, Sonapat and Mehm. Like many other rating areas in other districts, they have been excluded at present owing to the small income which is expected from them.

## WHEAT STORAGE SCHEME

**\*8730. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of wheat and other food-grains like maize, bajra and rice, with the cost of each food-grain separately purchased so far by the Co-operative Department in connection with the wheat storage scheme out of the money placed at its disposal for the purpose ;

(b) the amount of profit or loss, if any, sustained by the Government in carrying out this scheme ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tika Ram) :** (a).

Commodity	Quantity	Cost**	Average cost per maund	REMARKS
	Mds. Srs. Ch.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Wheat ..	1,125,793 0 0	55,36,084 0 0	4 14 8	
Gram ..	421,713 0 0	20,77,255 0 0	4 14 9	
Rice ..	76,552 0 0	9,37,259 0 0	12 3 10.7	
Maize ..	54,330 0 0	3,43,733 0 0	6 5 2.8	
Bajra ..	129,538 0 0	7,82,912 0 0	6 0 8.5	
Total ..	1,807,926 0 0	96,77,243 0 0		

\*\*These figures of costs show the total purchase price paid to the sellers ; they do not include the incidental charges on items like commission, handling and transport charges, octroi charges, cost of storage, and cost of distributing and issuing from godowns. As the work of distribution is still going on the total of the incidental charges cannot be given at this stage. All figures are provisional at this stage, as some purchases have still to be accounted for.

(b) This cannot be answered at this stage since the accounts have not yet been wound up and distribution is still going on. (There is likely to be a substantial profit to Government from the scheme taken as a whole).

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to state how much of this commodity was bought in the open market and how much was got under the Defence of India Rules ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I want notice of that question.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** What quantity of food-grains is still lying with the Co-operative Department ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Notice.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** At what rate is the Government distributing the food-grains ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Notice.

## PURCHASE OF FOOD-GRAINS BY CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

**\*8731. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that maize, bajra and rice were purchased by the Co-operative Department for storage purposes during the present financial year ;

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(b) the amount of money placed at the disposal of Co-operative Department for this purpose ;

(c) whether this amount was placed in anticipation of the vote of the Legislative Assembly ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the total amount of the above mentioned commodities purchased in the province ;

(e) the various rates at which these commodities were purchased by this department and the rates at which these were sold by it to the members of the Co-operative Societies and whether it is a fact that these commodities were purchased and sold at different rates and if so the reasons therefor ;

(f) whether it is a fact that only the members of the Co-operative Societies benefited under this scheme and if the answer be in the affirmative the reasons for the differential treatment between them and the general public ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : As the answer to this question is lengthy, I shall place it on the table.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** : If the answer is read out I can put supplementary questions. I am deprived of this privilege at the eleven o'clock hour.

**Mr. Speaker** : According to Rule 50 "Lengthy answers to starred questions may, on statement by the Minister concerned, be placed on the table of the Assembly without being read".

*Answer to starred question No. 8731.*

(a) Yes.

(b) The allotments for bajra, maize and rice were merged in those for wheat and gram, so no separate figures can be stated ; but the total amount allotted for all grains was Rs. 1,41,40,000 (out of which Rs. 10,00,000 has recently been surrendered).

(c) The allotments were made in anticipation of the vote of the Legislative Assembly, but it is understood have since been voted. It was necessary to make allotments in anticipation of the vote of the Assembly, owing to the urgent need for getting in supplies when the market permitted and the rather uncertain conditions which have prevailed during the year.

(d)

Commodity	Quantity	Cost**	Average cost per maund	REMARKS
	Mds. Srs. Ch.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Wheat ..	1,125,793 0 0	55,36,084 0 0	4 14 8	**
Gram ..	421,713 0 0	20,77,255 0 0	4 14 9	
Rice ..	76,552 0 0	9,37,259 0 0	12 3 10.7	
Maize ..	54,330 0 0	3,43,733 0 0	6 5 2.8	
Bajra ..	129,538 0 0	7,82,912 0 0	6 0 8.5	
Total ..	1,807,926 0 0	96,77,243 0 0		

\*\*These figures of costs show the total purchase price paid to the sellers ; they do not include the incidental charges on items like commission, handling and transport charges, cost of storage, and cost of distributing and issuing from godowns. As the work of distribution is still going on the total of the incidental charges cannot be given at this stage. All figures are provisional at this stage, as some purchases have still to be accounted for.

(e) The average purchase price per maund (excluding incidental charges) were as follows :—

				Rs. A. P.
Rice	..	..	..	12 3 10·7 per maund.
Maize	..	..	..	6 5 2·8 do.
Bajra	..	..	..	6 0 8·5 do.

None of these grains were sold to Co-operative Societies or to the members of Co-operative Societies as such. The question of sale rates for sales to such members does not arise :

(The sale rates fixed by Government were not the same as the purchase rates, because Government fixed the former on general considerations ; but apparently this is not the point which the question intended to raise).

(f) No. There was no discrimination whatever in favour of members of Co-operative Societies in the distribution of these grains, and the only benefit derived from the scheme by Co-operative Societies was the commission earned by those Co-operative Commission Shops through which some of the purchases were made.

(Wherever possible co-operative commission shops were appointed to work as commission agents for the Co-operative Department under this scheme, and approximately one-half of the total wheat bought was bought through co-operative commission shops. The rate of commission charges was the same in all cases).

#### CONSTRUCTION OF A BY-PASS IN NAROWAL

**\*8682. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamat Ali :** With reference to the answer to Starred Question No. 7864,<sup>1</sup> asked on 12th December 1940, will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the question of the construction of a by-pass has since been considered and if so, the result thereof ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** The question was considered, and the work has been placed on the waiting list of projects to be considered after the war is over.

#### SUB-REGISTRARS IN SIALKOT DISTRICT

**\*8698. Chaudhri Ghulam Rasul :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number at present of Sub-Registrars in the Sialkot district, the date of birth of each of them and the date of birth according to a University Certificate in the case of those of them who have passed any University Examination ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF PANCHAYAT IN BHARARI

**\*8720. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Work be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the

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establishment of panchayat at Bharari in tehsil Hamirpur of the Kangra district was postponed twice this year; if so, the reasons for the postponement?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan:** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

DEWAN CHAMAN LAL

**\*8640. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the date of arrest of Dewan Chaman Lal and the reasons for his arrest;

(b) whether the Government intends to try him in a court of law or to release him and; if so, when?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHER

**\*8641. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) since how long Sardar Sardul Singh Caveesher has been under detention and where;

(b) whether since his detention he has been allowed to associate with any other prisoner or detenu and; if not, whether any other person or detenu is allowed to associate with him;

(c) for how much time out of every 24 hours he is allowed to walk in the open air;

(d) whether it is within the knowledge of the Government that he is the Managing Director of a Bank and Insurance Company, and if so, what facilities have been allowed to him in connection with the management of these two companies;

(e) whether the Government intends to try him in a court of law or to release him; if so, when?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): Sardul Singh Caveesher is detained under the orders of the Government of India, and questions about him cannot be raised on the floor of this House, and should be addressed to the Central Government.

SARDAR SARDUL SINGH, PLEADER

**\*8642. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the date of the arrest of Sardar Sardul Singh, Pleader of Lahore and the reasons for the same;

(b) whether at the time of his arrest or for a considerable period prior to his arrest he had been engaged in any kind of activities for the Congress; if so, what those activities were;

(c) whether the Government has ever considered that his detention has ruined his legal practice which he had built up after years of hard work and for that reasons compensating him in any way?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### RESOLUTION OF LEADERS' CONFERENCE *RE.* RELEASE OF MAHATAMA GANDHI

**\*8660. Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any ban was placed in the Punjab regarding the publication of the resolution passed by the Leaders' Conference presided over by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and held in Delhi on the 20th February 1943, urging upon the Government the unconditional release of Mahatama Gandhi; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): No ban was imposed by the Punjab Government.

#### RELEASE OF DETENUS

**\*8661. Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the cases of the Civil Disobedience Detenus of 1942, have been reviewed in the past by the Punjab Government for the purposes of release since their arrests; if so, how many detenus have so far been released as a result of the review up to the 28th February 1943, and the dates when the above-named cases were reviewed?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### CASES OF SABOTAGE

**\*8662. Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the cases of sabotage, if any, committed in the Punjab since the 8th August 1942, with names of the places of their occurrence;

(b) the number and names of those killed or injured as a result of firing and lathi-charge by the police throughout the province with the names of places of such occurrence since the 8th August 1942;

(c) the total number of arrests in the Punjab, district-wise, since the 8th August 1942, in connection with the political disturbances;

(d) the total amount of expenses incurred by the Government on account of political disturbances in the Punjab since the 8th August 1942?



**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**ARREST OF MASTER JASWANT SINGH, PARTAP SINGH AND OTHERS**

**\*8664. Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons why Master Jaswant Singh, Partap Singh, B.A., Pandit Hukam Chand Gulshan and Durga Dass were arrested at Gardhewala, Thana Tanda, District Hoshiarpur recently ;

(b) under whose order they were arrested ;

(c) whether they have made any statements or representations to the Police or district authorities giving reasons for their presence at Gardhewala and their political views in relation to the war ;

(d) the kind of treatment accorded to them in the police custody ;

(e) the period for which they have been detained so far ;

(f) whether Government has reached a final decision in respect of their release ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CASES OF SECURITY PRISONERS**

**\*8665. Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the date on which the committee appointed by the Punjab Government to review cases of security prisoners detained at New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, began its work ;

(b) the total number of cases put up before the committee so far ;

(c) the number of security prisoners whose cases were not put up for review by the committee ;

(d) the total number of sittings of the committee ;

(e) number of cases in which the committee recommended —

(i) unconditional release,

(ii) release with restrictions ;

(f) whether the Government accepted all recommendations of the committee ;

(g) whether the committee is still in existence ; if so, its present programme ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) 20-4-42 ;

(b) 137 ;

(c) to (f) It is not in the public interest to give the details asked for by the honourable member in these parts of the question ; 54 persons were, however, released ;

(g) *First part*—Yes.

*Second part*—it is not sitting at present.

#### ANTI-FASCIST SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8666. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether sometimes during the last summer the Punjab Government under instructions from the Central Government prepared a list of Anti-Fascist Security Prisoners of the province who stood for defence of India against Japanese aggression ;

(b) if so, number of such security prisoners ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS IN GUJRAT SUB-JAIL

**\*8706. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that all the security prisoners detained in the Gujrat Sub-Jail were given A class, and Rs. 15 as personal allowance ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the detenus mentioned above have later been transferred to other jails and their status has been reduced to that of C class prisoners ;

(c) if the answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the number and names of the prisoners mentioned in (b) ;

(e) the state of the health of the prisoners mentioned in (b) before and after their transfer to the lower class ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) They were all put in one class and at first given Rs. 15 per mensem as sundries allowance ;

(b) Two were transferred and given lower status than those retained in Gujrat ;

(c) In view of their record and status—one being a dacoit and the other a robber ;

(d) Two. It is not in the public interest to give names on the floor of the House, but the member asking the question probably knows well who they are.

(e) Good before and after their transfer.

## SECURITY PRISONERS IN GUJRAT SPECIAL SUB-JAIL

**\*8707. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the security prisoners now detained in the Gujrat Special Sub-Jail;

(b) when their cases were examined last; if so, with what results;

(c) whether it is a fact that the majority of the prisoners named above have explicitly stated their views as being anti-Fascist;

(d) if so, the reasons for their continued detention?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) 90 on 11-3-1943; it is not in the public interest to give names.

(b) The cases of 76 of them were examined in 1942 and it was decided to keep them in detention.

(c) Some representations to this effect have been received.

(d) The circumstances which necessitated their detention still exist.

## PANDIT BRAHMA NAND

**\*8717. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Pandit Brahma Nand of Kangra was arrested on 9th September, 1942, by the Punjab C. I. D.,; if so, what was the reason for his arrest;

(b) where was he detained;

(c) when was he released;

(d) whether it is a fact that during the period of his detention he was treated as an ordinary prisoner and that he was not given even railway fare at the time of his release to enable him to reach Kangra; and, if so the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) Yes; he was suspected of having acted in a manner prejudicial to the public safety.

(b) Jullundur Sadr Police Station.

(c) 7-11-1942.

(d) *First part.*—He was treated as a security prisoner.

*Second part.*—The provisions of the law under which he was detained do not enjoin the payment of travelling expenses.

## NATIONAL WAR FRONT

**\*8727. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamat Ali :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Punjab Government is aware that an organization has been set up in this province under the name of the National War Front;

(b) whether this organization is run or controlled by the Punjab Government or any of its departments or officers on behalf of the Punjab Government;

(c) whether the Punjab Government gives any subsidies or makes any payments or contributions to this organization; if so, under which head or heads of the budget?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes. The honourable member asking the question must surely be aware of the fact since he is himself a Joint District Leader in his own district.

(b) No.

(c) None. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: Is it a fact that this organisation known as the National War Front in this province is purely a non-official body?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: Yes.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: Is it a fact that the district secretaries, the district leaders and the joint leaders are all non-official persons?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: Some of them are.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: Is it not a fact that all the district leaders in the province are non-officials?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: Only some of them are non-officials.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: Then do I take it that some of the district leaders are officials?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: Yes, there are one or two.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: Which are the districts where the district leaders are officials?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: I want notice of that question.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: Who is the provincial Secretary of this organisation?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: Mr. Eustace.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: Is he an official?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: Yes, on lent service.

**Mian Abdul Rab**: What is the reason for having an official provincial Secretary for this organisation?

**Premier**: The selection was made by my predecessor and he made it for good reasons. We wanted a man with good experience. There is no objection to an official being appointed to organise a non-official movement. It is done everywhere and that is the case here. I must say that this officer has done very well and the National War Front has been organised and is improving.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: What is the allotment sanctioned for this organisation?

**Premier**: The Punjab Government does not pay for this. We are only concerned in furthering the movement. Why is the honourable member worried about this unnecessarily?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Is this movement subordinate to the Indian National War Front movement?

**Premier :** This is the Indian National War Front movement itself; of course, the provincial part of it.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know what is national about this National War Front?

**Premier :** It is as national as we Indians can think of. It is not a foreign type of National War Front.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Is the Secretary a paid Secretary or an Honorary Secretary?

**Premier :** Yes, he is paid.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** From which fund is he paid?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** From the contribution received from the Government of India.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** What is meant by 'contribution received from the Government of India'?

**Mr. Speaker :** Which part of the answer given by the Government it is now intended to be elucidated by this supplementary question?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** The Parliamentary Private Secretary has said that no allotment has been made by the Punjab Government. I invite your attention to part (b) of the question which is, "whether this organisation is run or controlled by the Punjab Government or any of its departments or officers on behalf of the Punjab Government."

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** My answer to that is "No".

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Who controls the amount allotted by the Government of India?

**Premier :** There seems to be confusion as to what the National War Front is. If the honourable members would remember, initiative was taken in this matter by His Excellency the Viceroy and the Government of India. The entire funds come from the Government of India. The War Front Leader for the Punjab is appointed by His Excellency the Viceroy. Sir Sikander was the last Leader and I happen to be the Leader now. The Provincial Leader appoints the district leaders, and for organisation the services of an officer have been lent and are paid for by the Government of India and are controlled by the Government of India. The movement is non-official in this respect that you have to run it to help the defence of this country. The official aid is also there but you as a Punjabi do not pay for it. If any honourable member thinks that it is a private association of his, then it is not. It belongs to the whole nation. It is an all-India national movement and we are merely the provincial part of this movement.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** From which allotment is the Secretary of the National War Front paid?

**Premier :** I have already said that he is paid from the Government of India funds.

## WHEAT PRICE CONTROL

**\*8729. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of cases under the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder in connection with "wheat price control" still pending in the law courts in the Gurgaon district even at this stage when the order controlling the price of wheat has been withdrawn and whether it is intended to proceed further with these cases at so much public expense; and if so, the public purposes those are intended to serve?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tika Ram) :** I regret that the information asked for by the honourable member is not yet available and is being collected.

## MAULANA HABIB-UR-RAHMAN

**\*8742. Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the weight of Maulana Habib-ur-Rahman, Ludhianvi, a detenu under Section 26 of the Defence of India Act, when he was first weighed in jail in 1940;

(b) his weight when he was last weighed;

(c) whether he has had paralytical attacks on the right side of his body;

(d) whether he has had any heart trouble or pain about the heart;

(e) whether Government has ordered that no extra diet on medical grounds should be given to him;

(f) whether he has been given any medical diet during the last twelve months;

(g) why he has been kept alone for more than one year and why no other detenu has been detained with him;

(h) whether any arrangements exist for his recreation; if so, what are those;

(i) whether Government receives any reports about his health; and if so, the nature of the reports regarding his health received during the last twelve months?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** The collection of the detailed information required by the honourable member will involve time and trouble out of all proportion to any result to be obtained. A medical report on this prisoner was received by Government in the middle of January which showed that there was no cause for anxiety in the matter of his health. Any deterioration in his health would have been reported to Government and I may add that he is permitted to obtain from outside the jail such medicine that he requires in addition to the medical aid provided by Government.

## DETENUS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

**\*8755. Pandit Muni Lal Kalra :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of detenus still detained under Rule 129 of Defence of India Rules and Rules 26 of Defence of India Rules, separately in the Punjab jails;

[Pt. Muni Lal Kalra]

(b) the total number of political prisoners arrested under the Defence of India Rules in the Punjab since 1942;

(c) the number respectively of detenus and political prisoners who have so far been released since 1942?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) and (c) A statement on the subject was made in the general discussion on the budget. Including civil disobedience detenus rather more than 200 persons detained under rule 26 have been released up to the end of January, 1948. Including again civil disobedience detenus rather less than 550 persons are at present in detention under rule 26.

(b) It is not in the public interest to answer this part of the question.

#### FAILURE OF KHARIF CROP IN KANGRA DISTRICT

**\*8719. Panjit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that this year Kharif crop in Kangra district totally failed owing to heavy rains;

(b) whether the Government has granted any relief in this respect to the agriculturists of the district; if not, why not?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### EXTRA OFFICERS TO GIVE EFFECT TO RESTITUTION OF MORTGAGE ACT

**\*8736. Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the names of the Extra Officers and the districts together with the dates of their appointments, where Extra Officers have been appointed to give effect to the provisions of the Restitution of Mortgage Act; if in any district the Extra Officers referred to above have not been appointed, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): It has been decided to appoint 17 extra officers to give effect to the provisions of the Restitution of Mortgage of Lands Act. Eight officers have so far been selected and the districts to which they will be posted are:—

1. M. Murad Bakhsh, Muzaffargarh, Lahore.
2. Khan Sahib Hakim-ud-Din, Sheikhupura and Gujranwala.
3. Khan Bahadur Mirza Ihsan Ullah, Sialkot.
4. Khan Sahib Syed Nissar Qutab, Hoshiarpur.
5. Sardar Sahib Sardar Ude Singh, Ludhiana and Ferozepore.
6. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Miran Bakhsh, Amritsar.
7. Chaudhri Muhammad Ismail, Station of posting is under consideration.

8. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Hussain Ali, Gujrat.

The personal files of other officers are being examined with a view to selecting the remaining 9 officers. Orders regarding the posting of the officers selected have not issued as steps are being taken to create the extra posts against which these officers are to be appointed.

It is intended to appoint these officers only in districts where the extra work is heavy. It is hoped that in other districts the ordinary staff will be able to deal with this work.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** What are the grades of these officers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They are all retired P. C. S. officers.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary as to why retired officers were appointed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Extra officers were needed and the present officers had no experience of revenue. Therefore retired P. C. S. officers were given preference.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Is the Government in favour of giving extension to those persons who have not yet retired ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am sorry I am not in a position to answer this question straightway.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that these retired officers are not fit for service ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### SCHOOL FOR DEAF AND DUMB

\*8619. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the population of the Deaf and Dumb in the Province according to the census of 1941 ;

(b) whether there is any school for teaching the Deaf and Dumb in the province ; if so, the number of students in it and if the reply be in the negative, the reasons therefor and whether the Government have ever taken into consideration the necessity of such an institute in the province ; if so, with what result ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) Information regarding infirmities was not collected at the census of 1941, the scope of which had to be curtailed on account of the war. At earlier censuses the deaf and dumb were not enumerated separately. The number of deaf-mutes in the province was, however, returned in 1911 at 17,000 (round), in 1921 at 18,000 and in 1931 at 16,000.

(b) There are at present no special schools for this unfortunate class of the community. Now that the honourable member has raised the matter, I will, however, consider whether anything in the way of schools or training institutions seems possible.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### IRRIGATION OF CERTAIN VILLAGES FROM TOSHAM (SUNDAR) BRANCH

1633. **Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total area of the following villages irrigated in Kharif 1942 by the new extension canal (Tosham Branch) in Hissar district ;—



[K. S. Ch. Sahib Dad Khan]

(1) Mandhal Kalan. (2) Mandhal Khurd. (3) Dhanana. (4) Mandhana. (5) Lohari Jatu. (6) Bowani Khera. (7) Jamalpur. (8) Bhurtana. (9) Kirawar. (10) Ratira. (11) Balyali. (12) Sagwan. (13) Dang Kalan. (14) Dang Khurd;

(b) whether there was any deficiency in the Irrigation of the area which the canal is designed to irrigate; if so, reasons for the same and what steps Government intends to take to make up the deficiency?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) The total area of these villages irrigated in Kharif 1942 from the new extension channel (Sundar Branch) in Hissar district is compared below with the designed annual irrigation :

Serial No.	Name of village	Designed annual irrigation	Area irrigated in Kharif 1942
		Acres	Acres
1	Mandhal Kalan .. ..	655	143
2	Mandhal Khurd .. ..	1,655	564
3	Dhanana .. ..	1,404	311
4	Mandhana .. ..	426	88
5	Lohari Jatu .. ..	347	57
6	Bowani Khera .. ..	3,395	1,178
7	Jamalpur .. ..	1,498	662
8	Bhurtana .. ..	216	73
9	Kirawar .. ..	733	98
10	Ratira .. ..	1,571	397
11	Balyali .. ..	1,143	37
12	Sagwan .. ..	570	17
13	Dang Kalan .. ..	77	..
14	Dang Khurd .. ..	92	..

(b) Some deficiency in irrigation was due to the fact that good monsoon rains resulted in lot of barani sowings and the canal supplies available were not fully utilized and these new areas are not yet fully developed. Area irrigated after the month of September is not included in the above figures for kharif irrigation.

#### WIDOW OF HAVILDAR GHULAM MUSTAFA

**1634. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has come to his notice that the widow of Havildar Ghulam Mustafa of village Balyali, Hissar District, who was employed in 1/9th Jat and who was killed in May, 1942, by enemy action, on going to Hansi Tehsil Office on December 1942, for the completion of pension papers was made to sit from morning till evening and was insulted and compelled to expose parts of her body by the Naib-Tahsildar, Hansi;

(b) whether he is aware that this conduct of the Naib-Tahsildar was brought to the notice of the higher officers in the district and if so what action has been taken against the Naib-Tahsildar and if no action has been taken the reasons for the same?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Allegations were made by the widow and certain relatives of hers.

(b) The allegations were inquired into by a local officer and the result was reported to higher officers. It was found that the naib-tahsildar was not to be blamed, as he was only complying with orders. Steps have been taken to provide less complex forms to avoid inconvenience to widows and other claimants.

#### SECTION COPYISTS

**1635. Rao Mohar Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether Government intend to take any steps to ameliorate the conditions of the Section Copyists in district offices who have been suffering great hardships and monetary loss on account of loss of increments and pension claims since 1936, when copying agencies in the province were re-organized?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** The honourable member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. 7529<sup>1</sup> asked by Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad, M. L. A., in 1941.

#### SUB-INSPECTORS IN THE INDUSTRIAL BRANCH OF THE CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

**1636. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamat Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the year when the Industrial Branch of the Co-operative Department was made permanent;

(b) the number and the names of Sub-Inspectors who joined this service before the Department was made permanent;

(c) the number and names with the year of entering into service of the Sub-Inspectors who have since been confirmed in their appointment and the names of their immediate gazetted officers who recommended their confirmation;

(d) the number and the names of those Sub-Inspectors who joined this service before the Department was made permanent and who have not so far been confirmed in their appointments with the reasons therefor in each case?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) In May, 1935.

(b) *First part.*—17.

*Second part.*—It is not the practice to give names.

(c) *First part.*—15.

*Second part.*—As in 2nd part of (b) above.

(d) *First part.*—6.

*Second part.*—As in 2nd part of (b) above.

*Third part.*—Their work and records were not good enough to justify confirmation.

## RURAL MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**1637. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number at present of Rural Middle Schools, district-wise, in the Punjab?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** I regret that the answer to the question is not ready.

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CASES OF CORRUPTION INQUIRED INTO BY SPECIAL INQUIRY AGENCY

**1638. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of the cases of corruption instituted by the Special Inquiry Agency during the last two years, i.e. 1941 and 1942, against Government Officials in the Punjab department-wise, and district-wise;

(b) the nature of offences committed and the action taken so far against those officials, department-wise and district-wise;

(c) the number of such cases still pending and the period for which they have remained pending; department-wise and district-wise?

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**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table. The preparation of the detailed information enquired by the honourable member would require an unjustifiable expenditure of time and paper. A brief abstract has been prepared but if he requires any information on any particular case it can be obtained for him.

	Irrigation	Buildings and Roads	Electricity	Revenue	Medical	Civil (Executive)	Civil (Judicial)	High Court	Military	Veterinary	Agriculture	Development	Education	Police	Jail	Exercise	Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners' Office	Forest	Industries	Total
Lahore	2	1	1	2	3			1						1						14
Amritsar																				2
Gujranwala																				1
Gujrat																				1
Rawalpindi																				1
Mianwali																				1
Multan	2																			4
Attock	1																			4
Shahpur																				1
Shikot																				1
Lyalpur																				1
Ferozepore	1																			1
Ludhiana																				3
Gurgaon																				3
Bhakar																				1
Montgomery	1																			1
Amabala	1	1																		1
Jullundur																				1
Hoshiarpur																				1
Jhang																				1
Karnal	1																			4
Total	10	2	1	18	8	4	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	62

[Premier.]

(b) and (c) 62 cases in all were investigated by the Special Inquiry Agency. They related to corruption, bribery, embezzlement and misconduct. Investigation was discontinued in 26 cases due to various reasons. Allegations were proved in 15 cases while 19 cases are yet pending orders. Sufficient evidence was not forthcoming in 2 cases and no further action was taken.

#### FEE CONCESSION IN SCHOOLS

**1639. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government have issued a circular letter to the local bodies and to the managing bodies of the various denominational schools in the Province to the effect that the tuition fee concessions be granted to the sons and dependent brothers of the soldiers in His Majesty's Forces; if the answer is in affirmative, whether Government intends to compensate the loss of income so caused to the local bodies and the denominational schools?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Yes. The loss in income from fees in aided schools will be treated as approved expenditure for purposes of grant-in-aid. Government is also prepared to consider sympathetically requests for compensation for such loss from those unaided schools where the loss is unusually heavy.

#### DISPENSARIES IN RURAL AREAS

**1640. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of dispensaries in the rural area of the Gurgaon district and the percentage of the population of the rural area of the district, which derives benefit by these dispensaries, as shown by the dispensary registers of attendance maintained by each dispensary;

(b) whether Government is aware that the existing arrangements for the medical aid in that district are not adequate; if so, whether and when Government propose to make adequate arrangements for medical aid in the district?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) The number is 27. The returns show that during 1941 the number of patients who attended is equal to 40 per cent of the population of the rural area.

(b) No.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS, IN THE PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT

**1641. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of posts held by Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Ambala Division as Superintendents, Personal Assistants, Stenographers, Assistants, Senior and Junior Clerks, Senior and Junior Translators, Restorers in the Punjab Civil Secretariat; if the Hindu Statutory

Agriculturists of the Ambala Division are not properly represented in the cadres named above, the reasons therefor, and the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** The information is as follows :—

1. Superintendents .. .. .	Nil.
2. Assistants .. .. .	2
3. Senior Clerks .. .. .	4
4. Junior Clerks .. .. .	3
5. Senior Translators .. .. .	Nil.
6. Junior Translators .. .. .	Nil.
7. Restorers .. .. .	Nil.
8. Personal Assistants and Stenographers ..	Nil.

The total number of Hindu zamindars (which is a wider term for agriculturists) in the Punjab Civil Secretariat is 39. The statutory Hindu agriculturists of the Ambala division in the Civil Secretariat, are therefore, fully represented.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AS REVENUE ASSISTANTS

**1642. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of statutory Hindu agriculturists posted as Revenue Assistants in the various districts in the Punjab since the 1st of April, 1942; how many of them are on the "main list" and how many on the "may be tried list"; if there is no Hindu agriculturist on either of the above-mentioned lists the action Government intends to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** 1st part.—Main List: two; May be tried list: two.

2nd part.—Does not arise.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AS A.D.Ms.

**1643. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of statutory Hindu agriculturists posted as A.D.M's, in the various districts in the Punjab and also the number of those who are on the A.D.M's. list;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) 3 and 6;

(b) Does not arise.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

**1644. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of clerical posts held by the Muslims, Hindus

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and Sikhs in the Police Department (excluding those on the additional police side) from the office Superintendent down to the apprentice clerks, respectively, and the number of those posts among them which are held by the Statutory agriculturists of each community named above?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** I am afraid the information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve time and labour out of all proportion to the result to be obtained. The attention of the Honourable Member is, however, invited to the statement at page 17 of the Consolidated Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities in the different departments of the Punjab Government as it stood on the 1st January, 1942.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN IRRIGATION SECRETARIAT

**1645. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst Superintendents, Assistants, Senior Clerks and Junior Clerks, respectively, employed in the Irrigation Secretariat, Lahore?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :**

Grade				No. of Hindu Statutory Agriculturists
Superintendents	..	..	..	Nil.
Assistants	..	..	..	1
1st Grade Clerks	..	..	..	Nil.
2nd Grade Clerks	..	..	..	1

The honourable member is also referred to the consolidated statements published by the Punjab Government, showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments, as they stand on 1st January each year. These statements contain all the information of the kind required in the above question.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN IRRIGATION SECRETARIAT

**1646. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the total number of Junior Clerks appointed in the office of the Irrigation Secretariat, Lahore, since 1st April 1937, and the number of statutory Hindu Agriculturists among them?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :**

Total number of junior clerks appointed in the Irrigation Secretariat since 1st April, 1937. 25

Number of statutory Hindu agriculturists among them 1

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AMONG MUNSHIS TO ZILLADARS

**1647. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Munshis to the Zilladars recruited

in the province by direct appointment since 1st April 1937, and the number of statutory Hindu agriculturists among them ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** The required information is given below :—

Total No. of appointments made since 1st April, 1937	No. of Statutory Hindu Agriculturists among them	No. at present attached to Zilladars.*
137	8	71

\*The remaining Munshis are attached to Deputy Collectors, Ahlmads, etc.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AMONG ZILLADARS

**1648. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the total number of Zilladars appointed in the Province since 1st April 1937, and the number of statutory Hindu agriculturists among them ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :**

Total number of zilladars appointed since 1st April 1937	83
Statutory Hindu agriculturists in above	7

#### STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT

**1649. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the total number of Class I and Class II posts held by the Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs, and Indian Christians, respectively, in the Reclamation Department, Punjab, and the number of posts held there by Statutory Agriculturists belonging to each of the said communities ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** The required information is given in the statement below :

Class of Service	Total posts	MUSLIMS		HINDUS		SIKHS		INDIAN CHRISTIANS	
		Total	Agriculturists	Total	Agriculturists	Total	Agriculturists	Total	Agriculturists
Class I .. ..	3	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	..
Class II .. ..	4	3	3	1	1	..	..	..	..

#### STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AMONG RESEARCH ASSISTANTS IN THE RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT

**1650. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of the posts of Research Assistants held by the Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs in the Reclamation Department,



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Punjab, and the number of posts held there by statutory agriculturists belonging to each of the above named communities ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :**

MUSLIMS		HINDUS		SIKHS	
Total	Statutory Agriculturists	Total	Statutory Agriculturists	Total	Statutory Agriculturists
12	12	9	1	9	5

**STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AMONG TEMPORARY ENGINEERS IN THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT**

**1651. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh temporary Engineers recruited to the Punjab Irrigation Department since the 1st April 1937, and the number of Statutory Agriculturists among them belonging to each of the above named communities ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :**

				Number recruited	Number of Agriculturists among them
Hindus	..	..	..	26	4
Muslims	..	..	..	30	21
Sikhs	..	..	..	15	10

**STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS ADMITTED INTO THE RASUL ENGINEERING SCHOOL**

**1652. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs admitted into the Government School of Engineering, Rasul in 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942 and the total number of statutory agriculturists admitted in each of these years belonging to each community named above ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** The information is being collected.

**STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS ADMITTED INTO PUNJAB COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**

**1653. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs admitted into the Punjab College of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, in 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942 and the total number of statutory agriculturists admitted in each of these years belonging to each community named above ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan:** The information asked for is as follows:—

	MUSLIMS		HINDUS & OTHERS		SIKHS		Total
	Agriculturists	Non-Agriculturists	Agriculturists	Non-Agriculturists	Agriculturists	Non-Agriculturists	
1937—A Class .. .. .	2	4	..	3	1	..	15
B Class .. .. .	5	4	..	11	..	5	25
C Class .. .. .	3	6	..	8	..	4	21
Total .. .. .	10	14	..	27	1	9	61
1938—A Class .. .. .	1	3	1	8	1	6	20
B Class .. .. .	5	5	..	10	2	3	25
C Class .. .. .	7	4	1	10	..	2	24
Total .. .. .	13	12	2	28	3	11	69
1939—A Class .. .. .	9	3	1	8	1	3	25
B Class .. .. .	7	5	1	7	1	4	25
C Class .. .. .	6	8	..	9	..	4	27
Total .. .. .	22	16	2	24	2	11	77
1940—A Class .. .. .	6	5	2	5	4	1	23
B Class .. .. .	6	6	1	5	3	3	24
C Class .. .. .	3	6	5	9	1	2	26
Total .. .. .	15	17	8	19	8	6	73
1941—A Class .. .. .	9	3	2	6	3	2	25
B Class .. .. .	7	5	3	5	2	3	25
C Class .. .. .	7	8	1	15	3	6	40
Total .. .. .	23	16	6	26	8	11	90
1942—A Class .. .. .	9	6	4	5	4	2	30
B Class .. .. .	7	5	2	6	1	3	24
C Class .. .. .	6	3	..	15	2	1	27
Total .. .. .	22	14	6	26	7	6	81

These figures do not include railway nominees and candidates from other Administrations.

#### STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE-GENERAL

**1654. Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of the clerical posts in the office of the Advocate-General, Punjab, held by the Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs and the number of posts held by statutory agriculturists among them respectively, if any community is under-represented in the above-named office, the reasons therefor and the action Government intends to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** There are 7 clerical posts in the office of the Advocate-General, Punjab, which are held by four Muslims and three Hindus. Two of them are statutory agriculturists. The posts, as and when they fall vacant, are filled in accordance with the block system and so far the vacancies have gone to Muslims only. Other recruitments will be made as vacancies arise.

STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

**1655. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the total number of special, Class I and Class II posts held by the Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs, respectively, in the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, and the number of posts held by statutory agriculturists among them, separately; if any community is under-represented in the above named cadres, the reasons therefor and the action intended to be taken in the matter?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** A statement giving the requisite information as it stood on the 1st January, 1948, is enclosed.

In the case of vacancies to be filled by promotion communal considerations are not kept in view. To give due share to all communities in the vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment, block system has been introduced, according to which five out of every ten vacancies are allotted to Muslims, two to Sikhs and three to Hindus and others.

*Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the Agriculture Department of the Punjab Government as it stood on the 1st January 1943.*

1	2	3	4	5	6												
Name of appointment	Total number of appointments	Europeans and Anglo-Indians	INDIANS						PERCENTAGE TO COLUMN 2					PERCENTAGE ON COLUMN 2			
			Muslims		Hindus		Sikhs		Indian Christians		Scheduled Castes						
			Members of notified Agri-cultural Tribes	Others	Members of notified Agri-cultural Tribes	Others	Members of notified Agri-cultural Tribes	Others	Members of notified Agri-cultural Tribes	Others							
Special posts ..	6	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	16.6	50.0	16.7	16.7	..	..	66.7	33.3
Other Gazetted officers Provincial Service.	3	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	33.3	33.3	..	66.7	33.3
(a) Punjab Agricultural Service Class I.	17	..	3	2	2	2	2	..	..	..	47.0	29.5	23.5	..	..	70.5	29.5
(b) Punjab Agricultural Service Class II.	33	..	20	2	16	3	..	..	..	..	37.7	28.5	35.8	..	..	71.7	28.3

## STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

**1656. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the total number of posts of Superintendents, Head Assistants, Head Clerks and clerks held by the Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, respectively, in the Department of Agriculture, Punjab and the number of posts held by Statutory Agriculturists of each community, in the cadres mentioned above?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** A statement giving the requisite information as it stood on the 1st January, 1943, is enclosed.

*Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities in the clerical staff of Agriculture Department of the Punjab Government as it stood on the 1st January, 1943.*

1	2	3	4	5	6														
Name of appointment	Total number of appointments	Europeans and Anglo-Indians	INDIANS						PERCENTAGE TO COLUMN 2				PERCENTAGE ON COLUMN 2						
			Muslims		Hindus		Sikhs		European and Anglo-Indians	Muslims	Hindus	Sikhs		Indian Christians	Scheduled Castes	Members of notified Agricultural Tribes	Others		
			Members of notified Agri. cultural Tribes	Others	Members of notified Agri. cultural Tribes	Others	Members of notified Agri. cultural Tribes	Others										Members of notified Agri. cultural Tribes	Others
(a) Superintendents	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	100	..	..	..	..	50.0	50.0	Others			
(b) Head Assistants	4	..	2	1	1	..	..	..	50.0	50.0	..	..	..	75.0	25.0	Members of notified Agri. cultural Tribes			
(c) Head Clerks	11	..	2	1	6	1	..	..	27.3	54.5	9.1	9.1	..	18.2	81.8	Others			
(d) Clerks	216	..	78	17	54	19	16	..	48.9	36.1	16.2	1.4	2.4	56.5	43.5	Members of notified Agri. cultural Tribes			

HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN OFFICE OF COLONISATION OFFICER,  
HAVELI PROJECT

**1657. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Hindu Statutory Agriculturists amongst the employees in the office of the Colonization Officer, Haveli Project : if they are under-represented in the above-named office, the reasons, therefore and the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Sir Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** *Part I.*—One only

*Part II.*—Very few suitable agriculturists have been coming forward for vacancies, apparently for the reasons that there are very few members of notified agricultural tribes amongst the Hindus in this part of the Punjab.

HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN OFFICE OF COLONISATION OFFICER  
NILI BAR COLONY

**1658. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst the Head Clerks and clerks employed in the office of the Colonization Officer of the Nili Bar Colony ; if they are under-represented in the above-named office, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** *Part I.*—One only.

*Part II.*—Applications were invited and examinations held during the years 1941 and 1942 ; but not a single Hindu statutory agriculturist applied for the post. As no statutory agriculturist is available, it is not possible to appoint any.

HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE OFFICES OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF DIVISIONS

**1659. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of the posts of Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Head Vernacular Clerks, and other clerks (pensionable and non-pensionable) held by the Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, respectively, in the offices of the Commissioners of the various divisions in the Punjab and the number of posts held by statutory agriculturists of each community, separately, in the above-named offices ; if the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists are under-represented in the cadres mentioned above, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** Attention is invited to the consolidated statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government as it stood on the 1st January, 1942. Very clear and strict instructions already exist, both on communal and class proportions, in respect of the initial appointments of clerks. If any departures from these instructions are brought to the notice of Government by any honourable members they will receive prompt and careful attention. But appointments to the posts of Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and Head Vernacular clerks are usually made by promotions which, in accordance with

the recognised policy of Government, cannot be influenced by considerations of class or community. The under-representations of statutory Hindu agriculturists in these cadres is accounted for by their educational backwardness and consequent lack of men of suitable qualifications and sufficient seniority among them.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### INDUSTRIES

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** Mr. Speaker, as only two hours are left at our disposal for the discussion on Industry I submit that a time limit may be fixed for each member to speak on this demand. I think fifteen minutes for each member would be sufficient. May I, therefore, request the Honourable Premier to move a motion to that effect in the House?

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** My suggestion is that this session may be extended by one day to enable the honourable members to speak on the demand under consideration.

**An Honourable Member :** Two hours are not sufficient. The time should be extended.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is not in my power.

**Premier :** With your permission, Sir, may I say one word? This time was allotted with the consent and approval of the Leader of the Opposition. I extended the period under General Administration demand and it was considered that that part of the day plus the remaining day would be sufficient for Industries. Industry is not a subject which must be taken up this year. As you will remember it was discussed year before last. So it is coming up after only one year. I think there will be ample opportunities for honourable members to discuss it. So I would request you to lay down the time limit. I may further add that there are few gentlemen who can really usefully contribute to the discussion of industries. I do not mean any disrespect to others. What can people like myself say about industries? We know only of one industry and that is agriculture. But there are others whose advice Government would like to take.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour). (Urdu) : Except for the mover, time limit may be fixed.

Sir, before I proceed with my speech, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Premier for having declared in his speech yesterday that he welcomed constructive criticisms made from any quarter and that he would endeavour to make improvements in the administration in their light.

Then, Sir, I have to offer congratulations to the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal, the Finance Minister, for the statement which he made during the course of his reply to the general discussion of the Budget. It is gratifying to note that he expressed his definite opinion to the effect that he was not in favour of imposing any more fresh taxes.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** On a point of order. Is my honourable friend discussing industries?



**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal:** I am voicing the feelings of the commercial and industrial classes of the Province. I have also received a telegram from Lala Behari Lal Chanana in this connection and it is my duty to do so. The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal's statement in connection with the Government's taxation policy has also got connection with the trade because it relates to taxes like the Sales Tax, etc., which directly concern the trading classes. Now I come to the subject under consideration of the House. I may point out that it is needless to lay stress on the fact that the development of industries is absolutely necessary in the best interest of the Province. It is the bounden duty of the Government to give their undivided attention to the matter of formulating schemes calculated to bring prosperity and wealth to the Province. They should devise ways and means to give an impetus to the growth of industries. It is an admitted fact that industrialization will make the people of the Province prosperous and raise their standard of living. Besides, it will help a great deal in eliminating unemployment and curbing the criminal propensities of the unemployed. In other words if the Province is industrialised, the unemployed will get work and they will no longer indulge in law-breaking activities or commit robberies, etc. Above all with the development and expansion of industries, the communal harmony will be achieved to a greater extent.

Now I divide my speech into two parts. First, I will take up the working of the Department of Industries and the policy of the Government underlying the demand. Secondly, I will deal with the post-war reconstruction programme which is of vital importance and should engage the attention of the Government immediately. So far as the working of the Industries Department is concerned I have not much to say. We find some improvements here and there in the routine work. For instance, demonstration parties are being sent out by the department to tour the rural areas in the Province for the purpose of lecturing and imparting training to the people in certain cottage industries. Besides, officers in the department have begun to take interest in the schemes intended to give an impetus to the growth of industries in the Province. But I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that besides ordinary routine administration of the Industries Department, which is no doubt running efficiently, they should also pay attention to a most important aspect of this matter, namely, what steps Government have taken for the development of large-scale industries in this Province. They should have taken bold steps at a much earlier stage but no attention is being paid even now towards this. Since the Honourable Finance Minister bears a very sympathetic attitude towards industrialization of the Province, I am sure he would give his careful consideration to this suggestion. I know he is prepared to go to any length to give help to the industrialists. I can bear personal testimony to this fact. It is to my knowledge how through his personal intervention certain commercial companies succeeded in getting assistance from the Government. This indicates that he is keenly interested in the development of Industries in the Punjab.

I would also like to mention that when the Hydro-Electric Scheme was taken in hand the idea was that Government would supply cheap electric power to industries which would greatly facilitate the establishment of new industries in the Province. May I know how far Government have succeeded

in achieving their object? I think it is one of the foremost duties of the Government to provide cheap electricity to the industrialists, if they are serious to bring about rapid industrialization of the Province.

Then I have to make another submission and that is this. Two years ago when the subject of Industries was discussed threadbare in this House, the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, the then Minister in charge of Industries Department, was pleased to mention a few points in connection with the industrial planning of the province. I want to draw the pointed attention of the House and the Honourable Minister for Finance to them.

My honourable friend, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, during the course of his speech on the 20th March 1941, remarked as follows :—

“The services of an eminent economist of progressive ideas — Professor K. T. Shah — were specially secured for drawing up a plan of industrial development in the province. This plan is now under the consideration of the Government.”

This announcement caused great satisfaction to the industrialists who felt that the Government had done the right thing. Now two years have elapsed and the Government have not so far told us as to what became of the report submitted by the learned Professor Shah. We have been kept totally in the dark about it. We would like to know why it has been kept back as a confidential document. The Government should apprise the public of the action they have taken or propose to take on this report. I fervently hope that the Honourable Minister would throw light on this matter, and state how long he will take to arrive at a final conclusion on the recommendations contained in the report.

Then he proceeded to remark that “A general survey of the province both by districts and by industries has been undertaken, which has not been attempted in any other province.” This remark sent a wave of enthusiasm in the minds of the people. The industrial survey held out great hopes to the public. But the pity of it is that nothing further has been made known to us by the Government about it. May I enquire whether this survey has been completed or its operations have been left midway or whether it is being still carried on? At what stage has it reached now? I am sure the Honourable Minister would clarify the position.

Then Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram further remarked :—

The Research Laboratory has been placed on a permanent footing and Research Fund with a nucleus of 1½ lakhs was started two years ago. An amount of Rs. 10,000 is being added to this fund in 1941-42 budget.”

In this connection I would like to know the amount that has so far been incurred upon it. How much work has been accomplished by the Laboratory? How far has it proved useful to the commercial people? As I consider the work of research most important, I think if the Government stand in need of additional money with a view to securing the services of more experts and equipping the Laboratory still further, they should by all means get the necessary amount and push on the work. Besides, I would like the Government to apprise us of something about the Industrial Research Committee which was appointed some time ago. No report has been published about its work so far. It should be made available to the public as soon as possible.

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Further on, Sir Chhotu Ram referred to the resolution passed by this House. He said :—

“A resolution sponsored by the Unionist Party has been passed, urging upon the Government the advisability of undertaking large scale industries either by itself or in partnership with private capitalists.”

Now this resolution was discussed at length and it is long since it was passed by the House. I am of the opinion that no useful purpose would be served by passing resolutions and holding desultory discussions on them, if the Government do not care to translate them into action. Government should take a bold step in this direction.

**Minister of Finance :** Please suggest some industry.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** For instance, Government can establish textile industry in the province. In this connection I perfectly remember that, before war broke out, some eminent industrialists including Sir Jawala Prashad Srivastava, Mr. Robertson-Taylor of Amritsar and Sayad Amjad Ali Shah, approached the Honourable Premier with a proposal to establish textile industry in the Punjab. But the Government wasted two years over negotiations. Then hostilities were started and the proposal ended in smoke. I think if the Government had helped in the materialisation of that proposal, they as well as the province would have enormously gained from it. The establishment of textile industry in the Punjab would have gone a long way to reduce unemployment and brought increased revenues to the provincial exchequer.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)*

Then, Sir, I have just received a complaint from Rai Bahadur Maha Narain of the Ganesh Flour Mills, Limited, and I want to bring the facts to the notice of the Government.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Have you verified the facts ?

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** Undoubtedly. My honourable friend should bear this fact in mind that I fully realise my responsibility and I always make sure of my facts before stating them on the floor of the House. Rai Bahadur Maha Narain applied to the Director of Industries for sale of 16 acres of Crown land adjoining his factory at Lyallpur which is included in factory area. He wanted this land for the purpose of building up a new factory. After the completion of necessary formalities regarding the sale of land by the district revenue authorities and the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, the case was sent up to the Government for necessary sanction. The case remained under the consideration of the Government for full four years. The final result was that the Government refused to sell the land concerned. My submission is that procrastination on the part of the Government in such important matters is regrettable. If ultimately they had to refuse sanction, they ought to have done so at the most after six months. They perhaps do not realise the fact that delay in industrial matters proves detrimental to the best interests of the enterprising people. Besides, this land was required for a declared industrial purpose and its rejection by the Government, therefore, is contrary to the

professed policy of industrial encouragement. However, what I feel is that Government should not have put the gentleman concerned to four years' weary waiting and then given him a flat refusal. I am, therefore, of the opinion that the Government should expedite such matters and this will go a long way to encourage the development of industries in the province.

Then, I have to make a suggestion to the effect that the terms on which the Industries Department advances loans to small industrialists are rather stringent. They should be revised and relaxed to a great extent. The department, while considering the security offered by the applicant for short-term loans, should particularly take into consideration the machinery plant which has been installed and which is intended to be installed.

Now I come to the second part of my speech. As the time at my disposal is very short and I have to say many things, I will briefly state my points. The most important matter which I want to bring to the notice of the Government is the problem of post-war reconstruction. Government appear to have given no consideration to this matter. I may point out that the British Government, in spite of their being preoccupied with a total war, are devoting themselves fully to the problems which they will have to face after the termination of the war. Similarly the Government of the United States of America are paying due attention to the formulation of post-war programme months ahead of the successful conclusion of the war. In Australia, too, the Dominion Government are fully aware of the fact that in spite of the war, they must plan for post-war reconstruction. As fortunately we are situated far from the actual scene of war, it becomes all the more incumbent upon this Government to work out post-war plan for reconstruction according to capacity, far ahead of the cessation of hostilities. Government should engage experts to devise ways and means to solve this problem. In this connection I may point out that in Britain there is a Minister without portfolio in Sir William Jowett, who has full responsibility for the planning and co-ordination of reconstruction. However, what I want to emphasise is that it is the duty and responsibility of the Government to undertake this work as early as possible. They should secure the services of experts to plan for the establishment of heavy industries necessary for the stability and prosperity of the province. Since our Province abounds in raw materials and there is no dearth of healthy labour in the Punjab, the establishment of heavy industries will certainly prove a paying proposition. Honourable members are aware of the fact that our country is very backward in industry. We cannot manufacture in this country railway engines, motor engines, cars, electrical goods, automobiles and machinery of various kinds. If such industries are established, the problem of unemployment, which is sure to become acute as a result of demobilisation after the war, will be solved. Besides, the services of trained and experienced technicians and skilled labour could be usefully utilised. Thus we will be achieving the end which we had in view while passing the resolution that large-scale industries, state-managed or in partnership with private industrialists, should be established in the Province. Besides taking this step, we shall also be achieving the object of another resolution which I moved during the last session of the Assembly asking the Government of India to give money to the Punjab Province in proportion to the strength

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of the Punjabis in the Indian Army to ameliorate the condition of the demobilized army men after the termination of war. This is the best way of helping those men and this would also greatly benefit the Province. I am sure the Government will give their careful and active attention to the suggestions put forward by me. I suggest that Government should appoint a post-war Reconstruction Committee consisting of experts in different lines and commercial representatives, to prepare a comprehensive plan for setting up industries and formulate schemes to cope with the situation likely to arise out of the post-war problems. With these words I close my remarks.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan** (Amritsar, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, you will agree with me that it is not possible for an industrialist like me to do full justice to the subject under consideration within a short period of 15 minutes. However, I propose to deal briefly with the administration of the Department of Industries and the policy of the Government underlying this demand. Sir, I was elected to this Assembly in 1939. As I have been closely connected with the industries in the province, I began to take keen interest in the Industries Department. Now I can say without any exaggeration that since 1939 the department has made immense progress in the industrial field and has done a lot for the growth of industries in the province. There has been a steady increase in the amount earmarked by the Government for Industries and this fact reflects credit on the Government. Then the Department of Industries has set up certain industrial institutions which have produced thousands of students fully equipped with the technical knowledge of certain industries. After having been trained there, they have entered the service of certain industrial concerns, or have started their own industries on a small scale. Thus they are in a way adding to the wealth of the province. (*Interruption*). My honourable friend has been pleased to remark that all these industrial institutions are intended for the benefit of the urban people. I beg to join issue with him on this point. He must be aware of the fact that Government have appointed demonstration parties in regard to certain cottage industries entirely for the benefit of rural people. They go about in the villages and impart training to men and women and also hold demonstrations of many an industry. Besides, while establishing industrial schools the Government have nowhere laid down that students belonging to urban areas only can receive education there. Everybody without any distinction is eligible for admission into these institutions. I can say with certainty that hundreds of students from rural areas have learnt some industries from these schools. So my honourable friend need have no grouse against the urban people on this score. Further, the Government have established a Research Laboratory which is proving very useful to the industrialists. They have also appointed textile inspectors, wool experts and other technical experts for allied industries. They are helping the people engaged in different industries. Moreover, Government have set up a model factory at Shahdara which is doing highly useful work. There is another department, namely, the Stores Purchase Department which has been created by the Government.

with a view to purchasing and utilising all those articles which are manufactured in the Punjab, to meet the demands of the Government. This has encouraged and proved very beneficial to the industrialists of the province. As a result of this all-round industrial development brought about by the unceasing efforts of the Industries Department, hundreds of factories have been started by the public in the province. As a matter of fact, this progress in the domain of industry has resulted in the increase of labourers in registered factories. Their number has gone up to fifty thousand. Then cottage industries have received a great impetus as a result of the progressive industrial policy of the Government. We find a first class blanket weaving industry flourishing in Panipat. Honourable members would be interested to hear that no less than 10 thousand weavers are engaged in this industry and they are producing blankets worth lakhs of rupees for supply to the Defence Department. Again, Wazirabad and Hafizabad have become industrial centres for the production of cutlery and they cater to the needs of the Military Department.

I have to submit that the office work of the Director of Industries has increased enormously owing to the multifarious activities of the department concerned. I am of the opinion that if the Government want him to give his undivided attention to the formulating of new schemes for the development of industries in the Punjab, then they should give him some relief by increasing the staff of his department.

Now I desire to draw the attention of the House to an important matter. It is an admitted fact that no country can make any headway and come in line with other civilised countries, unless it is highly industrialised. The absence of industries in a country swells the number of the unemployed. Besides, owing to the rise in the birth rate, the population in the province, particularly in the rural areas, is on the increase, but the land has not expanded proportionately, and it cannot, as man has no control over it. The result is that the pressure on land has become acute and cannot support increasing population. Hence rapid industrialisation of the province is the prime need of the hour. Apart from this, machinery is being increasingly used in agricultural operations. Naturally the use of improved agricultural implements and machinery is bound to throw a large number of cultivators out of work. They will try to seek some employment in the cities and thus reinforce the number of unemployed already there. Besides, after the war is over, hundreds of thousands of soldiers will be disbanded, adding to the number of the unemployed. Thousands of technicians who are at present employed in war factories will lose their employment. After all some arrangement must be made to provide work for them. If the Government do not think over the matter how to devise some scheme, the result will be disturbances and discontent on a large scale. I would suggest, therefore, that Government should start the work of planning at once so that work may be provided for the unemployed in future. The Government of India have adopted a wonderful scheme inasmuch as they have expanded their supply department and their industrial programme to such an extent which it would not have been possible to do ordinarily within the space of even twenty years. This scheme has arisen from war conditions, but all the same it is a very good scheme. My submission is that if the British Government has adopted such a good scheme for the winning of the war, let our

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Punjab Government devise some scheme with a view to keep the wolf away from the door of those people who would be thrown out of employment after the war. Just as the British Government in India have expanded their supply department, similarly our Government should develop industries in the province. If, however, they cannot develop industries in the Punjab on the same scale as the supply department has done during war, they should at least see what kind of industries, cottage or otherwise, can be started in the villages and towns without importing machinery from the United Kingdom. For instance, I know that previously paper was manufactured at Sialkot. But at present it is not. If that industry is revived that would go a long way in solving the difficulties of the newspaper owners as well as advertising agencies. Similarly there are scores of other industries which can be promoted in the province. In this way if industries are started in the Punjab, they would provide work to thousands of persons who would lose work after the war is over.

I shall now explain to the House the scheme which I have prepared for the industrialisation of the Punjab after the war. But before I do so I would like to tell you that once a difference of opinion arose between Trotsky and Stalin as to what kind of industries should be started in Russia. Stalin advocated the establishment of machine-making and heavy industries, for in his opinion a country without such industries was not capable of developing industries on a large scale. But Trotsky was opposed to this. In the end Stalin won and Trotsky had to yield. The result was that machine-making and heavy industries were established in Russia. It is that step of Stalin that has made Russia capable of offering so stiff an opposition to the German war machine. Had the point of view of Trotsky prevailed, the history of Russia by this time would have been a different one. It follows therefore that if a country wants to promote industries it should establish heavy and machine-making industries first. The importance of such industries can be gauged better in war time than in peace time. For instance, had war come to India machineries which we had imported from abroad would have been destroyed by enemy action and as there are no heavy and machine-making industries to supply us the necessary machinery the result would have been chaos. The whole economic structure would have broken down. It is therefore absolutely essential that if a country wants to promote industries it must establish heavy and machine-making industries as well. My honourable friend over there observed that there is neither coal nor iron ore in the Punjab and so heavy industries cannot be established in this province. But my submission is that this statement can be made only if the Punjab Government had tapped the mineral resources of the province and failed. I ask, has the Punjab Government considered the question of encouraging mining industry in this province? On the contrary so far the attitude of the Government of India has been one of discouragement only. The Government of India not only did not encourage industries in the country but they positively discouraged them. They in fact in order to destroy the Indian industry went to the length of imposing a cotton excise duty of 5 per cent on goods manufactured in India. I was then a member of the Central Legislature and I protested against

that. They never tolerated the idea of establishing heavy and machine-making industries in India. That was one of the reasons why mining industry had not been encouraged in the Punjab. If the Punjab Government think they cannot undertake the development of mining industry in this province, let them at least give facilities to those who want to undertake this important task. Anyway my submission is that even if there is no coal or iron ore to be found in this province, still there are industries in this province in which cotton and woollen cloths are manufactured. For the past so many years they had been importing coal and iron ore for their use and they can continue to do so. I would therefore request that Government should raise a loan for promoting industries in the province. In my opinion Government can raise this loan very easily because there is plenty of money in the market which people would very willingly lend to Government. At present banks give  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent rate of interest which is not at all tempting to capitalists and if Government were to offer 3 per cent rate of interest people would be only too glad to invest their money. In this way Government can raise crores of rupees. Then they should start industries in which 51 per cent capital should be invested by Government and 49 per cent by the public. The public should be guaranteed a minimum dividend, otherwise they will not invest their money in such concerns. This suggestion if adopted will lead to the industrialization of the Punjab. As Sir Manohar Lal has pointed out, a country can become rich only if its exports are more than its imports. This has all along been the point of view of Great Britain. Even at present British statesmen are looking forward to the day when they would be able to re-establish their exports. India used to be rich in medieval ages and during the Moghul times because at the time it exported manufactured goods to other countries. Let me tell my friends that a country can become rich not by export of raw materials but by export of manufactured goods. If Government adopt this suggestion they will not have to spend much. Because they would raise loans at the rate of 3 per cent and earn a dividend, say, at the rate of 4 per cent only. I know that so far the industries started by Government have proved failures. In order to provide against such a thing I propose that in such industries 51 per cent capital should be invested by Government and 49 per cent by private industrialists. In this way the industries would become state-controlled and the public also would have a say in the matter. Rather they would see that Government officers do not mismanage such concerns and thus bring them to the verge of ruin.

Then Sir, there is another matter which I would like to bring to the notice of the House. Labourers are at present in great difficulties, so something should be done to alleviate their misery. For this purpose it is necessary that Government should open a department of civil supplies. That department should purchase wheat at the time of the gathering of the harvest at market rate. For this also money would be required. I would suggest that the loan which the Government would raise for the promotion of industries in the province can be used for purchasing wheat so long as necessary machinery is not imported from abroad. In this way wheat should be purchased at the time of the coming of new harvest and be made available to the poor people in the months of January, February and March. (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah: How will that benefit them?) My honourable



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friend should know that poor people have not sufficient money to purchase their year's requirements. They purchase their requirements from day to day. If Government purchase wheat at the time of the gathering of harvest and supply it at cost price to the poor in the months of January, February and March when the prices of food-stuffs go up, that will go a long way in relieving their condition. I may tell my friends that the economic condition of the people is worse to-day than it was in the year 1919. It is therefore the duty of the Government to come to the aid of the poor people. Besides they should devise unemployment insurance, health insurance and old age pension schemes. Expenses for these schemes can be met by levying taxes on war millionaires. This fact I want to bring specially to the notice of the Honourable Finance Minister and the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram who at present are not in their seats. Let me tell them that on account of the war thousands of people have become millionaires and owing to fall in the value of rupee, to which reference has been made by Sir Manohar Lal in his Budget speech, crores have become poor. That means the money has gone out of the pockets of the poor and middle classes into the pockets of the rich. It is therefore necessary that Government should impose taxes on the rich and spend it on the poor so that the hard lot of poor people may be improved.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** (West Lahore Division, General-Rural) : Sir, the atmosphere which has prevailed in this House for the last few years has not been very conducive to the development of industry. Those in power have unfortunately not been able to show that wider outlook and distant vision which are necessary for the development of industry. They have been pettifogging and thinking of robbing one community and taking a few lakhs of rupees from the pockets of one community and putting them in the pockets of the zamindars, and they have been complimenting themselves that they were doing a very great service to the province. If they had a little sense they would have turned their attention to the development of industry which would have removed poverty from all classes and would have benefited the rural classes more than any doles by way of peasant welfare funds or special funds could have done. But we thought that now that the portfolio of industry was taken from one who neither had any knowledge of industry nor any sympathy for those engaged in industry the state of affairs would improve in this province and that the gentleman who succeeded him as in charge of industry would really show some tangible improvement in this department. But I must say with much regret that our hopes have not been realised. I was the person who suggested this transfer of portfolio, not that it was transferred at my suggestion, but I am glad that in any case it was transferred. But with all respect I submit that during the period the Finance Minister has been in charge of industry, we have not seen any tangible improvement. In fact far from doing anything for industry, we find the same policy of indifference and drift being followed. If we take up the question of capital expenditure on industry we find that so far as the capital within revenue is concerned, it is zero. Not a penny has been spent as any capital expenditure to develop industry. So far as capital outside revenue is concerned, the expenditure

incurred by Government is minus 6,800 which means that instead of spending on the development of industry it has made some income, probably from the sale-proceeds of an old factory that the Punjab Government possessed and which was sold some time ago. The only achievement during the past year or so that we find is that it was contemplated that a glue factory should be established in the Punjab. The idea was old and it had been decided before the present Ministry came into power that glue industry should be developed, but we find that whatever the causes might have been, no factory has been established, and out of a grant of Rs. 1,18,000 for this industry there was a lapse of Rs. 75,000, because no factory could be established. This is the achievement of the Industries Department so far as any addition to large-scale or small-scale industry in this province is concerned, and I find that far from developing industry even the industry which was in existence in this province was hampered because the electricity charges were raised by 28 per cent. I do not blame the Finance Minister for it, because he was not in charge of this department and probably he was not taken into confidence when this electricity charge was raised, but he should take it from me as a fact that the factories which depend upon the Hydro-Electric Department for the supply of electricity will have now to pay 28 per cent more for the consumption of the current than they used to pay before. That is one positive instance of the assistance to industry which this Government has rendered! Perhaps the Finance Minister will blame me for omitting to mention what is being done for pottery. We find that some grants are being given to the *kumhars* for turning out superior pottery, may be in Multan and other places. A very good thing so far as it goes, but the ideal of any Government in the improvement of industry should be much higher than the giving of Rs. 50 to a *kumhar* here and Rs. 80 to a *kumhar* there. They should also be encouraged, but that does not mean the industrial salvation of the province.

Again, we find that under the Act which was passed before this Ministry came into power for aiding the industries, Rs. 75,000 only have been provided which means about £ 5,000. I do not know what people in Great Britain or Germany or Japan would think of this great help for developing industry in this province—£ 5,000 in a whole year! That is the amount which has been set aside for this purpose and I am not sure even if this Rs. 75,000 would be expended for the development of real industry. A few hundred rupees might be given here and a few hundred there, but you can very well imagine how much industry can be developed with about £5,000 a year.

I was not present when the Honourable Finance Minister made a speech and pointed out the difficulties in the way of the development of big industries. He is reported to have said that it is very difficult to develop any big industry in this province mainly for two reasons, one is that during the war necessary machinery cannot be obtained and the second is that the question of tariffs rests with the Central Government; probably he thought that unless there was some modification in the system of tariffs development of industry was not easy. I quite agree with him. These are two great difficulties. He could have in fact pointed out some other difficulties also which are of a political character, but in referring to these political reasons I might be treading on the tender corns of people who are not present.

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in this House and may not like it very much. However, accepting the reasons given by the Honourable Finance Minister as sound and correct, still he would permit me if I suggest that the war is not going to last for ever. It may last for two or three years, although we wish it to come to an end as early as possible. Still he should understand as an economist that industry cannot be set up in a day. It takes a long time first to plan it, to collect information, to raise capital or to make provisions for capital, to select sites and do so many other things which are necessary before any industry comes actually into existence. Why cannot that spadework be started now so that as soon as the war is over, industry can be set up without any loss of time? Even during the war information is available. It is possible in some cases to secure machinery with the help of Government because priorities are given in certain cases and if the Punjab Government moves in the matter surely it would not be difficult to secure priorities for certain articles. I know as a matter of fact that for certain industries Government has been offering facilities for the import of machinery, for instance, for the manufacture of power alcohol and so on. But it seems that it has probably not occurred to anyone in the Punjab or if it has occurred to someone in power here he has felt himself powerless, because the mentality of this ministry has been pre-eminently rural and agricultural and even the Finance Minister has not got sufficient courage to take up the question of the development of industry in the face of so many adverse factors. I have every sympathy with him; placed as he is he is utterly helpless, still I must say he should muster sufficient courage to do his duty in this respect now that he has been put in charge of this portfolio.

The Finance Minister wanted Mr. Sohan Lal to suggest some big industries. If he would permit me, I would suggest a few such industries. I did not have the opportunity of studying the report on the Industrialisation of the Punjab by Professor K. T. Shah, who was specially deputed to prepare this report except when I came here and found the book with my honourable friend, Sardar Santokh Singh. I glanced through some pages of it and I am glad to find that my views on certain matters are supported by Mr. Shah. The first essential for the success of an industry is that it should have the facility of raw material and it should also have a market at hand. Mr. Shah has suggested that textile industry can be developed in the Punjab. There are only two big cotton mills in the Punjab, one at Lyallpur and the other at Okara and a small one at Amritsar. There may be some other small ones. You know that the Punjab produces a very large quantity of cotton and we export it after ginning. Ginning wages are the only gains which come to the share of the Punjab industrialists if they can be called industrialists. The major portion of the cotton is exported out of the Punjab. There is no reason why the Punjab should not be made self sufficient so far as cotton goods are concerned. You know that the Punjabis wear the largest quantity of clothes, partly due to the climate and partly because their standard of life is much higher. (*An honourable member*: There is no quorum in the House). That only shows what I was just saying, that the Punjabis are not industrially-minded. They have no interest in that subject. If you were discussing, for instance, canals or agriculture, there would have been larger attendance. This is the result of the atmosphere which has been

prevailing here for some time and which has been developed during the last few years. But it is neither here nor there. I am only speaking just to convince the Finance Minister if he would care to hear me and if he listens to me I think it is quite enough. I was just saying that it is necessary to have raw material and market closeby and so far as this industry which I was mentioning is concerned, it satisfies both the conditions. There is plenty of raw material and there is plenty of market because the Punjabis wear the largest amount of clothing. Their standard of life is much higher than the standard of life in other provinces where people go about in *dhotis* and *baniyans*. The Punjabis use a lot of clothing and therefore there is a ready market for textiles. I think somebody calculated that some 20 good-sized textile mills can be established in the Punjab in addition to those already existing. There are so many suitable places, so many ginning factories. Wherever there is a group of ginning factories, a suitable spinning and weaving mill can be very easily and profitably put up. I would particularly draw the attention of the Minister-in-charge of industries to the lack of woollen industry in the Punjab. Here again conditions are favourable. We produce a lot of wool in Fazilka and Abohar. Bikaner is close to us from where also we can have a lot of wool. I fully realise that the wool produced in the Punjab is not of the best kind, but it can be used for manufacturing clothing and blankets which would suit the middle classes of the Punjab.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)*

This is the second industry. I will not go into details because there is no time. The Honourable Finance Minister can go into the details. Another industry of which Mr. Shah has not taken note and probably could not is the ceramic industry. That is a superior kind of pottery, a comprehensive pottery industry. So far, the Punjab is producing only the ordinary earthenware. In Gujrat I know there is a family that produces rough kind of tea sets and so on. This industry ought to be encouraged. When I am talking of this industry I have in view the sewerage system which has been introduced into the town of Lahore and which will have to be introduced in other towns, I am sure, as it has been introduced all over Europe and America in middle-sized towns, and ceramic material worth lakhs and lakhs would be required. It is not difficult to find raw material for this in the Punjab. Some work in this line has already been done by our Industrial Chemist and some specimens were made out of the clay and exhibited before the Joint Development Board a few years ago. Thus there is the raw material and there is also the market in this province waiting to be supplied. There is no reason why all these things or any of these things should be imported from outside and we should not be able to satisfy our own requirements through our own factories. This is a matter which deserves the immediate attention of the Government and I think that for these things they need not wait till the termination of the war because they do not require much machinery. Most of the machinery, if not the whole, can be manufactured in this country, probably in this very province.

Then there is another thing which can be done immediately, we have a big hydro-electric system and we have also a large

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number of thermal-electric plants in the Punjab. For all these electric supply companies including the electric supply system of the

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Punjab Government import their requirements from outside. There is no reason why the necessary electric goods should not be produced in our province. There was a small glass factory in Ambala. It was running quite well with the means that the owner of that factory had at this disposal. It shows that raw material was available, otherwise he could not have manufactured anything made of glass there. Therefore, so far as the glass articles are concerned, they can be manufactured here. Then goods made of other materials remain and they can also be easily manufactured here because raw materials of every kind is available in plenty in this province. Connected with that is the production of cables and wires and that should not be difficult at all and I think that goods worth crores can be produced in this province supplying more employment to the friends, brothers, sons and nephews of these gentlemen than even ten Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Rams can give them. Much as he has done for them, if this is done, they will gain much more than any Minister, howsoever generous and sympathetic he may be, can give them and I am sure that they will realise the importance of this. I would not go into smaller industries but these are things which can be taken up at once and as soon as the war is over, within a year or so, they can all be set going. Then there is the question of funds. I am not speaking out of vanity in any way. You have provided two crores and eighteen lakhs for the welfare of the peasants. Very good things: I wish we were able to provide ten crores for such purpose. But if that can be done, I think it is not difficult to find funds even for industrial purposes. You can borrow and if you cannot borrow, then you can adopt another system for raising capital. If you take people, who are engaged in industry in this province, into confidence for this kind of enterprise, I am sure they will not keep back their co-operation and they will be able to raise capital. I am not talking in any spirit of boastfulness or vanity, I am speaking in a most humble way, if you want a crore of rupees, I can give you within six months, provided you make up your mind and provide another crore of yours. With two crores you can immediately set up some textile mills, some ceramic industry and some other industries. I am sure that other people, who have something to do with industry in this province, would be prepared with offers of this description. They can help you in raising capital, but if you are not prepared to subscribe any capital at all, then the device which has been laid down in the State Aid to Industries Act should be adopted. A reference has been made to it by my friend here and I made a reference to it on a previous occasion also. You can guarantee a low rate of dividend to people who are prepared to invest capital in the development of industries. I do not agree with Mr. Shah regarding the apprehensions which he has expressed while he was dealing with this matter which I found towards the end of his book. He has expressed an apprehension that such guarantees almost invariably tend to prove burdensome to the exchequer without any corresponding benefit even in the long run to the community. He has himself recommended at the top of the page that if direct participation by means of subscribing to the share capital is considered undesirable or is proved ineffective, the State may resort to the method of guaranteeing a minimum return to the capital invested in such industry without its undertaking any capital responsibility. After this he has expressed these apprehensions.

and some suspicions that those engaged in industry might conceal their true profits. He has probably either not seen the section in the State Aid to Industries Act or, if he has seen it, he probably overlooked it when he was putting down his apprehensions on this point. The section sufficiently safeguards the Government because it takes guarantees from the promoters to pay back the amount with a number of years probably with a certain amount of interest. I am sure he did not see that section, otherwise he would not have raised any objection to this method which he himself had recommended.

Before I sit down I must say a word with regard to the relation that exists admittedly between trade and industry. It is very unfortunate that a situation should have arisen in this province which has created such discontent among the traders. It has been said again and again that now that this Act is passed—I am referring to the General Sales Act—it cannot be repealed and it cannot even be postponed. Mr. Bihari Lal Chanana, President of the Beopar Mandal, has sent long telegrams to the Honourable Finance Minister, copies of which were received by some of us. I think he has made out a strong case for the suspension of the Act, for postponement of it at least during the period of the War. One strong reason that he has given among others is that you have got a surplus of fifty lakhs and in a letter which Sir Sikander wrote to Mr. Chanana, who wanted the Act to be postponed, he was told by Sir Sikander that for financial reasons the Act could not be postponed. Those financial reasons do not exist because you have got fifty lakhs in surplus and you are going to get only eighteen or twenty lakhs from this tax. The Honourable Minister of Revenue might shake his head, probably he thinks that he would make two crores out of it, but he has got only eighteen lakhs. He should remember that these eighteen lakhs do not even represent the net gain and when the net gain to the exchequer is taken into consideration, it may be much less. I do not know if he remembers the well-known cartoon of Shanker published in his volume of cartoons where the Village Relief Fund or the Welfare Fund is described in the cartoon like water coming from a reservoir and all the intermediaries taking the most of it and the poor village woman sitting with her pitcher under the pipe from which the water is trickling down in small drops. That probably will be the case here, but in any case he can please himself and I think that now that there is a surplus, a case has been made out for the postponement of this measure for the duration of the War. You will be surprised, Sir—I address you, Mr. Speaker, particularly on this point as well as the Finance Minister—that the Finance Minister in his speech, while referring to the Special Development Fund which has been raised to one crore and eighteen lakhs and to the Peasant Welfare Fund which has been raised to ninety lakhs, said that he had not yet come to a decision as to how this money is going to be spent. This is the state of the Finance Department of the Punjab. They do not know their needs, they do not know how much will be required to satisfy those needs, they proceed to tax the people. The money comes, they collect it and they sit tight over it and they do not know how that money is going to be spent. I cannot really congratulate the Government and particularly the Finance Minister for permitting such a thing to be done. It is all very well for the Minister of Finance now to say that

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if Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram proceeds with an immediate proposal for taxation, he will not agree and he may have to part company, but I wish he had not used the word "immediate", because it might be interpreted by some detractors of his that he very well knew that Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram had no immediate intention of bringing forward a proposal of this kind and so the Honourable Minister of Finance was only making a virtue of necessity. He knew that Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram really had no immediate proposal before him and, therefore, he could easily secure credit by threatening parting company with his six years old friend if he came forward with an immediate proposal. Still we appreciate even this much courage shown by him for the first time that if an immediate proposal would come forward, he would part company with Sir Chhotu Ram. The fact, however, is that Sir Chhotu Ram would not come forward with any immediate proposal and the two gentlemen will remain together as they have done before and no occasion for their parting company with each other will arise! But whatever it may be, the fact is that this Government does not know how the money is going to be spent. I would draw the Honourable Finance Minister's attention to his own remarks with reference to the special fund at page 17 of his budget speech. This is what he said—

"We have thus already a sum of Rs. 90 lakhs in this Fund. For various reasons into which it is not necessary to enter, it has not been possible yet to determine the exact scope of expenditure from this Fund, but it is hoped that that would be done soon."

THIS Fund has been in existence now for more than a year—60 lakhs last year and 30 lakhs at least this year. But that one year has not been considered sufficient for this Government to make up its mind as to how this money is going to be spent. Further on the Finance Minister says—

"Another Province followed us in the constitution of a Special Development Fund for which they adopted exactly the same name. They have built up this Fund on a much larger scale and have a varied programme of expenditure from this Fund."

It means that another province—I do not know to which province he was referring—has shown more statesmanship, has shown more sense, more budgetary acumen and better use of funds than our Government under the great wizard of Finance has been able to do! The reason might be that the Ministers have not been able to agree as to how this money is to be spent. But whatever it is, when you do not know how this money will have to be spent, why could you not wait before imposing any tax on the poor people and creating hullabaloo in the whole province, hartals, lathi charges, imprisonment and all this discontent very deplorable in these delicate times? Even now, in spite of the declaration reported to have been made by the Premier in his yesterday's speech, I would submit that the Punjab Government would not lose anything if for the period of the war the imposition of this tax is postponed. Everybody appreciated the declaration that no controversial measures would be brought forward and Sir Chhotu Ram was pleased to say that no taxes would be imposed for some time and he declared that also in a public meeting somewhere only recently. It means that they do not intend to create any further discontent so long as the war is on. But the imposition of this tax for the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 will create discontent. Why can it not be treated also as if it was new taxation and why could it not be postponed, when you do not know how to spend the money

which you have got? This is bad finance, this is bad budgeting, this is bad economics, this is bad government. It is mis-government. I think a good case has been made out for the postponement of this taxation and if it is done, nothing would be lost. I have referred to this because I consider it a very important factor in the development of industries and I am sure that I would not be considered to have strayed from the subject.

**Finance Minister (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal):** Sir, before I proceed to refer to matters more directly concerned with this demand, may I mention one or two aspects of the subject that may affect the whole course of debate in some measure. In the year 1936-37 the Industries Grant stood at 14 lakhs; the honourable members would bear in mind that this demand now is exactly double, that is, 28 lakhs. I do not wish to say that that by itself is any conclusive proof of Government's interest in industries, but surely an important fact like that must necessarily find a reflection in the activities of the department and what the Government itself is doing in the matter of industries.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** What was the revenue in those days?

**Finance Minister:** The revenue has varied all the way from about 14 crores to 15 crores and depends on circumstances such as famines and scarcity and the grant from the Government of India. I was not trying to force too much into that fact. That fact is necessarily of importance and anyone who considers the position must be impressed by the fact that this rise to double the previous figures is of significance. Yesterday, the Honourable Premier pointed out that in Bengal the total expenditure on beneficent departments was 8 crores and 76 lakhs. In this province it is 3 crores and 75 lakhs, only one lakh less. Put that side by side with the fact that the population of Bengal is something in the neighbourhood of 55 millions and that if this province is only 30 millions, the import of this stupendous fact is that we are trying within our limits, within our resources to do our utmost for the beneficent departments and we have not failed in this regard. In Bengal, a province of nearly twice the population, the budgetary provision for Industries for 1943-44 is 17 lakhs and 84 thousand, and as I have already pointed out, in this province it stands at 28 lakhs and 9 thousand. I need not comment on this figure any longer. I do not for a moment suggest that that represents a really adequate or sufficient provision. The measure that is desirable for industrial expansion in the Punjab is a different proposition and I will come to it in a minute. But it does represent an increasing interest, an undeniably increasing interest of your Government in the matter of industries.

Another preliminary fact might be of interest before we survey some of those problems that were raised in the course of the debate. In the year 1939 the number of factories in the Punjab stood at 970 and in the year 1941 it stood at 1,080 and the number of workers in factories similarly rose from 78,000 to 108,000. The figures for 1942 are not definitely available, but it will be safe to say that during this year also there has been a considerable increase both in the number of factories and operators. I am not claiming any credit for the Punjab Government for having done this. But it is a fact, and it must be borne in mind. The attack on what the Punjab



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Government might have done in the matter of industries during the past few years is easy to overstate. Now, another matter that cannot be forgotten is this ; what could have been done during the two years only during which I have held the charge of the portfolio of Industries ? But that is not the manner in which I propose to approach this problem or attempt a personal apologia or plea. I am prepared to look at it more broadly, as I shall presently do so, bearing in mind the position of provincial Government *qua* industries.

One other preliminary matter—I consider it preliminary. I find myself in complete agreement with the honourable member from Amritsar who spoke in frank recognition of the fact that the Industries Department is doing very useful work ; that is the trend of the speech generally of Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal that it might well be further expanded and strengthened in order that more benefit may be derived from this department. I am in full agreement with this. I may also assure them that we are constantly trying to strengthen this department. I certainly am constantly and anxiously studying the various directions in which useful activities of the department might be increased.

I may refer at this stage to another matter raised, which is not really germane to the debate to-day, and that is the large surplus which the Punjab Government is likely to release this year. According to our estimate of receipts and expenditure there is likely to be a surplus of 50 lakhs. As was pointed out during the course of the general discussion I hope and trust very much that this might be even increased. I also then pointed out, and honourable members would remember it, that there are two ways in which the surplus may be affected : firstly in our normal Budget there is a provision—and a handsome provision—at any rate as compared with other provinces, of no less a sum than 48 lakhs for the grant of dearness allowance. It appears that the actual requirements for the dearness allowance may be greater and this may affect a considerable portion of the surplus. Then, as I also had occasion to observe in the course of budget speech, there are significant directions for the employment of the surplus. We have only just started building up the Peasants Welfare Fund, and I am quite sure that very useful openings can be found for the use of this fund if it attains larger proportions, than it has done hitherto. Honourable members would remember that the Minister for Revenue sketched a programme of useful activity which we would be able to face, and face boldly and successfully relying on this fund. I referred to the province of Bombay which has also built the Special Development Fund, and with their larger resources they have been able to raise a larger amount, and then I remarked that we have used the Special Development Fund usefully on education, public health and other useful directions on intensive activity. They in Bombay have a programme of quite a large number of activities from which also we might draw some guidance. I did not mean that they have a programme and that we were drifting without any kind of compass. They have followed us and I shall not be ashamed to learn from them. Honourable members of the House have not had the occasion to express their mind as to how to utilise the Peasants' Welfare Fund. This will no doubt be a subject of their examination in time. But then an opportunity was taken to affirm—and

I may in all humility say that there was hardly any occasion to say so—that simply because Lala Behari Lal Chanaana issues a kind of edict that because of our surplus we should repeal the sales tax. I do not say that there is no power in this House to repeal a particular measure but I venture to think that the House after lengthy debates and after much careful examination only recently established a tax of this kind—a tax which is not novel to this province because you have it in Bombay, Madras, Bengal and in a large number of civilised countries, a tax that has been gathering momentum in the volume of its application everywhere. I should say that this House would stultify itself if it were now to say that we should do away with this tax, and where is the occasion for such a course? It was pointed out and very correctly pointed out, that the whole pressure and burden of the tax lies within the short compass of 18 lakhs. I could never believe that a tax, total burden of which is 18 lakhs, would bear down so heavily on trade and industry as to require immediately its reconsideration by this House in spite of the lessons of history. I shall not go into this matter any further.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It is *gunah-i-belazat*.

**Minister for Finance :** Then why say any more about it? It is not worrying anyone. I have explained to the House times out of number that the principles on which provincial finances are based are not the same as those on which the central finances are founded, or the finances of those countries which have complete powers to do what they like. The principle of provincial finance briefly is to develop your resources and to watch your expenditure. I am quite sure that this House will take good care that no unnecessary or improper expenditure is incurred by this Government. There is no occasion for us to get up and say that this tax should be done away with as the Premier pointed out only yesterday. At the present stage I am prepared to admit that though this sales tax is directed, as a sales tax must be, as a payment to be made by the consumer or the people who buy, I am prepared to admit that like all taxes in actual operation the tax may to some extent stick at the place where it is actually imposed; a part of it, though a small part, will probably rest on the traders or the sellers. However, it cannot be said that at the present moment when the range of prices is so high that this tax would bear so unduly on trade as to arrest the trade of the province.

It was said, and I am grateful for the definite observations, that there were certain directions in which industry could be helped in the Punjab. We are all aware that particularly during the past six months people with capital and interested in our industry and our banking have started a large number of banks and associated with these banks quite a mass of industries. I do not wish to say at the present moment whether these industries have been started at the right time or whether the right type of industries have been initiated in the Punjab because far be it from me even remotely to suggest or say a word that might reflect on these enterprises on which our province has entered perhaps more abundantly than the other provinces. But the board fact remains. While it has been said that textile and woollen industries are particularly suitable to the circumstances of the Punjab, I am surprised that Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal—though he has started a number of industries—and the honourable member who immediately preceded me and

[Finance Minister]

who actually occupied the position which I do as a Minister for Industries—at that time only a small sum of Rs. 14 lakhs was provided for that department—have somehow kept themselves away from these industries. Not only these gentlemen, but also half a dozen other gentlemen who are keenly interested in industrial advancement of the province have not given any special recognition to these industries in the list of their enterprises. Ceramics is one of the industries in which—I perfectly agree with the honourable member who immediately preceded me—probably the Government can also usefully take some part because of the nature of the industry as such. We have, however, paid special attention to Ceramics. But, Sir, we ought to look at this matter from a broad point of view. Take Bombay, for instance, our most industrialised province. Does the Bombay Government go about saying that they shall establish this or that new industry? The textile industry, for example, was not established at all at the instance of the Government of Bombay. I go further. You may hold any opinion you like about me in this matter. I do not at all agree with Sir Chhotu Ram, when reference is made that on a particular resolution it was suggested that this industry or that industry could be established with the Government's share to the extent of 50 per cent. or more. Does that argument lie in the mouth of Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal? I hear him speaking frequently, and he is keenly aware of the one big industry which the Punjab Government has sponsored, the great industry associated with the name of hydro-electric. That is a very big industry indeed and if you speak of any one industry of any province you might well say that the Punjab Government has made itself responsible for a very big industry though it is still at any early stage of development.

I have not forgotten about another industry—probably the only other industry in which the Punjab Government interested itself. It was not far from the home district of Sir Chhotu Ram, that is, the sugar industry. Now we have two factories in the Kapurthala State; we have one at Gujranwala and another at Jagadhri and there are certain smaller enterprises as well. Sugar, therefore, was not condemned on the face of it. When the matter was first considered, of course a long time ago, I had my own doubts which I stubbornly and strongly expressed that it was not a suitable enterprise for the Eastern Punjab. That was the position then. It has been urged that the Punjab Government should itself start industries. I do not know whether it is an affair of the State, particularly since we have no example of a provincial Government having undertaken industries on a broad scale. Now that is not all. It has further to be borne in mind what the legitimate sphere of help that a Government can give is. If the Punjab Government has failed to give that measure of help which may be well expected of a provincial Government, one might pronounce condemnation of the Government, but I have not heard any such condemnation properly formulated by any of the honourable members who have spoken so far. It was stated that a certain amount of research may be done by the Government. That is a field in which the Punjab Government has, in spite of all its limitations, done no inconsiderable part. We have our research laboratory, we subsidised higher teaching of industrial chemistry in the University, where the general laboratories also have much achievement to their credit. We have not

attained perfection and we are still marching forward. We are doing as much as we can. Considerable research has been done in ceramics. I am in a position to inform the House that every six months distinct improvement is recorded in this industry. Research in other directions is also being done. For instance, very useful research is being carried on in vegetable oils. We have the Joint Development Board and we have one or two other bodies that anxiously watch our work. So far as the Joint Development Board is concerned it has representatives not only from amongst the members of this House, but industrialists from all over the Province. I know that all the demands of the Chamber have not been met as we cannot revolutionise the constitution of the Board. In the Board we freely discuss the various industries that might be encouraged and helped in various ways by the Government, and if I may say so, utmost harmony prevails amongst the members as to the work that is being done and the work that might be done in the near future. Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal pointed out that the Government went out of its way in giving help to particular industry that was started in the Punjab. We did so quite gladly.

One of the committees established by the Department of Industries is a committee to suggest definitely what particular help we might give to a particular industry. We have considered the bicycle industry in that committee; we have also considered the lemon oil industry and various other industries. I think honourable members when they feel that their province has not advanced industrially must pause and think for themselves in which definite direction the Government can help them. One thing that was very definitely suggested was that Government might come out with a guarantee of particular return when the public puts in certain amount of capital in an industry. Firstly, the industry has to be brought to the notice of the Government, then the right of that industry for this favourable treatment has to be considered and the Government will then have to see that the tax-payers whose interests are their paramount consideration do not suffer. Now, if it were a fact that capital was not forthcoming in the province and people hesitated to invest their money, and if the industry were a sound proposition and for want of capital it could not be started, that might in certain circumstances be a case for Government to step in with its available resources. I just heard it said in very emphatic terms that people were prepared to invest half a crore of rupees if the Government would contribute the other half. I must say that it is no use speaking merely in the abstract. Show the Government the courtesy of proving, "Here is a first rate industry which requires a crore of rupees; the public will give 50 lakhs and the Government will be well advised and it will be really helping a good cause if it comes forward with the other 50 lakhs". Private industrialists know that there is no lack of capital, particularly there has been no such lack at all during the past year or so because of the circumstances created by the war. Government cannot forget that while private capital is available there is also the organising ability which the Government cannot always possess. Money invested in industrial enterprises does not for years and years earn anything for the shareholder. If that be so, can I recommend to the Punjab Government to put so much money at the disposal of private capitalists, or if it cannot do so, at any rate it should come forward and say that profits to the extent of 4 or 5 per cent will be absolutely assured to the shareholders?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Why not? Other countries have done so.

**Minister of Finance :** It is very easy to say that other countries have done so. It is probable that driven by circumstances of necessity some countries may have established certain industries connected with the war. But I should like to know whether there is any country unless it is constituted on the basis of its socialist organisation, which in normal circumstances has embarked on such industries.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Does the Honourable Minister seriously think that before this Great War no country outside India has been spending money on the development of industries or helping private industrial enterprise? I should like him to get hold of a note in the Industries Department which would give him figures of millions and millions which other countries have spent on the development of industries, not merely socialist countries unless the Finance Minister considers Japan a socialist country; America, Japan and some countries in Europe have been spending millions and millions, wasting them so to say, on the development of industries. I am really surprised.

**Minister of Finance :** Surprise is a very easy thing to affect. I have not got millions to waste and I am sure honourable members would not desire me to waste even lakhs on this matter. However, to answer my honourable friend directly, I may say that there are certain things which are called state industries. We have a few state industries ourselves. We are not entirely lacking in them. We have the hydro-electric industry in the Punjab. There are the state industries like the post office and railways. The latter incidentally involves the manufacture of a large number of locomotives which I wish our country could produce, but we cannot produce them because ours is not a province where heavy industries can develop.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Just as seeds have to be wasted on the soil before they can produce crops, similarly money has to be wasted in the first instance in order that it may produce more money.

**Minister of Finance :** That is too elementary a proposition. The Punjab is eminently an agricultural province and yet industries are growing up here. It is not entirely lacking in the way of industries. As I referred to just now there is the hydro-electric industry which may have no direct advantage, but from it great indirect advantages are derived by the industrialists of this province. We have the Attock oil industry, one of the biggest in India. We have textile mills. There is the Delhi Cloth Mills which only geographically is outside our province. I am particularly reminded of another industry because it is an industry which has to some extent developed in the province inspite of its limitations and that is the steel industry. We are not particularly fortunate in possessing any large resources, but not one, but more than one factory producing steel goods have been started in the province. We have another industry built on a large scale, that is the sugar industry. We have at any rate four first-class sugar mills in our province. We have in addition the paper industry, one of the largest in the country, situated at Jagadhri. We have another industry, and in this matter the Government has played no small part, the hosiery

industry. Reference was made to smaller industries. I think the Punjab would not forget that during the past two years, helped to some extent by the war, we have developed and saved from ruin the cutlery and steel industry at Wazirabad. We have also developed on a big scale the blanket industry in Panipat and in Amritsar.

These are war industries. The problem with us is, what shall happen after the war? Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal raised very pertinently the question, what about post-war reconstruction? How shall the Punjab industry stand after the war has come to an end? And it has been said it must come to an end in a year or two. That is so. All the world outside is exercised over its economic position and its industrial position after the war. In this matter how much could the province do? So far as the Government of India is concerned, we know that they have established certain committees to consider the economic position of the country after the war. I myself am free to confess that I feel most anxious about the state of India in the matter of post-war reconstruction, and I made a short reference to it in the course of my Budget speech. It does not all lie in our power, but we might make a small contribution in the matter of what the world is likely to be after the war. But while people who have the power speak rightly of the world as it ought to be after the war, much of their talk is not of real value. Who is there to-day who can say what the world is likely to be when this war has come to an end? The world is going to be in shambles and in ruin, but the extent of the ruin cannot be measured by anyone. England has given a short answer to it. A leading economist in England says that the secret of England's economic strength lies in the word "export", and if she could cultivate exports in three years the whole position might be as before. But that is England's answer. America also has her answer, and Japan and even Germany, whatever one might say would happen to them as a result of this war, are not likely to be left without a voice. I humbly express the opinion that the Punjab is only a fragment of the world, and we have not a prevailing voice, much as our desire to get it would be, and that desire is not only on the part of the members sitting on that side. What and how much would be the measure of realised proper reconstruction which the Punjab can secure at the close of the war? May I refer to the words of the Prophet when he said: "Watchman, what of the night"? We do not know. Circumstances are not within our control, but the best that we can do we here in the Punjab are not ignoring. As it was pointed out in a speech of Sir Chhotu Ram we have launched a scheme of survey. We are trying to discover what is possible.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I ask a question? Has Government published any reports?

**Minister of Finance :** We have two or three reports. One or two might have been published, but I cannot find paper for their publication.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I ask a further question? Does the Honourable Finance Minister think that the new expenditure of Rs. 10,000 under Research Work is enough to bring about our industrial salvation?

**Minister of Finance :** It is not only not enough to bring about any industrial salvation, but it does not even put us on the road to see where the industrial salvation might possibly begin. This Government is not so

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lacking in sense as to imagine that Rs. 10,000 is going to find industrial salvation for the Punjab. But I venture to assert that within our resources and within the limitations under which we work what the Punjab Government has done represents a worthy effort, and at this no light reproach based on hasty observation can be directed.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I ask another question ? Is it now the considered opinion of the Honourable Finance Minister that the Government of the Punjab is not competent to get into any industrial undertaking ?

**Minister :** If the honourable member would explain what he meant, "to get into industrial undertaking", I might be able to answer. What does he mean ?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** May I ask a question ? Am I correct in drawing the conclusion from the Honourable Minister's speech that he finds it impossible to do anything so far as the development of industry in the Punjab is concerned, and that he has no proposals for post-war reconstruction programme ?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Sir, may I also put a question ? I would not have made any speech at all if the Honourable Finance Minister had not pleaded the other day that the obstacles in the way of development of industry were the lack of machinery and the control that the Central Government had over the tariffs. If he had said that the Punjab Government could not do anything, I would not have wasted my time and the time of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is not a question but another speech.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan Women, Urban), (Urdu) : Sir, the Honourable Finance Minister has stated in the course of his speech that a number of industries have been started in the Punjab. But I would say that our province is still lagging behind in industries as compared with other provinces. In this connection he has also told us that a lot of things are manufactured in our province. But what we see in bazaars disproves this. For instance, Aligarh made locks, Benars sarees, Muradabad utensils and Gota of Lucknow are still found in the market. Does it not indicate that our province has to look to other provinces for these things ? Now let me take up the question of cloth and food. No doubt less cloth is being imported from foreign countries than before. But it cannot be denied that cloth is imported into this province from other provinces. In this connection I would like to refer to the Standard Cloth for whose supply and management all the credit goes to the Central Government. Now as this cloth has not been supplied to us so far I would submit that it is high time for the Punjab Government to rise to the occasion and make some arrangements for the preparation of this cloth in the Punjab. My proposal, therefore, is that this cloth should be prepared at Amritsar in the textile mill of Rai Sahib Lala Gopal Das. Over and above what these mills can supply must come from Ahmedabad to meet our requirements as our province has not got sufficient number of textile mills. It is a pity that even *dhoti* and *latha* are not being supplied to the poor people of this province. I am sorry to say that these depots have proved a failure as sufficient supply of cloth is not forthcoming.

Now I would like to say a word with regard to the Survey Party. I understand that there is every likelihood of coal mines being discovered at Jhelum and Hoshiarpur.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order please. Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,09,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Industries.

*The motion was carried.*

The following demands were then put from the chair and adopted. :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,32,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Land Revenue.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,63,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Provincial Excise.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Stamps.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,59,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Forests.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 84,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Registration.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,43,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of charges on account of Motor Vehicles' Acts and other Taxes and Duties.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,38,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Irrigation (Works).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,40,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Irrigation (Capital).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,47,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Administration of Justice.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,83,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,02,16,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Police.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,91,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1944, on respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,13,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Education (European and Anglo-Indian Education and Education in Backward Tracts)

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,69,34,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Education (Excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 52,07,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Medical.



[Mr. Speaker]

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,86,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Public Health.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,65,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Agriculture.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,09,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Veterinary.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,82,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Co-operation.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,07,17,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Civil Works.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,98,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Buildings and Roads—Establishment Charges.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,02,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1944, in respect of Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,18,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,54,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Civil Works (Capital).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,76,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Electricity Schemes—Capital Expenditure.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,00,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Famine.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,47,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,53,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,32,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Miscellaneous and Extraordinary Charges.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,36,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Advances not bearing Interest.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,38,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1944, in respect of Loans and Advances bearing Interest.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 25th March 1948.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 25th March 1948

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PANDIT KISHORI LAL

**\*8705. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantra :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Pandit Kishori Lal of the First Lahore Conspiracy case of 1930 has served 14 years of rigorous imprisonment with remission ;

(b) whether it is a fact that his roll was submitted to the Government by the Superintendent, Central Jail, Lahore, for his release in December, 1941 ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government has refused to release him ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether it is a fact that he is the only prisoner who has served his full term of 14 years' rigorous imprisonment and has not been released ;

(e) whether it is a fact that he had undergone a sentence of more than 15 years up to February, 1948, when his release was overdue ;

(f) if the answers to the foregoing parts be in the affirmative, the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. Government does not consider it advisable to release him yet.

(d) No.

(e) Yes. Being a life prisoner he can be detained in jail in definitely. It is only a working arrangement that the cases of such prisoners are considered for release after 14 years. It is wrong to assume that a life prisoner is automatically released after 14 years unless his sentence has been commuted to that period.

(f) Does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What are the considerations, political or otherwise, which make it advisable for the Government to release a life prisoner ?

**Minister :** An ordinary prisoner, in the absence of any special adverse circumstances affecting him, will be released after fourteen years.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the meaning of 'detaining him in jail indefinitely' ? Does it mean till he is dead ?

**Minister :** No one has said that he is to be detained in jail indefinitely. All that is said is that under the rules he can be detained indefinitely.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the meaning of 'working arrangement' ? Is it with the High Court or some other authority ?

**Minister :** No, not with the High Court.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the meaning of 'working arrangement'? Is it working arrangement that the cases of such prisoners are considered? Does it come under the definition of 'working arrangement'?

**Minister :** The answer is complete. The Government considers whether prisoners who are transported for life can be released. Their cases are usually considered about the twelfth or thirteenth year.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** When did Pandit Kishori Lal's papers come up for review last?

**Minister :** There is no question of any review.

#### ILL-TREATMENT OF DETEENS IN OLD CENTRAL JAIL, MULTAN.

**\*8753. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether he is aware that the detenus and political prisoners lodged in Old Central Jail, Multan, have since August last been making complaints against one B. R. Kalia, Deputy Superintendent, Old Central Jail, Multan, for his ill-treatment of the prisoners; if so, the action taken thereon?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** Yes. They were enquired into by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, and found not to be of a substantial nature.

#### EVER-CLEAN LAVATORIES FOR OLD CENTRAL JAIL, MULTAN

**\*8754. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that many months ago the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, ordered the installation of ever-clean lavatories in the Old Central Jail, Multan, and although months have elapsed since the order was passed, only one such lavatory and that too for demonstration purposes, has so far been installed; if so, why;

(b) whether *soak-pits* ordered sometimes ago by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, have not been completed in a manner in which they can be properly utilized although months have elapsed since the order was given and whether he is aware that foul smell emanates from these *soak-pits*; if so, why;

(c) whether the "*pocha*" is still done with dirty water which gives very bad smell; if so, why;

(d) whether he is aware that the Old Central Jail, Multan, is very insanitary and is unfit for the population housed in it; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter;

(e) whether it is a fact that the incidence of sickness and diseases is astonishingly high in the Multan Jail; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter;

(f) whether it is a fact that the level of the Old Central Jail, Multan, is lower than that of the area outside it and for that reason the soil water remains stagnant; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes. Three Ever-clean Lavatories have so far been installed and more will be installed in due course.

(b) Yes. A few of the *soak-pits* dug in this jail under the orders of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, are not working properly, but every effort is being made to improve their condition and make them useful.

(c) No. *Pocha* is not done with dirty water, but clean water is used for this purpose.

(d) The sanitary condition of the jail is quite satisfactory.

[Finance Minister.]

(e) No. The incidence of sickness and diseases is not high in this jail as compared with the other jails in the Province.

(f) Yes. This jail is situated at a lower level than the area outside it, but as the rains at this station are very meagre, no stagnation of water takes place.

TIME-SCALE OF PAY FOR SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

\*8620. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the action so far taken on the resolution tabled by me and passed by the Assembly about 2 years ago on the subject of the introduction of time-scale of pay and about raising of the starting salary of the members of the Subordinate Educational Service;

(b) the details of the scheme so far worked out to give effect to the proposals contained in that resolution?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye** : During the last twenty years several attempts have been made to improve the lot of Subordinate Educational Service personnel. After full consideration Government have agreed to introduce the following time-scale in the service with effect from the 1st October 1942 :—

S. E. S. A. V. Section (Men's Branch) .. S. E. S. Cl. & Ver. Section (Men's Branch).

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Selection grade Rs. 200—10—250.. | (1) Class I—Rs. 105—7—140.  |
| (2) Class I—Rs. 150—8—190 ..         | (2) Time-scale—Rs. 40—3—70 pause for 2 years—3—85 pause for one year—4—105. |

(3) Time-scale—Rs. 80—4—100/5—150.

Necessary orders and lists are under issue.

**Mian Abdul Rab** : Was any resolution passed as referred to in part (a) of the question?

**Minister** : I am not aware of any resolution on the subject having been passed by the Assembly. I am sorry to have overlooked this point.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : The Honourable Minister says that he is not aware of any resolution. The resolution tabled by me runs thus—

**Minister** : The honourable member is giving information.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : I will put a supplementary question just now before reading the resolution.

**Minister** : The honourable member is now giving information and not seeking information. I have already said that I overlooked the point. If the honourable member's desire is to claim credit for this scheme, he can take it, but as I have said before, the Government issued orders and they were not aware of any resolution.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : I have no desire to put any supplementary question. My honourable friend Mian Abdul Rab asked a supplementary question and the reply thereto given by the Honourable Minister of Education was quite against facts. I was, therefore, compelled to put a supplementary question. It is not a question of claiming any credit. Credit may go to the Honourable Minister. I am glad that he has accepted the scheme. There the matter ends. It is immaterial whether he is aware of any resolution tabled by any member.

**Minister** : I have already mentioned that this matter was taken in hand twenty years ago.

## GRANTS FOR EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

**\*8695. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount of grants allotted to the Kangra district during the year 1942-48 for purposes of education, public health, maternity and child welfare;

(b) whether he is aware that these grants have been utterly inadequate, considering the needs of the backward people living in these areas, ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :**

	Rs.
(a)—Grants for purposes of education .. ..	3,42,188
Grants for purposes of public health, maternity and child welfare .. ..	28,030

(b) This is not a point of view which I can accept. Keeping in view the backwardness of this district it has been given all the grants and help permissible under the rules. In addition, two sub-assistant health officers of the special public health staff are permanently attached to the Kangra district for public health purposes over and above the normal staff.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Honourable Minister has done anything substantial as far as educational activities are concerned ? I quite appreciate the health side of the thing, but I want to know about the educational activities ?

**Minister :** I have already mentioned that a grant of Rs. 3,42,188 is being given.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Honourable Minister aware that the increments of the educational staff engaged by the Kangra District Board have been stopped for the last 6 years ?

**Minister :** I have stopped no increments.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is he aware that they are not given any dearness allowance ?

**Minister :** I have offered to pay my share of the dearness allowance, but if the local body would not move in the matter, the blame does not lie on the Government.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Has he budgeted any substantial increase in order to give them dearness allowance ?

**Minister :** Yes, we have.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What is it ?

**Minister :** I have not got this information with me at present.

## SURCHARGE ON URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TAX.

**\*8694. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Dass :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount realised by way of surcharge for war purposes on the Urban Immovable Property Tax during the period the tax has been in force ;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred out of this surcharge and the "war purposes" for which this amount has been utilized ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Tax under the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act collected by way of surcharge up to the end of November 1942 amounted to Rs. 5,88,500.

(b) No details can be given as the income from the tax is not reserved for any specific item of expenditure.

## SUPPLY OF FOOD MATERIALS TO RURAL AREAS OF KANGRA DISTRICT.

**\*8718. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government has made any arrangements for the supply of food materials and other essential commodities in rural areas of Kangra district and whether it is a fact that the villagers are feeling a great amount of trouble for want of any arrangement ; if so, the steps the Government propose to take to ease the situation ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : The District Magistrate, Kangra, organised a scheme, as early as October 1942, for the supply of essential commodities in his district. Distribution arrangements were organised at 20 centres situated throughout the district with a co-operative society of traders at each centre. Neighbouring villages were linked up with these societies. In addition to these arrangements, Kangra district has during this cold weather been allotted 300 tons of wheat, 75 of gram and 50 of maize from the Punjab provincial reserves to be distributed under the orders of the District Magistrate who has not reported any particular shortage in rural areas. In these circumstances, there seem good grounds for presuming that rural areas are adequately provided. Enquiries are however being made.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Parliamentary Secretary know that Kangra is one of the biggest districts and in view of this consideration, does he feel that 20 centres will meet the needs of rural area in that district ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a question of opinion.

## AMOUNT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOOD-GRAINS.

**\*8728. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state what amount of money placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab for the purchase of food-grains has so far been utilized by each of them for the purpose and whether it has been utilized in full or in part by each of them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : Rs. 15,00,000 were placed, in personal ledger accounts, at the disposal of District Magistrates to purchase food-grains to meet shortage in their districts. Though details of the amounts advanced to each District Magistrate are available, these accounts have not yet been closed finally, and details of amounts so far utilised are not available.

## SLAUGHTER OF COWS AND BULLOCKS AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

**\*8752. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of slaughter-houses for cattle licensed by Government and the local bodies in the Punjab in the years 1939-40, 1940-41 and 1941-42 ;

(b) the number of cows, bullocks and she-buffaloes slaughtered in the above-named slaughter-houses during each of the years mentioned in (a) ;

(c) the number of cows and she-buffaloes exported from the Punjab to the other provinces and states or outside India during the period mentioned in (a) ;

(d) whether there are any unlicensed slaughter-houses in the province if so, Government have allowed them to continue without licences ;

(e) the number of the cattle slaughtered in the unlicensed slaughter-houses during the period mentioned in (a) ;

(f) whether he is aware of the fact that the number of cows and bullocks in the Punjab (as shown in the cattle census reports of 1935 and 1940) is gradually decreasing ; if so, the steps which Government have taken or intend to take to prevent this decrease in the interest of agriculture and to ensure an adequate supply of animal products for human consumption ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tika Ram) : (a)**

	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
(a) No. of recognized slaughter houses for cattle and buffaloes—			
(i) maintained by Government .. .. .	9	9	15
(ii) maintained by Local Bodies .. .. .	81	96	73
(b) Cows slaughtered .. .. .	77,771	73,046	88,415
Bulls and bullocks slaughtered .. .. .	6,777	9,583	16,187
*(Separate figures for bullocks are not available)			
Buffaloes slaughtered .. .. .	41,072	43,850	50,313
(These figures include animals slaughtered in unlicensed slaughter-houses)			

(c) Separate figures for cows and she-buffaloes exported from the Punjab to other Provinces and States, or outside India, are not available, but the number of cattle exported to other provinces and States is given below :—

1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
127,847	99,067	31,176

(Figures beyond 31st July 1941 are not available).

(d) (i) Yes.

(ii) Unlicensed slaughter-houses are situated in such places as are under the jurisdiction of local bodies and it is for these bodies to provide slaughter-houses and frame bye-laws for their control.

(e) Information is not available separately, but the figures given in part (b) above include the number of cattle slaughtered in unlicensed slaughter-houses in the Punjab.

(f) The honourable member is referred to the answer to Assembly Question No. 8412 (starred) <sup>1</sup> given in this House on the 6th November 1942.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** On a point of order. I would like to know why lengthy answers are allowed to be read in cases other than mine as happened the other day.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot anticipate which question requires a lengthy answer. But the rule says.

"Lengthy answers to starred questions may, on statement by the Minister concerned, be placed on the table of the Assembly without being read, but a copy in such case shall, if possible, be delivered to the member interrogating, one day in advance of such answer being placed on the table".

It is only for the Minister concerned to avail himself of this provision and he should follow the Rule.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I want to know whether any copy was supplied to the member interrogating or not.

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR FIREMEN IN A. R. P. DEPARTMENT

**\*8617. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no dearness allowance has so far been granted to the Firemen employed in the A. R. P. Department; if so, the reasons therefor and the action intended to be taken in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tika Ram) :** Dearness allowances have been granted to the firemen employed in the A. R. P. Department.

REMOVAL OF HAZUR SINGH AND FAQIR CHAND FROM MEMBERSHIP OF TOWN COMMITTEE, CHUHAR KANA

**\*8743. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether or not Sardar Hazur Singh and Lala Faqir Chand, members of the Town Committee of Chuhar Kana, District Sheikhpura, have been removed from their seats; if so, why and when;

(b) whether any notice was ever given to S. Hazur Singh and L. Faqir Chand to show cause why they should not be removed and whether they were given an opportunity to defend themselves?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat Khan :** (a) Yes, they were removed on the 4th December 1942, as in the opinion of Government they were unfit to act as members of the Committee.

(b) No. The law does not require that explanations should be demanded.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know what are the criteria, political or otherwise, for considering a man unfit to act as a member of the committee?

**Minister :** I have nothing further to add to my first answer.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Honourable Minister not willing to give me the criteria by which these things are decided?

**Minister :** Each case is considered on its merits.

BAN ON THE PRESS.

**\*8843. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the arrests made since 9th August last in connection with the civil disobedience movement of 1942 have been allowed to be reported to the press; if not, the condition to which such reporting has been subjected;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a result of ban on the press very little of what is happening throughout the country received the light of the day;

(c) whether it is a fact that what is allowed to be published in other provinces is denied to the press in the Punjab;

(d) whether the Government intends to remove or relax the ban imposed on the press in the Punjab; if so, to what extent and in what respect?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes, subject to certain restrictions designed to prevent such news coming from unauthorised and irresponsible sources,—vide Punjab Government notification No. 19138-C. P. B., dated the 1st November 1942.

(b) and (c) No. So far as the Punjab is concerned, no "factual news" of importance has been suppressed. Happenings in other parts of India have, as has been evident from newspaper reports, received fullest publicity.

(d) As soon as this is desirable.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** With reference to part (c) of the question may I know from the Parliamentary Private Secretary whether the news published in other papers which are published outside this province were not allowed in this province?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** My answer to parts (b) and (c) is that no "factual news" of importance has been suppressed.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am not asking about the suppression of news: I am asking whether the news allowed to be published in other provinces were suppressed in this province where provincial autonomy is in operation.



**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** They might have been under local conditions. My friend would also see that certain news published here were not published in other papers.

#### BAN ON THE PRESS.

**\*8644. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of newspapers, if any, in this Province which suspended their publication owing to the ban imposed on the press?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): The term "ban on the press" is vague, but no newspaper has suspended publication as a result of any general orders issued to the press. There is no ban as such.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** May I know if no news is published without submitting it to the Press Adviser appointed by the Government?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** As I said in my reply yesterday, there is no precensorship. What I said was that there is no suppression of news nor any precensorship of news. Of course the newspapers are at liberty to consult the Press Adviser whether the publication of the news would amount to a breach of the order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** What is meant by "ban on the press"?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** The words 'ban on the press' in the question are vague.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Is there any ban on the news?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** I do not understand what the honourable member means by 'ban'.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** I mean the dictionary meaning of the word 'ban'.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** There is no ban as such.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Was any precensorship order given to the press?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** I have already said that there are no such restrictions in this province.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that this Press Adviser sometimes goes to the Associated Press Agency and the news before distribution or publication are submitted to him for approval?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** He was there to advise the newspapers.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Did he in any case restrict the publication of news?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** If the honourable member gives any particular instance I will give my reply.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** The Parliamentary Secretary has said that the Press Adviser is there only to advise. I want to know whether he imposed any restrictions on the publication of the news in any instance.

#### DETENUS (POLITICAL PRISONERS).

**\*8645. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names of jails in which the prisoners and the detenues arrested and detained in connection with the civil disobedience movement, 1942, are being kept;

(b) whether the treatment meted out to them in different jails is uniform or varies in any respects ;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the matter of supply of sanctioned articles; conditions differ from jail to jail ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that in Ambala Jail the political prisoners and detenus are not provided with chaparis ;

if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Old Central Jail, Multan, District Jail, Mianwali, District Jail, Sialkot, District Jail, Ferozepore, District Jail, Lyallpur, Central Jail, Lahore, Borstal Institution and Juvenile Jail, Lahore and Women's Jail, Lahore.

(b) Uniform.

(c) No.

(d) All such prisoners have since been transferred from the District Jail Ambala.

#### ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

\*8663. **Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any arrests were made in the Punjab in connection with the present Civil Disobedience Movement on the 9th September, 9th October, 9th November, 9th December, 1942, and the 9th January, 9th February, and 9th March, 1943 ; if so, the number of the above-named arrests, district-wise ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

\*8667. **Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Punjab Government sent to the security prisoners detained in New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, a notice, somewhere in April or May last, asking each prisoner to state why he should not be continued to be detained ;

(b) the number of such prisoners on whom notice was served and the number of such who replied to the notice ;

(c) whether it is a fact that about 90 security prisoners expressed the same views as those expressed by comrades Sohan Singh Josh, Fazal Elahi Qurban, Karam Singh Man, and Feroze Din Mansur, who were subsequently released from New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, on 18th May, 1942, under orders of the Central Government ; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of the said statement of views by the various security prisoners on the table of the House ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Notices were issued in February 1942 ;

(b) First Part, 145 ;

Second Part, 131 ;

(c) The exact number is not readily available, but many of the security prisoners sent a stereotyped reply on the lines of the replies sent by Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, Fazal Elahi Qurban and Feroze Din Mansur ; it is not in the public interest to lay a copy of the statement of the views of the various security prisoners on the table of the House.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know why it is not in the public interest when we are sitting here? Will it expose the Government?

WASDEV SINGH AND CHANAN SINGH, SECURITY PRISONERS.

**\*8668. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the period for which State prisoners Wasdev Singh and Chanan Singh have been detained ;
- (b) the number of times when their cases were reviewed ;
- (c) the date of the last review of their cases for the purpose of their release ;
- (d) whether the Government has ascertained their views in regard to the present war and defence of India ; if so, what are these views ;
- (e) when are their cases to be reviewed next ;
- (f) criteria taken into consideration in relation to the examination of their cases in the present situation ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to give this information.

FAST OF MAHATMA GANDHI

**\*8669. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government issued any special instructions to the police and district authorities in connection with public agitation over the fast by Mahatma Gandhi under detention ; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House ;

(b) the number of arrests of politicals made in the province during the period of Mahatma Gandhi's fast ;

(c) number of those released so far out of the total number of persons so arrested ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question.

NEWS WITHHELD BY THE SPECIAL PRESS ADVISER re MAHATMA GANDHI'S FAST.

**\*8685. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Special Press Adviser, Punjab, withheld the messages for publication after 10th February, 1948, regarding prayers for Mahatma Gandhi's successful termination of the fast and long life and also some messages in which Mr. Jinnah, the President of All-India Muslim League, was requested by his colleagues to put pressure on the Viceroy for the unconditional release of Mahatma Gandhi and start negotiations for ending the present political deadlock for the National Defence of the country ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): Messages regarding prayers for the successful termination of Mr. Gandhi's fast were not withheld. Only in the case of a few messages, which were submitted for "press advice" and contained, besides reference to prayers for the successful termination of the fast, matter amounting to "prejudicial report", advice was given against publication.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any restrictions were put on the news of Mahatma Gandhi's fast ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already said that as regards the messages about the fast, no restrictions were put but besides those messages if the matter amounted to "prejudicial report", advice was given against publication.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was this advice given verbally or in writing?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** As it was sought.

**Mr. E. Few :** May I know whether any prayers were offered for Munshi Hari Lal and the other gentleman in the Mianwali jail who observed fast by consuming fresh and dried fruits and also a few pounds of milk and curd daily?

**Premier :** Not to my knowledge.

#### 4 DOWN RAIL-MOTOR AND DACOITS.

**\*8686. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that 4 Down rail-motor between the Taksal and Kalka Railway Stations was held up by certain dacoits on June, 1942, and some of the passengers were shot down;

(b) whether any enquiry was held; if so, whether he will be pleased to place the result of that inquiry on the table of the House;

(c) whether it is a fact that persons responsible for this incident were tried and convicted?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes.

(b) The case was investigated: investigation is still in progress.

(c) No.

#### SARDAR WASDEV SINGH AND CHANAN SINGH, STATE PRISONERS.

**\*8708. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the present state of the health of S. Wasdev Singh and Chanan Singh—State prisoners;

(b) whether it is a fact that Sardar Wasdev Singh has been suffering recently from backache, gout, cold and fever;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sardar Chanan Singh has had a serious complaint of toothache recently?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Good.

(b) No.

(c) No.

#### SARDAR UJAGAR SINGH BILGA.

**\*8709. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Sardar Ujagar Singh Bilga is suffering from a serious eye-trouble and colic pains;

(b) the present state of his health;

(c) whether the Government has received any application from him asking for release on parole, so that he may arrange for and perform the marriage of his daughter; if so, with what result?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) and (b) He was suffering from Trachoma and Trichiasis and has since been ordered to be removed to the Mayo Hospital for operative treatment.

(c) Yes. It has been rejected.

## DETENUS IN GUJRAT SPECIAL SUB-JAIL AND MULTAN CENTRAL JAIL

**\*8710. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the following persons at present detained in the Gujrat Special Sub-Jail and the Central Jail, Multan, are of the ages between 70 and 90 years, and are physically very weak—

Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna  
Baba Kesar Singh  
Baba Harnam Singh Kasail  
Baba Rur Singh, M. L. A.  
Baba Karam Singh Dhut  
Baba Lal Singh Jandiala  
Baba Karam Singh Cheema  
Baba Harnam Singh Tundilat

} Gujrat Special Sub-Jail.

Baba Gurmukh Singh .. Multan Central Jail.

(b) whether it is a fact that they have explicitly stated their views as being anti-Fascist ;

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the continued detention of the detenues named above ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) Some representations to this effect have been received.

(c) The circumstances which necessitated their detention still exist.

## THAKAR HAZARA SINGH

**\*8721. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the state of health of Thakar Hazara Singh, Pleader, Hamirpur, District Kangra, Vice President, Provincial Kisan Committee, Punjab, who is at present detained in Multan Jail ;

(b) his weight at present and his weight at the time of his arrest ;

(c) the kind of diet, the number and names of newspapers that are supplied to him and whether he is allowed to have correspondence with his relations and friends ;

(d) since when he is detained ;

(e) whether the Government intends to try him in a court of law ;

(f) whether the Government is aware of his anti-Fascist views ;

(g) whether he has made any representation to the Government regarding his views ;

(h) has the Government considered his case for release ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

## LALA MANGAT RAM KHANNA

**\*8722. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Lala Mangat Ram Khanna, Pleader, Hamirpur, District Kangra, was recently arrested by the Punjab C. I. D. ; if so, the reasons for his arrest and whether Government proposes to try him in a court of law ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### ARREST AND DETENTION OF PERSONS IN ZAFARWAL UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

**\*8739. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of persons arrested under the Defence of India Rules in Zafarwal in the Sialkot district in August last;

(b) whether it is a fact that after their arrest these persons were detained and locked up in police lock-up at Zafarwal and were allowed only six pice per man per day as diet expenses contrary to rules permitting higher rate for food expenses;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the persons so detained were made to sleep in that hot month on the ground inside a cell in that police lock-up with an area of only 12 × 12 feet which was then infested with ants, mosquitos and worms;

(d) whether the Station House Officer then posted to Zafarwal reported to the higher police authorities about the insufficient accommodation in the police lock-up for detaining these men;

(e) if the answers to (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, and to (d) in the negative, the reasons therefor and the action that Government proposes to take against the Station House Officer concerned?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): This question refers to civil disobedience prisoners and in accordance with the convention established if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### HANDCUFFING AND FETTERING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

**\*8757. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that political prisoners have been and are being fettered and handcuffed while being transferred from one jail to another and whether the fettering is more frequently resorted to in the districts of Jullundur, Amritsar and Ferozepore; if so, why;

(b) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Tara Singh while being transferred from Amritsar to Multan Old Central Jail in November, 1942, was fettered so severely at Amritsar, that his legs and ankles were wounded necessitating his admission to the Hospital, Old Central Jail, Multan, for a considerable period; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava while being transferred from Shahpur to Lahore on 4th January, 1943, for the purposes of medical treatment was also handcuffed; if so, why;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Diwan Chaman Lall on transfer from Shahpur Jail to Multan Jail along with 89 other political prisoners in September, 1942, was handcuffed and kept in handcuffs at the Shahpur Camp Station throughout the night; if so, why;

(e) whether he is aware that an assurance was given by Honourable the late Premier in 1941 publicly on the floor of this House that such handcuffing would

[ Pt. Muni Lal Kalia. ]

not be resorted to and that no political prisoner would be fettered in future ; if so, the reasons why departure has been made from the practice adopted as a result of that assurance ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is not in the public interest to give this information.

#### CLOTHING FOR DETENUS

**\*8758. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether orders have been issued, modifying previous orders for the issue of 'C' class clothing in place of 'B' class clothing which used to be supplied before to detenues, arrested in or after August, 1942 ; if so, the reasons for this change ;

(b) whether it is a fact that used and old blankets were recently issued to the detenues and whether infection spread and skin diseases were caused as a result of this action ; if so, why ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes. Because B class clothing is unobtainable. They are, in any case, permitted to wear their own clothes.

(b) No complaints to this effect have been made to Government.

#### SARDAR KULTAR SINGH

**\*8762. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Sardar Kultar Singh who is at present detained in Gujrat Jail cannot breathe freely on account of abnormal development of his nasal bone and that this trouble, which can be removed only by an operation, has aggravated during the last few days ; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Security prisoner Kultar Singh has a deflected nasal septum. At times when an acute attack of catarrh comes on, he gets blocking of the nose on one side or the other. He has been treated palliatively with good effect. If the condition does not subside with this line of treatment and if he agrees to an operation, arrangements will be made for his operative treatment.

#### SARDAR KULTAR SINGH

**\*8763. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Sardar Kultar Singh detained at present in Gujrat Jail has of late been disallowed to have interviews with his relatives and friends ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Security prisoner Kultar Singh was punished with the stoppage of interviews for one month for breaking the rules under which interviews are allowed.

#### PUNITIVE POLICE TAX

**\*8764. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether there were any instructions issued to the Ludhiana district authorities that the punitive police tax imposed on the villages of Jodhpur, Chima and Channanwal in Thana Shaina should not be collected from families of persons employed in the Army residing in these villages ; if so, whether this direction was obeyed ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah): General instructions of Government are in force that in distributing the cost of punitive police posts in villages, serving soldiers and their immediate dependents should as a general rule be exempted. It is not known whether specific instructions have been issued in regard to the police posts named in the question but enquiries are being made.

#### ARREST OF RELATIVES OF LALA ACHINT RAM

**\*8765. Sardar Lal Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) under what provisions of law were some of the relatives of Lala Achint Ram arrested or detained some time ago stating how they are related to him and where they have been detained;

(b) whether the Government proposes to give any allowance to the family of the said Lala Achint Ram;

(c) whether it is a fact that a son of Lala Achint Ram was a student in one of the Lahore colleges; if so, whether the Government intends granting him any facilities to enable him to continue his studies?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### ARREST OF WHEAT MERCHANTS AT TALAGANG

**\*8779. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri:** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that five wheat merchants were arrested at Talagang on 12th February, 1948, and were refused bail until they paid or agreed to pay Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 200 each as War Loan and to the War Fund, respectively, and whether it is a fact that one of them who pleaded that he had already paid Rs. 1,000 to the Government, had to remain in lock-up for 14 days and was released only when he obtained release orders from the Sessions Judge;

(b) whether it is a fact that the aggrieved persons have submitted a petition to the Commissioner, Rawalpindi Division, for redress;

(c) if so, what action the Government has taken or intend to take against the officers responsible for this high-handedness?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tika Ram): I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

#### SELECTION OF STENOGRAPHERS BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JHELUM

**\*8740. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Jhelum, recently advertised for a test for the posts of stenographers in the office which was held but the Muslim clerks who were already acting on these posts were not allowed to sit for the test; if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Chaudari Sir Chhotu Ram:** In accordance with the convention I cannot answer this question on the floor of the House. The information has been called for and when received it will be communicated to the honourable member.



COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY  
COMMISSIONER, JHELUM

**\*8741. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of clerks, community-wise, in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jhelum, as it stood on 1st April, 1941, and to state whether it is a fact that according to communal proportion the number of Muslims on 1st April, 1941, was already short by 8 men but 8 more Hindu clerks instead of Muslims have recently been appointed; if so, the reasons therefor, and the action that the Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** In accordance with the convention I cannot answer this question on the floor of the House. The information has been called for and when received it will be communicated to the honourable member.

REVENUE ASSESSMENT OF LAND USED FOR FRUIT GROWING

**\*8771. Chaudhri Abdul Rahim :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that land which is purely used for fruit growing is being assessed both for *rabi* and *kharif*?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** The practice varies from district to district according to the arrangement sanctioned at settlement. The sanctioned revenue rate is charged once a year in some cases and twice a year in others.

FRUIT TREES

**\*8772. Chaudhri Abdul Rahim :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it has been brought to his notice—

- (1) that the fruit trees come into bearing 3 to 7 years after planting;
- (2) that the trees bear fruit only once in a year;
- (3) that the fruit-growers are not allowed any remission for *kharaba*, and are assessed both for *rabi* and *kharif*?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** 1. The varieties of fruit usually grown in the Punjab begin bearing lightly in the third or fourth year after planting and do not come into full bearing till the fifth year.

2. Yes, but at different seasons; the honourable member has probably noted that mangoes and oranges are not ripe at the same time of the year.

3. I regret that I cannot answer this part of the question, since the circumstances of orchards and hence the way in which they are assessed, vary in different districts. In some *kharaba* is allowed, in others the differences in annual yields have been taken into account in the assessments. (This is particularly true in the assessment of mango orchards, where the assumption is that there is only a full crop once every second year).

CONCESSIONS TO FRUIT-GROWERS

**\*8773. Chaudhri Abdul Rahim :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has been brought to his notice that His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has given special concessions to the fruit-growers of Patiala State, such as—

- (1) full remission of land revenue for the 1st three years,
- (2) five times enhanced supply of water;

(3) half *adriana* rates for the first five years ; and

(4) supply of nursery plants at nominal prices ;

(b) if so, reasons for not granting the same concessions to the fruit-growers in the Punjab ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhetu Ram :** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR BATHING PURPOSES IN OLD CENTRAL JAIL,  
MULTAN

**\*8756. Pandit Muni Lal Kalra :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no sanitary arrangements exist in the Old Central Jail, Multan, for bathing purposes ; if so why ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** No. Reasonably satisfactory arrangements exist in the Old Central Jail, Multan, for bathing purposes.

RESULT OF GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

**\*8766. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the Government High Schools and Colleges in the Punjab, the results of which have been cent per cent for the last six years ;

(b) what special steps have so far been taken to encourage the teachers and lecturers working in the above-named institutions and to improve the standard of instruction of the students studying in other Government institutions ; if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Government High School, Palwal.

(b) The examination result of a school is not the only criterion of its efficiency. It is expected of every Government educational institution to show good results. However, letters of appreciation are issued to institutions showing good results and those responsible for bad results are warned.

HEAD MASTERS OF GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS IN AMBALA DIVISION

**\*8767. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names, community-wise, of the Head Masters of the Government High Schools in the Ambala division now and at the time when the present Inspector of Schools took over charge at Ambala ;

(b) the reasons for the variation of the figures referred to in (a) ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** As the question savours of communalism I shall be glad to answer it if the honourable member puts an unstarred question.

COMMISSION OF UNNATURAL OFFENCE BY AN OFFICER OF THE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT IN LOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL, KOT FATOHI.

**\*8775. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that about three months ago during the visit to the Lower Middle School, Kot Fatohi, District Hoshiarpur, an officer of the Education Department is alleged to have committed unnatural offence with some boys of the school ;

[Dr. Sir Gekal Chand Narang.]

(b) whether it is a fact that the matter was reported by the Panchayat at Kot Fatohi in District Hoshiarpur, to the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur ;

(c) whether it is a fact that an enquiry was held by the District Inspector of Schools, Hoshiarpur, at which the President of the said Panchayat, the Headmaster of the said school and the boys, who were victims to the offence, confirmed the charge ;

(d) whether the report of the District Inspector of Schools has been received by the Education Department ;

(e) if so, what action has been taken on the report ;

(f) if no report has been received or no action has been taken so far, whether he would be pleased to consider the desirability for prompt and immediate action ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) An enquiry was held by the District Inspector of Schools, Hoshiarpur, under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner.

(d) Not yet.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The matter is already receiving attention.

#### SALT DEPÔTS IN GUJAR KHAN TAHSIL

\*8778. **Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the cost price of salt mined at Khewra ;

(b) the names of villages in tahsil Gujar Khan where salt depôts have been opened by the Ralwalpindi Salt Agency ;

(c) the price charged per salt box from the depot holder, the weight of salt one such box contains and the profit per box the Agency is permitted to charge ;

(d) the names of the depôt-holders in tahsil Gujar Khan ;

(e) whether it is a fact that all the depôt-holders in tahsil Gujar Khan, which is populated mostly by Muslims, are non-Muslims ; if so, why and whether it is intended to allow a Muslim to open a salt depôt at Gujar Khan ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (CHAUDHRI TIKA RAM) :** (a) Rs. 1-15-0 per maund F. O. R. Khewra.

(b) 1. Gujar Khan small town.

5. Chhina.

2. Sukho.

6. Mandra.

3. Daultala.

7. Sang.

4. Narali.

8. Hardo Chir.

(c) The term " salt box " is not understood. If the honourable member refers to a " wagon " this usually contains 550 maunds of salt and the cost at Gujarkhan is Rs. 1,214-2-0 in case of nominees and Rs. 1,264-2-0 if obtained on traders indents. The gross profit per wagon is Rs. 264 and Rs. 214 respectively.

(d) 1. Gujar Khan small town .. Sant Singh (of Gujar Khan).

2. Sukho .. Jaidev Singh.

3. Daultala .. Man Singh.

4. Narali .. Sant Singh (of Narali).

5. Chhina .. Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan,  
M. L. A.

6. Mandra .. Gurdit Singh.

7. Sang .. Ghulam Murtza.

8. Hardo Chir .. Raja Sultan Mahmud.

(e) No. There are three Muslims already including the honourable member himself. These depôt holders are the employees of Salt Nominee for the whole tahsil, who is himself a Muslim.

#### PETROL RATIONING

**\*8723. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that from the 1st of November 1942, further reduction ranging from 25 per cent to 50 per cent in petrol supplied to Motor Lorry Passenger services has been made on Pathankot-Bajinath, Dharamsala-Bajinath, Pathankot-Dharamsala, and Pathankot Dharal routes which are essential routes from public and military point of view and that in most of the routes there is no other alternative means of communications ;

(b) whether it is a fact that from 1st November 1942, no further reduction in petrol supplied to lorry services on Pathankote-Lahore route which is comparatively a non-essential route, has been made in spite of the fact that there is alternative railway communication available for the public and gas plant can be successfully utilised on that route ;

(c) if the answer to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for this discrimination ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** (a) Yes ; a reduction of about 25 per cent was made in the petrol supply to motor vehicles running on Pathankot-Bajinath and Pathankot-Dharamsala routes on account of the slackness of traffic on the routes in the winter and for the reason that the route is not essential but semi-essential. The question of increasing the ration in summer will be considered by the Regional Rationing Authority.

(b) From the 1st November to the 1st March 1943 no reduction was made. However the quantity of petrol allowed on the Lahore-Pathankot route had been already reduced by 50 per cent and this ration was continued in order to encourage the use of rectified spirit. Petrol was stopped altogether on this route with effect from the 1st March 1943.

(c) disposed of by replies to (a) and (b).

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** A part of my question still remains unanswered. The point that I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government was that on the Pathankot-Lahore route there is an alternative means of communication, that is, the Railway, but on the Pathankot-Thural route there is no alternative means of communication. I want to know whether this fact has been taken into consideration.

**Minister :** Government took all facts into consideration when deciding this question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Was the fact that this particular route is important from the military point of view taken into account ?

**Minister :** Surely, you will leave that to the Government to decide.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Did you make any enquiries ?

**Minister :** I may assure the honourable member that all possible enquiries were made before answering this question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Do you admit that this route has military importance ?

**Minister :** I have already answered that question.

**Premier :** It is for the Regional Rationing Authority to consider this matter

GRANT-IN-AID DEMANDED BY DISTRICT BOARDS FOR PAYMENT OF  
DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

**\*8737. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) how many District Boards of the Punjab have passed resolutions to demand cent per cent grant-in-aid for the payment of dearness allowances to their employees on account of paucity of funds and limited resources of the District Boards in question ;

(b) the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** (a) Only one—Amritsar.

(b) Government consider that district boards should themselves pay these allowances to their employees. Government have, however, agreed that the dearness allowances paid to teachers will be approved expenditure for purposes of earning the Vernacular Education grant.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that the resources of district boards are limited ?

**Premier :** So are those of the provincial Government and every Government and individual. There is a limit to everybody's resources. We have all sympathy with district boards, but the resources are limited everywhere.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN OFFICES OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

**1660. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst the Superintendents, Head Vernacular Clerks, Head Treasury Clerks, and the other clerks (pensionable and non-pensionable) of the offices of the various Deputy Commissioners of the Punjab ; if they are under-represented in the above-named cadres of the said offices, the reasons therefor, and the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhota Ram :** Attention is invited to the consolidated statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government as it stood on the 1st January 1942. Very clear and strict instructions already exist, both on communal and class proportions, in respect of the initial appointments of clerks. If any departures from these instructions are brought to the notice of Government by any honourable members they will receive prompt and careful attention. But appointments to the posts of superintendents, assistant superintendents and head vernacular clerks are usually made by promotions which, in accordance with the recognised policy of Government, cannot be influenced by considerations of class or community. The under-representation of statutory Hindu agriculturists in these cadres is accounted for by their educational backwardness and consequent lack of men of suitable qualifications and sufficient seniority among them.

HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES DEPARTMENT

**1661. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of statutory Hindu agriculturists amongst the Deputy Registrars, Personal Assistants and Sub-Inspectors Industrial, respectively, employed in the Co-operative Societies Department, Punjab ; if there is a Hindu statutory agriculturist among them, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :**

1st Part .. Deputy Registrar .. 1  
 .. Personal Assistant .. None

There is only one post of Personal Assistant which is held by an Anglo-Indian.

Sub-Inspectors, Industrial .. 7

2nd Part—Does not arise.

**HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT**

**1662. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of statutory Hindu agriculturists of the Ambala division amongst the Superintendents, Head Clerks and other clerks in the Co-operative Societies Department, Punjab; if they are under-represented in the above-named Department, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** 1st part—

Superintendents .. .. None There is only one post of Superintendent.

Head Clerks .. .. 2  
 Other Clerks .. .. 32

2nd part. Recruitment to the Co-operative Department, is made on a provincial basis and not by divisions or districts. (Hindu agriculturists are adequately represented).

**HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN CRIMINAL TRIBES DEPARTMENT**

**1663. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of posts held by the statutory Hindu agriculturists amongst the :—

- (a) Supervising Staff,
- (b) Probation and Criminal Tribes officers,
- (c) Teachers,
- (d) Preachers,
- (e) Warders,

respectively, in the Criminal Tribes Department, Punjab; if the Hindu statutory agriculturists are under-represented in the said Department, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manehar Lal :**

Name of appointment	Number of posts held by Statutory Hindu Agriculturists	Total number of posts held by Hindus
(a) Supervising staff .. ..	5	7
(b) Probation and Criminal Tribes Officers .. ..	..	2
(c) Teachers .. ..	5	20
(d) Preachers .. ..	..	1
(e) Warders .. ..	8	21

Hindu statutory agriculturists are under-represented among Probation and Criminal Tribes Officers, Teachers, Preachers and Warders due to lack of suitable agriculturist candidates when they were recruited. Attempts are being made to make up the deficiency by recruiting agriculturists in future vacancies.

### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN CRIMINAL TRIBES DEPARTMENT

**1664. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of posts held by the Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst the Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and Clerks employed in the Criminal Tribes Department, Punjab; if they are under-represented in the said Department, the reasons therefor, and the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :**

Name of appointment	Number of posts held by Hindu Statutory Agriculturists	Total number of posts held by Hindus
Superintendents .. .. .	2	2
Assistant Superintendents .. .. .	3	5
Clerks .. .. .	4	28

Hindu statutory agriculturists are under-represented among the clerks only due to lack of suitable agriculturist candidates when they were recruited. Attempts are being made to make up the deficiency by recruiting agriculturists in future vacancies.

### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, LAND RECORDS

**1665. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of the posts held by Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst the Superintendents, Head Assistants, Stenographers, Clerks and Mappers employed in the office of the Director of Land Records, Punjab; if they are under-represented in the above-named office, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** *First Part.* Three.

*Second Part.* Attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to unstarred question No. 1660<sup>1</sup>, during the current session.

### STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**1666. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the total number of special, class I and class II posts (men and women separately) held by the Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Indian Christians, respectively, in the Education Department, Punjab, and the number of posts held by statutory agriculturists of each community; if the agriculturists are under-represented in the above-named cadres, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The honourable member is referred to the reply given to his Question No. 1667 (below). The policy of Government in the matter of communal representation in the Services is well known, and every effort is made to give due representation to every community.

### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**1667. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of P. E. S., Subordinate Educational Service and other posts held by the Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Indian Christians,

respectively, in the Education Department, Punjab and the number of posts held by statutory agriculturists of each community ;

(b) how many of the Hindu statutory agriculturists holding the above-named posts belong to the Ambala division ; if they are under-represented in the above-named cadres, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) According to the figures of 1st January 1948, the total number of posts held by each community in all the cadres of the Education Department and the number held by statutory agriculturists is given below :—

Name of community	Number of posts held by each community	Number of posts held by Statutory agriculturists of each community
Mustims	1,485	981
Hindus	1,085	221
Sikhs	436	215
Indian Christians	157	27

(b) 111. The second part does not arise.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**1668. Chaudhri Sumar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists of the Ambala division amongst the Registrars, Superintendents, Assistants and Clerks employed in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab ; if they are under-represented in the above-named cadres the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Nil. The appointments are not made division-wise.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**1669. Chaudhri Sumar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists of the Ambala division amongst the Superintendents, Head Clerks and other Clerks in the subordinate offices of the Education Department, Punjab ; if they are under-represented in the said offices, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The required information is given below :—

There is no post of superintendent in the clerical cadre of the subordinate offices.

Head clerks	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other clerks	..	..	..	..	..	11

The appointments are not made division-wise. The second part of the question does not arise.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE OFFICES OF ELECTION

**1670. Chaudhri Sumar Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists of the Ambala division amongst the Personal Assistants, Clerks and Restoers employed in the Election Offices in the Punjab ; if their number is very small in the above-named offices, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter ?



**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hyat :** There are two election offices, namely, those of the Elections Commissioner, Punjab, and the Municipal Elections Office, Punjab. One post of clerk in the former office is held by a Hindu statutory agriculturist of the Ambala division, out of four posts held by Hindus in the total establishment of 15. In the Municipal Elections Office, the number of posts is 16, out of which six posts are held by Hindus. There is no Hindu statutory agriculturist of the Ambala division among them, but the members of the notified agriculturist tribes are 50 per cent of the total establishment. The claims of the Hindu agriculturists of the Ambala division have always been considered and will be considered in future vacancies along with the claims of other divisions, but it is not feasible to give fixed representation to specified territorial areas.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE OFFICE OF ELECTRIC INSPECTOR

**1671. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst the officers and other employees in the office of the Electric Inspector to Government, Punjab; if they are under-represented in the said office, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable [Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** There are, at present, no Hindu agriculturists among the officers and other employees in the office of the Electric Inspector to Government, Punjab.

No new permanent appointment has been made since 1937. Efforts will, however, be made to obtain the services of an agriculturist on the occurrence of the next Hindu vacancy.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

**1672. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists of the Ambala division amongst the Assistant Secretaries, Clerks of Courts, Superintendents, Assistant Stenographers, Senior Clerks including Nazir and Junior Clerks with paid apprentices, respectively, employed in the Financial Commissioners' office at Lahore; if the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists has been very small in the said office since 1937, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** 1st part. A statement giving the requisite information is enclosed.

2nd part. Recruitment in this office is on a provincial and not a divisional basis.

3rd part. Does not arise.

Names of posts	Statement	Number of posts held by the Hindu Statutory Agriculturists of the Ambala division
Assistant Secretary .. .. .	.. .. .	..
Clerk of Court .. .. .	.. .. .	..
Superintendents .. .. .	.. .. .	..
Assistants .. .. .	.. .. .	2
Stenographers .. .. .	.. .. .	1
Senior Clerks including Nazir .. .. .	.. .. .	..
Junior clerks with paid apprentices .. .. .	.. .. .	8

**HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN STAMP SECTION OF FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE**

**1673. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst Stamps Auditors and Clerks for Stamp Auditors employed in the Stamp Section of the Financial Commissioners' office at Lahore; if the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists is very small in the aforesaid office, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** The Stamp Auditors and their two clerks do not constitute a separate cadre but form a part of the Financial Commissioners' Office where there are 19 Hindu statutory agriculturists. Communal proportions have been prescribed for initial recruitment to the Financial Commissioners' Office, but it is not possible to secure a communal balance in every section of this or any other office.

**HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN EXCISE SECTION OF FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE**

**1674. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst the various officers and clerks recently employed in the Excise Section under the control of the Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Punjab;

(b) how many of them belong to the Ambala division?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

**HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE**

**1675. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst the Superintendents, Assistants, Stenographers, Senior Clerks and Junior Clerks, including Leave Reserve Clerks, respectively, employed temporarily in the Financial Commissioners' office at Lahore; if the Hindu statutory agriculturists are very few among the employees mentioned above, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

**STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE OFFICE OF PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL RATIONING AUTHORITY**

**1676. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst Senior Clerks, Junior Clerks, Stenographers and Restorers, respectively, employed in the office of the Provincial and Regional Rationing Authorities, Punjab; if the number of Hindu agriculturists is very small in the said office, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** The information required by the honourable member is as follows :—

Designation of the posts	Total Number of appointments	Number of Hindu Statutory Agriculturists	Other Hindus
Senior clerk ..	16	1	5
Junior clerk ..	20	..	9
Stenographer ..	1	..	..
Restorer ..	1	..	..

[Minister for Development.]

The offices of the Rationing Authorities were constituted as a war measure and most of the staff was imported from the offices of the Punjab Government where the various communities had been given their due representation. In the case of the few appointments made direct the men most easily available were recruited having regard to the urgency of the work but the various communities were allowed representation in the prescribed proportions. The claims of the Hindu agriculturists will be duly considered in making any direct appointments in future provided suitable candidates are forthcoming.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**1677. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of the posts of Assistant Directors of Public Health, District Medical Officers of Health, Sub-Assistant Health Officers (special public health staff), Sanitary Inspectors (special public health staff) held by Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs in the Punjab Public Health Department and the number of posts held by statutory agriculturists of each community; if the Hindu statutory agriculturists are under-represented in the said Department, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** As regards the first part of the question, I would refer the honourable member to entry 33 at page 19 of the printed statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities in the provincial Government's service as on the 1st January 1942. A copy of this will be found in the library. The figures for the year 1942 have not yet been published.

I see from the statement that one only of the posts mentioned by the honourable member is held by a Hindu statutory agriculturist, and will consider whether the number ought to be increased.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**1678. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of posts of technical appointments (such as Laboratory Assistants, Assistant Chemists, etc.) and other employees (such as Head Assistants, Head Clerks and Clerks, etc.) held by Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs in the Public Health Department, Punjab, and the number of posts held by statutory agriculturists of each community; if the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists is very small in the aforesaid department, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** As regards the first part of the question I would refer the honourable member to entry 33 on page 19 of the statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities in the provincial Government's service as it stood on the 1st January 1942. A copy of this statement will be found in the library. The figures for the year 1943 have not yet been published.

I see from the statement that the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists in the appointments mentioned by the honourable member is small, and will consider whether it ought to be increased.

#### HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**1679. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists amongst Superintendents, Assistants, Stenographers, Senior and Junior Clerks, respectively, employed in the office of the Joint Public Service Commission of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province; if the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists is very small in

the said office, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** There are three Hindus in the posts mentioned, one of whom is a statutory agriculturist. The latter part of the question does not arise.

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COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN CLASS I POSTS IN CO-OPERATIVE  
DEPARTMENT

**1680. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of class I posts in the Provincial Co-operative services ;
- (b) the number of holders of such posts, community-wise ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that not a single Muslim is holding any of these posts if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) 5.

(b) Hindus .. .. 2 Sikhs .. .. 8

(c) 1st part. Yes.

2nd part. Communal considerations do not enter into the selection of officers for promotion to the service.

It may be stated for the information of the honourable member that the Indian Civil Service post of Deputy Registrar is held by a Muslim.

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SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL OF NON-MUSLIM GOVERNMENT SERVANTS  
IN THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, KARNAL

**1681. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of non-Muslim Government servants who have been suspended, dismissed, prosecuted and warned by the present Deputy Commissioner, Karnal, since the time he has taken charge of the district ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan :** 8.

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SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL OF MUSLIM OFFICIALS IN THE OFFICE  
OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, KARNAL

**1682. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number, separately, of Muslim officials suspended, dismissed, prosecuted and called upon to explain their conduct and also warned by the present Deputy Commissioner, Karnal, since the time he has taken charge of the district and also the number of those, if any, who have been reinstated or proceedings against whom have been withdrawn or dropped on their giving satisfactory explanation ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan :**

Suspended	..	..	5	Warned	..	Nil
Dismissed	..	..	8	Reinstated	..	2
Prosecuted	..	..	8	Degraded	..	1
Called upon to explain	..	..	1			

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SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**Minister of Finance (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of General Administration.

*The motion was carried.*

## JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,78,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1948, in respect of Jail and Convict Settlements

**Mr. Speaker** : The demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,78,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1948, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 90,000 on account of District Jails—Other Contingencies, be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I wish, in moving this motion, to point out the inadequacy of diet supplied to prisoners.

**Mr. Speaker** : The item relates to contingencies and not to diet.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Sir, the explanation given reads :—

The release of wheat, etc., by the Co-operative Stores for use in jails at enhanced rates is responsible for the excess of Rs. 90,000.

This clearly shows that this relates to wheat supplied for the diet of prisoners.

**Minister of Finance** : The sum of Rs. 90,000 is not to secure inadequacy of diet. It is to make the diet more adequate. The further amount is not being claimed in order to affect any inadequacy of diet.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : This amount is being demanded due to the fact that wheat was released at a higher rate.

**Minister** : Wheat has become more expensive.

**Mr. Speaker** : I think the honourable member is satisfied that his motion is not in order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : I am not satisfied.

**Mr. Speaker** : What has the demand to do with the adequacy or inadequacy of diet? The next motion.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural) : I move :—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to bring home to the Government benches that "The release of wheat, etc., by the Co-operative Stores for use in Jails at enhanced rates is responsible for the excess of Rs. 80,000". The wheat which was stored by the Co-operative Stores was purchased at Rs. 5-1-0 per maund and later on it was sold at more than Rs. 8 per maund and the Co-operative Department has made money out of the sale. I do not see any justification whatsoever for this department raising the price of wheat so enormously.

**Minister of Finance** : That has nothing to do with the Jails Department which we are now discussing.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : I say that the Co-operative Department should have released the wheat at a lower rate.

**Mr. Speaker** : The honourable member is discussing and criticising the Co-operative Department, while the demand under discussion relates to jails.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : It was because the Co-operative Stores released the wheat at higher rates that the Government had to spend this higher amount. When one department is responsible for increasing a particular item of the Budget, I am certainly within the sphere of relevancy if I just refer to that department. It was due to the action of the Co-operative Department that this excess in expenditure had to be

incurred and I am certainly within my rights when I say that the Co-operative Department has not been fair in this respect.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should also realise that the House is discussing the supplementary demands and not the annual budget.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Very well, Sir. On the 5th March I asked a question on the floor of the House which runs as follows :—

\*8485. Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state regarding the health of—

(1) Mian Mohammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee.

(2) Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Legislative Assembly ;

(3) Chaudhri Krihan Gopal Dutt,

M.L.A.,

(4) Seth Sudarshan, M.L.A.,

(5) Pandit Shri Ram Sharma ;

(6) Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, M.L.A. ;

(7) Chaudhri Sahib Ram, M.L.A. ;

(8) Sardar Partap Singh, M.L.A. ;

(9) Shrimati Shanno Devi, M.L.A. ;

(10) Mundi Hari Lal, M.L.A. ;

(11) Dewan Chaman Lal, M.L.A. ;

(12) Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, M.L.A. ;

(13) Sardar Chanan Singh, M.L.A. ;

(14) Chaudhri Kartar Singh, M.L.A. ;

(15) Sardar Harjab Singh, M.L.A. ;

(16) Master Kabul Singh, M.L.A. ;

(17) Baba Rur Singh, M.L.A. ;

(18) Master Hari Singh, M.L.A. ;

(19) Dr. Sant Ram Seth, M.L.A. ;

who are being detained in the various jails of the Punjab ;

(a) the weight at present, and at the time of arrest of each detenu mentioned above ;

(b) the general state of health of each detenu named above ;

(c) the diet, newspapers, correspondence and interviews allowed to the above-mentioned detenues.

I will not refer to the other parts.

**Premier :** We discussed that matter at length the other day under the General Administration Grant.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It is a question of opinion whether it was discussed at length or not. But I feel that there is injustice done to these detenues who are members of this august Assembly, members who are perhaps as respectable as the honourable members occupying the Government benches over there. I feel that certain inhumane treatment is being meted out to these members and when we out of sheer concern ask certain questions in this Assembly in respect of the health of these people, in respect of their diet and so on, the reply given by the Government is that it is not in the public interest to reply to those questions. I fail to understand why anything in the interests of the country is against public interest in the view of the Ministry. The fact is that as many as 19 members of this House are in jails and when we ask a question as to what diet is given to them, it is strange that the reply is that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information. In this connection I want to put it to the Honourable Premier, who was just now on his legs to tell us that this matter was discussed at length the other day and there is no further scope to discuss it now, that there were two members who spoke on behalf of the Government the other day on this matter. One was Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, who said that the Punjab Government had nothing to do with this and that the Punjab Government was helpless in this matter and it was the policy of the Central Government that was being pursued.

Exactly these were the words which the Honourable Premier repeated when he explained his position with respect to the detention of these M.L.A.s, in jails.

**Premier :** May I, with your permission, point out that I did not refer to diet ? I said that the general policy dealing with non-co-operation was governed by the Central Government and the Local Government, which is responsible for law and order, were applying the principles of the Central Government to this movement according to the circumstances prevailing here. One thing more. The honourable member has just now stated that no reply was given with regard to the health of these M.L.As. He will remember that in reply to a question here the other day it was said that they were in good health barring those on parole about whom we could not have positive information because they were out. It was stated that others were in good health. According to my information, my Parliamentary Secretary repeated that. The honourable member has perhaps overlooked it. He should make his speech relevant to the demand.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I will. I am sorry the Honourable Premier has not understood me. I am referring particularly to the diet supplied. Did he give us any information with respect to the diet which is being supplied to them. He only told us that it had been raised to twelve annas per day. He said so as if he had bestowed greatest possible boon on these detainees by raising it to twelve annas from nine annas.

**Mr. Speaker :** Does the honourable member mean that as no information was given about the diet in jails, he is opposed to this demand?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I have not completed my submission so far.

**Mr. Speaker :** What was refused to be stated on the floor of the House cannot now be allowed to be asked.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I had not completed my argument when the Honourable Premier intervened. I was submitting that so far as the position of the Government on this point was concerned, they said that as regards the detention of these M.L.As., and others the Provincial Government was helpless and as regards the supply of diet they did not make it clear. If they had explained the position that the Government was helpless on this point and that the Central Government had issued instructions or there was some other agency which was standing in the way of giving them humane treatment expected from any civilised and popular government, I would not have asked any further questions. I want to ask of the Government, have they received any instructions and are they helpless in the matter of diet ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The treatment of political prisoners in jails cannot be discussed under this demand.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What else can be discussed under this demand ? (Honourable members : Nothing). I am only making a submission to prove that the policy of detaining people without trial, without giving them an opportunity to defend their cases, without giving them an opportunity to establish their innocence in a court of law, has resulted in increased expenses under the item ' Jails and Convict Settlements ' and I am certainly within my rights to discuss that this policy of the Government was uncalled for and it has resulted in excess expenditure. This is my point and I am making out a case on these lines.

**Premier :** May I say a word ? The honourable member is mistaken if he thinks that he can discuss the policy which is being followed under the Defence of India Rules which are a central measure. He cannot discuss the Defence of India Rules under the demand before the House.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The point now taken up by the Premier is that because the Defence of India Rules are involved, therefore this House is not in a position to discuss the subject and therefore cannot discuss it.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** That is not the point. The honourable member has misunderstood it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The Honourable Premier's point is that this policy of the Government in detaining people behind prison bars, which has resulted in increase of expenditure, cannot be discussed. The travelling allowance alone has cost six thousand rupees.

**Minister of Development :** What difference does an item of six thousand rupees make ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** There were no extraordinary circumstances in the province which necessitated this type of policy on behalf of the present Government.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** Which policy ? The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The Government have felt nervous for nothing because there were no disturbances in this province. In spite of this there has been increase in expenditure. Under this very head we find the item of travelling allowance to certain people who accompanied the detenues to different places from the district centres and from the Central Jail. This is an item for which there was no necessity. We know how these wardens who accompanied the detenues behaved. We have read in the papers how responsible people like Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava and Munshi Hari Lal were handcuffed when they were taken from one jail to another.

**Mr. Speaker :** These details are irrelevant.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** The Honourable member has not spoken a single word which may be considered relevant.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** There is an item of six thousand rupees and another of two hundred rupees.

**Mr. Speaker :** On page 3 of the Supplementary Estimates 1942-48 (Third Instalment) you will find "Travelling Allowance, Rs. 200. The cost of journey of warders accompanying Civil Disobedience and Security Prisoners is responsible for the increase". Travelling allowance of warders and others is under discussion. The honourable member can discuss it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am discussing that. I say that the expenditure has increased as a direct result of the policy followed by the Government in arresting people and detaining them for no reason and sending them on to central places from district jails. This expenditure has been incurred due to the policy of the Government which was not called for under the circumstances prevailing in the province. Then I take up another big item. This is "Other Contingencies—80,000" and relates to Central Jails. There is another item of Rs. 90,000. It relates to contract contingencies under District Jails. The remarks are as follows :—

"Other Contingencies—The release of wheat, etc., by the Co-operative Stores for use in jails at enhanced rates responsible for the excess of Rs. 90,000"

Similar is the note with respect to the item of Rs. 90,000. I want to point out that in case the normal demands of jails were to be met, the budgeted amount was there. Everybody knew and the Jail Department itself knew that it required a particular quantity of wheat for the purpose of diet. But the policy pursued by the Government in detaining people without any rhyme or reason in jails has resulted in an increased quantity of wheat and other supplies for the jails and these two items of Rs. 80,000 and Rs. 90,000 are also due to the direct result of the policy followed by the Government and for which there was no justification. Partly the policy of this Government and partly the policy adopted by the officer in charge of the Co-operative Department are responsible for this increase. They made profits out of it, but I leave it here and say nothing more. Under these circumstances I commend my cut motion to the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*



**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,78,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

*The motion was carried.*

# AGRICULTURE

**Finance Minister :** Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 97,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Agriculture.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 97,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Agriculture.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Under this cut motion I want to raise discussion on the policy of the Government regarding "Grow more wheat" campaign in the Punjab.

**Mr. Speaker :** Was not this matter discussed before? Does the question of "grow more food" arise out of this demand?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The note on this demand says :

"A sum of Rs. 12,00,000 was originally voted by the Legislative Assembly to meet expenditure in connection with operations with improved seeds but in view of the abnormal rise in the cost of wheat and cotton seeds as well as the necessity of growing more wheat in the province due to the war, this amount proved insufficient and a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,50,000 was recently voted by the Assembly for this purpose. This additional grant is expected to prove insufficient and a further sum of Rs. 97,400 is required."

**Mr. Speaker :** Was not this policy discussed when the original demand was made?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** When the Budget was presented there was no campaign of "grow more wheat". It was not discussed. It was recently incorporated by the Government and it has resulted in this increase of expenditure. Now, I want your ruling whether I am in order to discuss it or not.

**Mr. Speaker :** What does the honourable member wish to discuss?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to discuss that the policy of the Government as far as growing more wheat campaign is concerned is defective. They are seeking sanction for the excess expenditure on this particular item and I want to discuss it.

**Mr. Speaker :** On what ground are they seeking more money?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Partly owing to the increase in price and partly due to this campaign started by the Government for growing more wheat and these are the two factors which have necessitated this particular excess demand. I want to discuss one of these items, namely "grow more wheat" campaign.

**Mr. Speaker :** Does the honourable member not wish that more wheat should grow?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I do wish with a great speed but not with the speed with which the Government is growing it. In the first place, I want to point out that in this case the Government wants us to sanction a sum of Rs. 97,400 for the purpose of supplying improved seeds. As far as supply of seeds is concerned, no sensible man can oppose it and we do feel that seeds should be provided to the agriculturists of the province to increase their agriculture. But as far as the working of it is concerned, I have seen, and I know it personally, that in some cases the supplies of seeds which are given to the officers for the purpose of distribution among agricultural people are misappropriated and given for the purpose of eating.

That is the consequence of this sort of expenditure. With respect to growing of more wheat, I want to suggest that the Government should set up a machinery under which the agriculturists should be given Government owned lands. The jagirs granted originally to those people who render services to the Government should be stopped.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is not the honourable member irrelevant ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am submitting that those lands which are granted to those people who serve the Government should be given to the agriculturist people, who till the land with their own hands, so that there should be an increase in the national wealth as far as wheat is concerned.

**Premier :** I do not possess any 'jagir'.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** But you could grant 'jagirs'.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** At least the explanation does not show that it was only due to the increase of prices. The Government say they want to grow more wheat and the increase in expenditure is due to an increase in the cost of wheat. It is only the explanation on which I am depending.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member may not be altogether irrelevant but he is mentioning matters which have nothing to do with the item which is before the House.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Have I not the right to suggest means to grow more wheat when the Government demand a particular sum for the purpose of growing more wheat? If the Government wish to grow more wheat they should adopt certain policy. I am within my rights to point that out. I was submitting that if the Government wish that more wheat should be grown they should give lands to those people who are cultivating the land with their own hands, who are the tillers of the soil, and who are not living upon the earnings of others, for example, tenants-at-will. With these remarks I resume my seat.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand under consideration, motion is—

That the demand be reduced by 100.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I want to make a few observations in regard to "Grow More Wheat" campaign. Government have started this campaign with a view to encouraging the zamindars to grow more wheat. The object in view is twofold. First, increase in yield of food grains will go a long way to relieve the difficult situation caused by the scarcity of food grains. Secondly, zamindars would be able to make large profits and thus will enrich themselves. But the difficulty is that the efforts of the Government in regard to this campaign are very defective and late. The rabi crop is sown one month earlier in the Ambala division as compared to the rest of the Punjab. The Government do not supply the zamindars with seeds at the proper time. Consequently their crop is not as successful as it would have been if the zamindars had been supplied with the seeds in time. What I want to drive at is, that Government should take steps to remedy these defects, so that zamindars may be able to derive the fullest benefit of the campaign. The case of taceavi should be taken in hand in time, so that the zamindar may yet benefit to the greatest possible extent.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the demand be reduced by 100.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 97,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1943, in respect of Agriculture.

*The motion was carried.*

## CIVIL WORKS

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move —

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 1943, in respect of Civil Works.

**Mr. Speaker :** The motion moved is —

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 1943, in respect of Civil Works.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I move—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's motion is out of order. He may, if so advised, oppose the whole demand.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Urdu) :** Sir, I shall then oppose the demand. It is an age of war; the state of affairs in the country has changed. People are not getting their necessities of life. They are not getting even their food. They can hardly live a life of bare sustenance. In such bad times the Government is thinking of purchasing a bungalow for one of their officers in Rawalpindi. What an unwise step on the part of the Government. They should think of the needs of the poor. If the Government persists in acting in utter disregard of the needs of the poor, helpless and starving people of the Punjab, I am afraid they will rise in revolt against the Government! These are critical times. The Government should think of the starving masses, and not of the needs of a particular individual of their own. The Government can well save their money by not purchasing the bungalow for one of their officers at Rawalpindi, and thus the saved money can be well spent for the betterment of the poor. The Government should keep in view the interest of the poor and not of the officer. With these remarks I oppose this demand.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

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 1943, in respect of Civil Works.

*The motion was carried.*

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (BUILDINGS AND ROADS) ESTABLISHMENT

**Minister of Finance :** I move—

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 1943, in respect of charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Establishment.

*The motion was carried.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Minister of Finance :** I move—

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 1943, in respect of Miscellaneous.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved is—

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 1943, in respect of Miscellaneous.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural) :** I stand to oppose the whole demand. On page 8 of the Supplementary Estimates, honourable members will find—

In connection with the control over the Lahore Electric Supply undertaking, a small staff consisting of an Assistant and three clerks was employed with effect from the 27th February for a period of six months. The expenditure is to be classified under the head "57—Miscellaneous—Miscellaneous and Unforeseen Charges—Expenditure in connection with the undertakings under the Defence of India Rules" and is estimated at Rs. 20 in the current year. This small sum can be met out of the savings within the grant but a token demand is made as the Legislative Assembly has not previously voted expenditure for this object. In this connection I want to submit, Sir, that so far as the taking over of the Lahore

Electric Supply Co. by the Government is concerned it was an illegal action of the Government and that illegal action of the Government has been responsible for this increased expenditure under this demand.

**Minister of Finance :** Whether that was illegal or otherwise is a matter which is before a court of law.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It was decided by the Lahore High Court that the Defence of India Rules could not be applied to that particular case.

**Mr. Speaker :** The matter is *sub judice* as the case is still pending.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am only discussing that part of the case which has been decided.

**Premier :** How can the honourable member discuss this matter which is yet *sub judice* ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It seems that the Honourable Premier has not read page 8 of the Supplementary Estimates.

**Premier :** I have read it. I am sure the honourable member cannot refer to the Lahore Electric Supply Co. case as that is still in a court of law.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I can certainly refer to the policy of the Government.

**Premier :** You cannot discuss the policy under this particular item.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am referring to the policy of the Government which led to an increase of expenditure under this item.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Government took control of the Electric Supply Co., and in that connection required one or two clerks.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That act of the Government was unwarranted as the Government was not authorised by law to do so.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow the matter to be discussed here as it is *sub judice*.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It has been decided.

**Premier :** What has been decided ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That the taking over of the Lahore Electric Supply Co. by the Punjab Government was illegal.

**Premier :** That has positively not been decided. There is another court—probably the honourable member is not aware of it—which we have addressed and the matter is still pending before that court and is therefore *sub judice*.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is :—

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 1943, in respect of Miscellaneous.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 3-30 p.m. on Friday the 26th March, 1943.*

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

NINTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 26th March 1943.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 3-30 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the chair.

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### DETENUS

\*8646. **Lala Duni Chand**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that certain prisoners and detenus of the civil disobedience movement of 1942 are not being given the benefit of the scale of diet and other human requirements specially prescribed by the Government for the prisoners and detenus of this movement;

(b) whether it is also true that Lala Kalicharan, an employee of *Khaddar Bhandar*, Ambala Cantonment, Pandit Pani Lal of Kesri (Ambala District) and S. Bakhtawar Singh, member, District Board, Ambala, under-trial prisoners, are being treated as C class prisoners, the first two in Ferozepore Jail and the third in Ambala Jail; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) No.

(b) (i) Prisoners Kali Charan and Panna Lal (not Pani Lal, as referred to by the honourable member) were not arrested in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement. Hence they were classified as ordinary 'C' class prisoners. For honourable member's information, prisoner Panna Lal was released on 1-3-1943.

(ii) Prisoner Bakhtawar Singh is being treated as a Civil Disobedience prisoner.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh**: May I know [the section of the Act under which they were arrested?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I want notice of that question.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh**: The Parliamentary Secretary says that they were not arrested in connection with the Civil Disobedience movement. He must have information as to under what law and under what section they were arrested.

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I have already stated that one of them has since been released. If the honourable member is interested in the other information, he may give notice and I will give the information.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: Notice is already there.

### NOTICES OF QUESTIONS BY SARDAR HARI SINGH, M.L.A.

\*8670. **Sardar Hari Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons why certain notices of questions for the Punjab Assembly Department sent in by Sardar Hari Singh, M.L.A., last November from New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, to the Secretary, Assembly, were not passed on to the latter by the authorities concerned;

[ S. Hari Singh ]

(b) the reasons why Sardar Hari Singh, M.L.A., was not informed by the authorities concerned of the ground on which the questions had been held back?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) and (b). The notices were not held back but were under consideration when the detenu was released. As he could then send his notices direct, no further action was taken.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is the honourable member aware that according to the rules of procedure the office of the Legislative Assembly is bound to reply and give reasons if a question is disallowed?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If that is in the rules, it must be in the rules. But there is no such rule that the answers given by the office of the Assembly must reach a particular person at a particular address.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** The question is when the question was disallowed whether the member was informed according to the rules of the Assembly.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The honourable member has forgotten the question. The question asked the reasons why certain notices of questions for the Punjab Assembly Department sent to the Secretary Assembly were not passed on to the Assembly authorities. I have already answered that question that the notices were not held back but were under consideration when the detenu was released. As he could then send his notices direct, no further action was taken.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I want to know whether the notices that are being sent to us are also being sent to the prisoners inside the jails.

**Premier :** The question is this. The people detained under the Regulations and Rules were not expected to receive these communications or send out any communications, but on the suggestion made by the Honourable Speaker we have now allowed them to get the proceedings and other communications.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Honourable Premier is aware that notices were being regularly sent but that they have been stopped for the last one year?

**Premier :** That does not arise.

#### VIEWS ON MAHATMA GANDHI'S FAST

**\*8671. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Punjab Government was called upon by the Government of India to express their views or themselves expressed their views to the Government of India on the situation arising out of the fast of Mahatma Gandhi; if so, whether he will be pleased to state what are those views?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question.

#### ARREST OF HARBANS SINGH, NIRMAL SINGH AND GANDA SINGH

**\*8672. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the circumstances leading to the arrest of Harbans Singh, Ganda Singh both of district Hoshiarpur and Nirmal Singh of district Jullundur at Jama Rai district Amritsar, in January last;

(b) the arms, if any, recovered from them;

(c) the manner of that arrest;

(d) the place of their detention;

(e) cases, if any, in which they are wanted by the police;

(f) whether any of them has turned an approver or made a confession?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) and (e) Harbans Singh and Ganda Singh were wanted in case F. I. R. No. 74, dated 7th October, 1940, under section 307, Indian Penal Code and section 3, Explosive Substances Act, P. S. Government Railway Police, Jullundur and in case First Information Report No. 60, dated 4th November, 1940, under section 302, Indian Penal Code, Police Station, Anandpur, Hoshiarpur district; Nirahmal Singh was wanted in the latter case.

(b) and (f) It is not in the public interest to answer these parts of the question while the cases against these persons are still *sub-judice*;

(c) They were arrested by a police party;

(d) Hoshiarpur Jail.

#### SARDAR AJIT SINGH

**\*8637. Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Ajit Singh, son of Sardar Sohan Singh of village Ballaggan in Sialkot district was arrested by the police in August 1942; if so, whether he was tried in a court of law and convicted;

(b) under what rule the said Ajit Singh was arrested and where he is at present detained; and what is his age;

(c) whether it is also a fact that nothing objectionable was recovered from him at the time of his arrest;

(d) what was his weight at the time of arrest and what is his weight at present and also what is his present state of health;

(e) whether he is allowed to have interviews with his blood-relatives;

(f) whether his case has been reviewed for release; if so, with what result?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) *First part.*—He was arrested on 1st September, 1942.

*Second part.*—No.

(b) Under rules 85 and 121 D. O. I.-R., and under sections 121-A and 120-B Indian Penal Code; he is not at present detained; age about 20 years;

(c) No.

(d) Information is not available.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh:** May I know what his information is as to the increase or decrease of his weight? The question asked as to his weight at the time of arrest and his weight at present and also his present state of health. The Parliamentary Secretary has not given that information.

**Parliamentary Secretary:** The honourable member asked for his weight at present, at a time when he was no more under detention. If he wanted to know his present weight he should have applied to the gentleman concerned.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh:** May I know his weight at the time of his arrest and at the time of his release?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** If he had put that question he would have got a reply.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh:** The question is already there in part (d).

**Parliamentary Secretary:** With regard to that question, my answer is that information is not available.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware of the fact that all people when they are admitted into a jail and when they are released are weighed?



**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have not had the privilege of that experience, but presumably it is so. But that in all cases when a person is released his weight must be preserved for all times is too much to expect.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** But is he aware of the fact that all persons are under the rules weighed on admission and release ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There may be such a rule, but I refuse to subject myself to an examination by my friend.

#### LOCKING UP OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND CONVICTS IN DISTRICT JAIL, MIANWALI

**\*8688. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Mianwali, ordered the District Jail, Mianwali authorities to lock up the Civil Disobedience detenues and convicts in separate *kacha* cells in October 1942 ;

(b) whether he got it done in his presence without making proper urinal arrangements for the prisoners ;

(c) whether there exist any definite orders for the locking up of the detenues in separate cells ; and, if not, the reasons why the jail authorities carried out his instructions ;

(d) whether this matter was referred to the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, just after the incident ; if so, to what effect ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### LOCKING UP OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS IN DISTRICT JAIL, MIANWALI

**\*8689. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Civil Disobedience detenues and convicts in District Jail, Mianwali, refused to be locked up in *kacha* cells at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner, Mianwali, in the local District Jail in October 1942 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the jail authorities resorted to force in locking up the prisoners and their attitude was callous ;

(c) if so, how long this practice continued in the said jail ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the four members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly (detenues), Mian Mohammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Lala Dashbandhu Gupta, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, and Munshi Hari Lal, were bodily removed by the jail warders and convict warders to be locked up from evening till morning ;

(e) whether this treatment had been authorized by the Punjab Government and the jail rules ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### SARDAR BOOTA SINGH, SUNDAR SINGH AND HAZARA SINGH, BABAR AKALIS

**\*8711. Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the following *Babar Akalis* who have since long joined the Communist Party have declared their anti-fascist views :—

(1) Sardar Boota Singh, detained in the Gujrat Special Sub-Jail,

[ S. Teja Singh Swatantra ]

(2) Sundar Singh Mahasupuri, detained in Gujrat Special Sub-Jail,

(3) Sardar Hazara Singh, detained in Gujrat Special Sub-Jail;

if so, the reasons for their continued detention?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : *First part.*—Representations to that effect have been received.

*Second part.*—The circumstances which justified their detention still exist.

SARDAR SARDUL SINGH, PLEADER

\*8712. **Sardar Teja Singh Swatantra :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Sardar Sardul Singh, Pleader, now detained without a trial in the Shahpur Jail, has been suffering from an attack of gout since the 14th of October;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said detenu is suffering also from myopia;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that the said Sardar Sardul Singh's income from his practice as a lawyer was the only source of maintenance for his family;

(d) whether the Government intends to grant maintenance allowance to the said detenu's wife and family; if not, why not?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) It is not a fact, as far as Government is aware. For the honourable member's information, the prisoner is now confined in the District Jail, Sialkot.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) (1) No.

(2) Allowances are not granted in the case of Civil Disobedience prisoners.

NATIONAL FLAGS IN LYALLPUR

\*8724. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that national flags hoisted on the buildings of different people in Lyallpur were removed by the Police during the month of October 1942,

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Flag hoisted on the building of A. I. S. A. Sargodha Sale Bhandar was removed by the Police on the 4th October 1942, and the Manager and the salesmen of that Bhandar were arrested; if so, the reasons for the removal of the flag and the said arrests?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Government have received no report to this effect.

(b) Two individuals who were using the Bhandar for the purposes of furthering an illegal movement were arrested in the first week of October and a supply of Congress flags which were being produced and sold for the same purpose was seized.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What type of business were they carrying on in the Bhandar?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Furtherance of an illegal movement. It is not in the public interest to give any further detail now.

" Khaddar Bhandars "

\*8725. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of All-India Spinners Association Khaddar Bhandars all over the province were recently locked by the police; if so, what were the reasons for the locking of these Bhandars;

[ Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma ]

(b) what steps, if any, were taken by the Government to safeguard the security of the stock in those *Bhandars*?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) No report to this effect has been received by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary has cared to collect any information with respect to part (a)?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I have stated that no report to this effect has been received by the Government. I have nothing to add to the answer already given.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Does he deny that Spinners Association Khaddar *Bhandars* were taken possession of by the Government?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** The honourable member, if he would carefully note, asked whether it is a fact that a number of All-India Spinners Association *Bhandar* all over the province were recently locked by the police. We are not aware of any such order and no report to this effect has been received by Government.

#### PUNITIVE POLICE POST IN BAROTA

**\*8726. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a Punitive Police Post has been stationed in village Barota, District Rohtak; if so, the reasons for the posting of the additional police in that village;

(b) whether it is due to the murder of a Muslim of Barota last year on *Baqr-Id* or for some other reasons;

(c) who will bear the expenses of this Punitive Police Post?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) Yes; for misconduct on the part of the inhabitants.

(b) No; there was no murder of a Muslim of Barauta on the last *Bakr-Id* day.

(c) The inhabitants of the village.

#### INTERVIEWS WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS

**\*8759. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether interviews even for domestic and purely personal and professional or business purposes have been disallowed to politicals (1942) and if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### DENTAL TREATMENT OF DETENUS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

**\*8760. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that urgent dental treatment required by some of the Congress detenues has not so far been arranged for in spite of the requests repeatedly made and pain constantly borne by the detenues and political prisoners and in spite of an offer made by the detenues to pay for the treatment from their own pocket; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** It is not a fact that dental treatment required by the Civil Disobedience prisoners has not been arranged for; nor is it true that the Civil Disobedience detenus have been denied consultation with a private dentist when necessary.

**LALA JAGAT NARAIN CHOPRA**

**\*8761. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Lala Jagat Narain Chopra, B.A., President, District City Lahore Congress Committee, was kept in Lahore Fort in solitary confinement in September 1942; if so, why;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that Lala Jagat Narain was compelled by unfair means by the C.I.D. to make a confession suited to the requirements of the police; if so, why;

(c) the period for which he was kept in Lahore Fort;

(d) general state of his health, his weight at present and at the time of his arrest?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**POLICE OFFICERS IN GURGAON DISTRICT**

**\*8769. Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the names and designation of the police officers at present posted in the Gurgaon district, community-wise, together with the different duties they have performed in their various offices in the district?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** The following gazetted police officers are at present posted to the Gurgaon district—

1. Mr. E. A. Hopkins, I. P., Superintendent of Police.
2. Shaikh Abdul Haq, Deputy Superintendent of Police.

It is assumed that this is all that is required.

**OFFICERS POSTED TO POLICE STATIONS IN PALWAL SUB-DIVISION**

**\*8770. Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of police stations in the Palwal Sub-Division, district Gurgaon, along with the officer in charge, community-wise, on the 1st January 1943?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** In accordance with the usual convention about questions which have a communal savour, I have decided to treat this question as unstarred and to send the honourable member a written reply\*.

**SIR SIKANDAR-BALDEV SINGH PACT**

**\*8785. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the terms of Sir Sikandar-Baldev Singh Pact, signed in June 1942, the object of the pact, how far it has been observed, the period for which it is proposed to be continued?

\*Written answer to starred question 8770:—Four. Four Muslims.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): The correspondence leading to and including the pact was published extensively in the press and reveals both its terms and its object, and no useful purpose would be served by going into the matter again at this stage. Such questions of policy cannot be raised by Assembly questions.

I may add that the Honourable Premier has already announced that he stands by the commitments made by his predecessor.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: May I enquire whether any instructions have been issued to the heads of departments to carry out the terms of the pact?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I have nothing more to add to the answer already given.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: May I know whether this particular term was included in the pact that Sardar Baldev Singh will be put in charge of the Department of Industries?

**Premier**: How does it arise? The terms of the pact were already published and the honourable member knows them.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: The Parliamentary Secretary has stated that the terms of the pact were published in the newspapers. I put it to him whether this term was also included in the pact that the Department of Industries should be transferred to Sardar Baldev Singh. Is there any prospect of his ever getting charge of this department?

**Premier**: When the honourable member was not present at the time of the signing of the pact, why should he worry himself about it? (*Laughter*).

#### LALA CHANDI RAM

**\*8786. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Lala Chandi Ram of Mianwali, was arrested under the Defence of India Rules on the 18th January 1948, and kept in police lock-up for 15 days;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that in the lock-up he was handcuffed and kept standing continuously for hours with a view to compelling him to make a statement which the police desired him to make;

(c) whether he resorted to hunger-strike against this torture;

(d) if answer to the above be in the affirmative, the action, if any, intended to be taken in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

#### REMOVAL OF THE PICTURES OF MAHATMA GANDHI AND PANDIT JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU FROM THE HOUSE OF GIAN CHAND

**\*8787. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Mianwali Police took away the pictures of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and others and a writing pad, after searching the house and shop of one Gian Chand who was arrested under the Defence of India Rules on 26th January 1948; if so, why;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at the time of the arrest of Lala Gian Chand the police severely handled the following shop-keepers:—Wazir Chand,

Piara Lal, Manohar Lal, and Shiv Ram, who were sitting on their respective shops, if so, why?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

COMRADE BALDEV SINGH BIJLI

**\*8795. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Comrade Baldev Singh Bijli is detained in the Punjab; if so, in which jail he is detained;

(b) whether he would be pleased to supply the following information about the said detenu:—

(1) His weight at present.

(2) The diet supplied to him.

(3) The number of interviews and paper supplied to him.

(4) Whether the said detenu was recently transferred to Lahore for medical treatment.

(5) His present state of health?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** It is not in the public interest to answer this question on the floor of the House, but if the honourable member requires information for his personal and private enlightenment only, I will endeavour to see what can be given to him by me privately.

**\*8744. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the military authorities have acquired land near Rahwali and Jallan in the district of Gujranwala for the construction of two aerodromes, and that no compensation has been paid for the same to the *kisans*, though the land was acquired six months ago;

(b) whether the Government have received a copy of the petition from *kisans* of nine villages around Rahwali, sent to the Defence Department, asking for compensation;

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in the matter by the Government;

(d) if no steps have been taken, what is the reason for the delay?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) Land has been temporarily requisitioned near Rahwali and Chandar in the district of Gujranwala. Compensation for standing crops, etc., was paid on the 22nd January, 1948.

(b) Yes.

(c) Half yearly rent for the land is expected to be paid before the close of the current financial year.

(d) Does not arise.

REVENUE ASSESSMENT OF LAND USED FOR FRUIT GROWING

**\*8781. Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that land which is purely used for fruit growing is being assessed both for *rabi* and *kharif*?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanafar Ali Khan):** The honourable member is referred to the answer given to Assembly question No. 8771<sup>1</sup> (starred).

## FRUIT TREES

**\*8782. Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it has been brought to his notice—

- (1) that the fruit trees come into bearing 3 to 7 years after planting ;
- (2) that the trees bear fruit only once in a year ;
- (3) that the fruit-growers are not allowed any remission for *kharaba*, and are assessed both for *rabi* and *kharif* ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** Attention of honourable member is invited to the reply given to question No. 8772<sup>1</sup> (starred).

## CONCESSIONS TO FRUIT-GROWERS

**\*8783. Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has been brought to his notice that His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has given special concessions to the fruit-growers of Patiala State, such as—

- (i) full remission of land revenue for the first three years ,
- (ii) five times enhanced supply of water ,
- (iii) half *abiana* rates for the first five years, and
- (iv) the supply of nursery plants at nominal prices ;

(b) if so, reasons for not granting the same concessions to the fruit-growers in the Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** Attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to Assembly question No. 8778<sup>1</sup> (starred).

## AMOUNTS ADVANCED UNDER STATE AID TO INDUSTRIES ACT

**\*8793. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the amount given under the " State Aid to Industries Act, 1935 " in the rural and urban areas in the Punjab, separately and district-wise, during the last 6 years ;

(b) if no amount or a negligible amount has been given in this respect to the Gurgaon district, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the measures Government intend to adopt to encourage industry in the Gurgaon district ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** The information is not readily available and it would not serve any public interest to collect it. The honourable member knows that all loans and subsidies granted under the provisions of the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, are, after thorough departmental enquiries, considered by the Board of Industries. This procedure is sufficient to preclude the possibility of discrimination against any community or district.

## RESOURCES AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE

**\*8796. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Punjab Government on the Resources and Retrenchment Committee of 1939 ;

(b) what action has so far been taken by the Government on the recommendations of this committee?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Rs. 1,09,415.

(b) Action on several of the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee has already been taken and on some the action has been suspended for the duration of the war. It is contemplated to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the action taken on the recommendations of the Committee after the cessation of hostilities.

#### TEACHERS OF GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS IN AMBALA DIVISION

**\*8768. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number and names of teachers of Government High Schools in the Ambala Division who have been given several chances of headmastership by the present Inspector of Schools, Ambala, although they were considered unfit for such posts on previous occasions by his predecessor and the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The appointments of Head Masters of Government High Schools, whether officiating or permanent, are not made by the Inspectors of Schools.

#### GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL AT ZAFARWAL

**\*8794. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of students with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd division, separately, who came out successful in the Matric Examination from the Government High School at Zafarwal in the Sialkot district during the time of the present Headmaster and the three Headmasters previous to him and the number of the years for which each of these Headmasters remained posted at Zafarwal?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The possible benefit to be obtained by the collection and compilation of the figures called for will not be commensurate with the time and labour involved.

#### TREES GROWING ON AMBALA-LUDHIANA ROAD

**\*8738. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ambala-Ludhiana road was entered in the revenue records as owned by the proprietors of land on the north and south of this land;

(b) whether it is a fact that the District Board, Ambala, has taken possession of trees growing on this road;

(c) whether it is a fact that in 1937 or thereafter the District Board got their ownership and possession recorded in the revenue records without due notice to the proprietors?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** (a) No. This land is entered in the Revenue Record as owned by the shamlat of two parties.

(b) Yes.

(c) In 1937, the entry as to possession, viz., "Shahrah-am" was changed to that of the District Board by the revenue authorities who were evidently of opinion that the former entry was incorrect. I have no reason to suppose that the requirements of the law in the matter of notice were not complied with.



## REVOLVERS

**\*8780. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that revolvers of .38 and .450 bores were not declared as those of prohibited bore formerly and many people possess these revolvers and their licences :

(b) whether these revolvers of the above bores have now been declared as those of prohibited bores ; if so, whether Government intends to exempt those revolvers as have been mentioned in part (a) of the question ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) and (b) Revolvers of .450 and .38 bores have been declared by the Government of India to be prohibited bores since 1924 and 1940, respectively. No information is readily available showing the number of such revolvers and licences possessed by the public. The licensing authorities can however renew such licences in deserving cases, provided the revolvers in question were lawfully imported into British India. Lawful import may be presumed where the revolvers have been in the possession of owners, or of the persons from whom the present owners bought, from before the introduction of the relevant prohibition.

## CONTROL OF WHEAT AND FOOD GRAINS

## STATEMENT BY PREMIER

**Premier (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat) :** Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make. A requisition was received yesterday from some members of this House asking for a discussion to represent the grave loss suffered by agriculturists as a result of control and to air their view point that there should be no further control of wheat and food grains. Representations in this connection had already been made by this Government and in response thereto we have received an assurance from the Government of India that " there is no intention of re-imposing statutory control in primary wholesale markets. " I might further add that the need of the Government of India is to be in a position to purchase surplus grain available in the Punjab. With this object in view a system is now being organised by which it is expected they will be able to make their purchases economically and the producer will be able to sell his surplus wheat in a free market.

## SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE 1948-44 AUTHENTICATED BY GOVERNOR.

**Minister of Finance (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) :** Sir, as required by section 80 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the table the Schedule of Expenditure for the year 1948-44 authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

As required by subsection (1) of section 80 of the Government of India Act 1935, I hereby authenticate the following schedule in respect of the financial year 1948-44 which specifies—

(a) the grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly, and

(b) the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.

## SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE

Grant No.	Major Heads of Account	Grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	7—Land Revenue .. .. .	49,32,500	62,800	49,95,300
2	8—Provincial Excise .. .. .	12,53,300	..	12,53,300
3	9—Stamps .. .. .	1,49,100	..	1,49,100
4	10—Forests .. .. .	33,59,400	3,44,000	37,03,400
5	11—Registration .. .. .	84,900	..	84,900
6	12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts ..	11,48,300	15,700	11,64,000
7	13—Other Taxes and Duties .. .. .	..	..	..
7	XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses .. .. .	..	..	..
7	17—Interest on Irrigation Works for which Capital Accounts are kept .. .. .	33,38,700	1,57,53,200	2,41,92,900
8	18—Other Irrigation Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues .. .. .	..	..	..
8	Irrigation—Establishment Charges .. .. .	1,13,33,900	14,07,200	1,27,41,100
9	19—Construction of Irrigation Works financed from Ordinary Revenues .. .. .	32,40,600	..	32,40,600
9	68—Construction of Irrigation Works (Capital Expenditure) .. .. .	..	..	..
..	22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations .. .. .	..	..	..
..	23—Appropriation for Reduction or Avoidance .. of Debt .. .. .	..	—20,63,300	—20,63,300
10	25—General Administration .. .. .	1,02,26,400	22,73,100	1,24,99,500
11	27—Administration of Justice .. .. .	40,47,800	17,09,000	57,56,800
12	28—Jails and Convict Settlements .. .. .	41,83,600	33,000	42,16,600
13	29—Police .. .. .	2,02,16,700	10,23,000	2,12,39,700
14	36—Scientific Departments .. .. .	..	..	..
14	47—Miscellaneous Departments .. .. .	5,91,200	2,100	5,93,300
14	62—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments .. .. .	..	..	..
15	37—Education (European and Anglo-Indian Education) .. .. .	6,13,000	7,900	6,20,900
16	37—Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education) .. .. .	1,69,34,300	1,06,800	1,70,41,100
17	38—Medical .. .. .	52,07,400	1,35,400	53,42,800
18	39—Public Health .. .. .	20,86,100	15,000	21,01,100
19	40—Agriculture .. .. .	50,65,600	1,32,100	51,97,700
20	41—Veterinary .. .. .	18,09,100	53,700	18,62,800
21	42—Co-operation .. .. .	25,82,000	52,700	26,34,700
22	43—Industries .. .. .	28,09,400	..	28,09,400
23	50—Civil Works .. .. .	1,07,17,500	1,30,400	1,08,47,900
24	Buildings and Roads—Establishment Charges ..	19,98,100	2,02,000	22,00,100
25	52—Interest on Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes .. .. .	16,02,000	23,38,900	44,90,900
26	XLI—Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses ..	..	..	..
26	52-A—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes .. .. .	13,18,000	..	13,18,000
27	50-A—Capital Outlay on Civil Works met out of Extraordinary Receipts .. .. .	8,54,400	..	8,54,400
27	81—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account .. .. .	..	..	..
28	53—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes met out of Revenue .. .. .	7,76,100	..	7,76,100
28	81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account) .. .. .	..	..	..
29	54—Famine .. .. .	3,00,000	..	3,00,000
30	55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ..	63,47,300	29,82,700	93,30,000
..	55-A—Commutation of Pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues .. .. .	—44,100	2,25,100	1,81,000
..	83—Payments of Commuted Value of Pensions (Capital Expenditure) .. .. .	..	..	..
31	56—Stationery and Printing .. .. .	16,53,000	..	16,53,000

Grant No.	Major Heads of Account	Grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
32 {	57—Miscellaneous .. .. .	1,08,32,200	2,45,400	1,10,77,600
	63—Extraordinary Charges .. .. .			
33 {	Advances not bearing interest— Advances Repayable .. .. .	5,36,100	..	5,36,100
	Loans and Advances bearing interest— Loans to Municipalities, Advances to Cultivators, etc. .. .. .	26,38,400	..	26,38,400
34 {	Loans to Government Servants .. .. .			
	GRAND TOTAL .. .. .	14,97,53,200	2,77,99,500	17,75,52,700

### SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AUTHENTICATED BY GOVERNOR

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, as required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the table the supplementary statement of expenditure (third instalment) for the year 1942-43 authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

As required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following supplementary statement of expenditure for the financial year 1942-43, which specifies the supplementary grants (third instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its Session held in March 1943.

### SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT

Grant No.	Major head of account	Supplementary grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly
		Rs.
10	25—General Administration .. .. .	7,500
12	28—Jails and Convict Settlements .. .. .	1,78,400
19	40—Agriculture .. .. .	97,400
23	50—Civil Works .. .. .	10
24	Charges on Public Works Department—Buildings and Roads Establishment .. .. .	10
33	57—Miscellaneous .. .. .	10
	GRAND TOTAL .. .. .	2,83,330

LAHORE :

Dated the 25th March 1943

**B. J. GLANCY**  
Governor of the Punjab.

### LOCAL AUTHORITIES (WAR SERVICE) BILL

**Minister of Public Works** (The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan)  
I beg to introduce the Punjab Local Authorities (War Service) Bill.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh** : Before proceeding to the next item in the agenda, that is, before the motion for the consideration of the Bill is moved, I would like to draw your attention to the proviso to Rule 84. The relevant parts of the rule and the proviso run thus :—

84. When a Bill is introduced or on some subsequent occasion the member-in-charge may make one of the following motions in regard to his Bill, namely :—  
(a) that it be taken into consideration by the Assembly either at once or at some future day to be then specified ; or

(b) that it be referred to a select committee; or

(c) that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by a date to be specified in the motion:

Provided that no such motion shall be made until after copies of the Bill have been made available for the use of members, and that any member may object to any such motion being made unless copies of the Bill have been so made available for five clear days before the day on which the motion is made and such objection shall prevail unless the Speaker, in the exercise of his power to suspend this rule, allows the motion to be made.

**Premier:** Copies were made available.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh:** I do not care for myself but there are other colleagues of mine who are in jails and it will be admitted by the Premier that they were not given the copies because the authorities will never deliver the papers to them. You, Mr. Speaker, might say that so far as your office is concerned, it posted the papers and it is not concerned with whether the honourable members who are in jails received them or not. I must say that that presumption only arises in the case when there is a normal course as to the delivery of letters, etc., but it is admitted by the Honourable Premier and his Parliamentary Secretary that they never got those papers and the matter is still under consideration whether they should get those papers or not. Under these circumstances, you should not rule out my objection simply on the ground that the office posted those papers. I am sure you will not allow the House to proceed with the consideration of the Bill, because there are as many as fifteen members who are rotting in jails and they have not been given access to all these copies of the Bill and other papers.

**Premier:** The rules are clear on the subject and are in the hands of the honourable member. I only want to say what concession has been given by me. The normal practice is that those who are detained under the Defence of India Rules are not entitled to any correspondence. The members of the Central Assembly as well as of the Council of State and others so detained are not getting it. The members of this House also so detained were not getting communications, but on the suggestion made by you, Mr. Speaker, contrary to practice, I have allowed them to receive Assembly papers. The honourable member says that because the papers have not been sent, therefore, the House should be stopped from transacting any business. The rules are there and these Bills have been made available to all the members for a very long time and I do not think there is any force in the contention of my honourable friend.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh:** We do not know what the rules of the Central Assembly are but there are specific provisions in our rules.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the honourable member refers to the Rule, he will find that no such motion can be made until after copies of the

4 P.M.

Bill have been made available for the use of members. Copies were printed and made available to every member and he had access to those copies. Besides, a copy was sent to every member.

Rule 18 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules, runs as follows:—

"(1) The Secretary shall circulate to each member a copy of notice or other paper required under the rules to be made available for the use of members.

(2) A notice or other paper shall be deemed to have been made available for the use of a member—

(i) when the Assembly is in session and for two days before the commencement of the session, unless otherwise requested by the member, if it is delivered by hand at the local address given by the member (in this case it will be necessary that receipt is acknowledged in the delivery book); or when the Assembly is actually sitting, if it is placed in the seat allotted to the member in the Assembly Chamber.

(ii) On other days, if it is sent by post to the member's permanent address as registered in the Assembly office."

Copies of all these Bills, including the Bill now introduced by the Honourable Minister, were sent by post to the honourable members' permanent addresses as registered in the Assembly office.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** May I know their permanent addresses ? I submit that those letters were sent to jails.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is a matter between the honourable member and the Secretary. Had the honourable member taken the trouble of seeing the Secretary, he would have got full information on every point.

**Minister of Public Works :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Local Authorities (War Service) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Local Authorities (War Service) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Local Authorities (War Service) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st June 1943.

My purpose in moving this circulation motion is manifold. During the outbreak of the war, similar measures have been introduced in this House and two successive Acts were passed by which certain members were allowed to take jobs in different places. It was done in direct contravention of the rule that any person holding office of profit under the Crown cannot remain at the same time a member of the Legislative Assembly or of the local body and at the same time carry on his job under the Crown. The idea underlying this particular rule was this that in the first place a member, who is elected to a local body or to any legislature, should be in a position to devote his fullest time to represent his constituency and his constituents. That was the first purpose of enacting that particular rule. The second purpose was that any member who is holding an office of profit under the Crown is bound sometimes to ignore his duties. There are certain factors which would influence his individual and independent judgment. Therefore, it was with that idea that that particular rule was enacted, so that a member who represents his constituency and who comes to a representative House, should be in a position to give his independent judgment in all matters of public interest. But what I find is this that every day representatives of the people in this House and elsewhere are being allowed to hold offices of profit under the Crown and the poor constituents, who have elected them in the hope that they would represent them and that they would put their case before the House at the proper time, are deprived of their rights and the result is that there are dummy members who go about and take up jobs under the Central Government or the provincial Government and are therefore unable to represent their constituents in the House, whether provincial legislature or local bodies, it does not make any difference. I want to oppose this particular policy. (*An honourable member* : What about Congress members who are in jails ?) Those Congress members have resigned from local bodies.

Sir, I was pointing out that all those people who take service under the Crown and who are at the same time representing their constituencies, are not in a position to do their latter duties because they will be allowed under the law to remain absent. There should be a clear cut policy with respect to that and all those members who hold office under the Crown should not be allowed to retain their seats in the legislature or local bodies. The official machinery is there and they will be intimidated in the matter of expressing their free opinion. There are instances in local bodies where a person, who holds office of profit under the Crown has become liable to influence. That is another reason why I oppose this particular Bill and why I want that public opinion should be collected on this point. During peace time when the ordinary law of the land prevails there are provisions with respect to the liberty of the people and with respect to the rights of the press and so many measures exist which protect the liberty of men. At that time when the ordinary rule of law protects the rights and liberty of the people, the fact that there is nobody to represent a constituency will not make any difference. But in

these days when the ordinary law of the land is suspended and arbitrarily people are sent to jails, when restrictions are being put on press, the liberty of the people is every day being butchered and people are killed, in these days we should dismiss the idea that it would not make any difference if those, who are the real custodians of the rights of the people and who come to help and protect the rights of the down-trodden, are not there to represent their constituencies. In these days when war is on, there is no rule of law, and the Defence of India Rules are being so abused that any officer who feels that he should send anybody to jail can do so in two minutes. At this critical juncture when the liberty of the people is insecure I urge that members should not be allowed to join Government service, and if they choose to do so their seats should be vacated and there should be some other men to represent the people. I want to bring to your notice the conditions prevailing in this province at the present time. If you go to the rural areas the local officials from patwaris right up to the Deputy Commissioners run after the people collecting war donations.

**An honourable member :** Is this relevant ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What I mean to submit is that when there is no rule of law there must be somebody to represent the case of those people. Government are sending people to jails and imposing so many other hardships. My point is this that if people who are members of legislatures or local bodies are sent on military service their seats should be vacated for others. These are abnormal times : the constituents should be properly represented in these bodies. I therefore submit that the people who will be affected by this measure should have a say in the matter, that is, whether they would like to continue to be represented by people who are going to hold office under the Crown or whether they would like to be represented by others. The voters have a right to have their say. I therefore submit that this Bill should be circulated for public opinion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion under consideration, amendment moved is—

That the Punjab Local Authorities (War Service) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st June 1943.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh** (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural) : Mr. Speaker, Government has introduced this Bill with the object of exempting certain members from the disqualifications which they might incur for not attending a certain number of meetings in the local bodies. According to the District Boards Act and the Municipal Act, if a member does not attend a certain number of meetings in a local body the local Government may remove him from the membership. It is not mandatory and it is not necessary that if a member does not attend the required number of meetings in a local body he shall be disqualified. It depends upon the sweet will of the Government whether it removes him or does not remove him. This war has been going on for the last three years. There may be only very few members, may be four or five members of local bodies, who have joined the army or are serving in the war. I know of only one case in my own district and that gentleman has been serving in the war for the last three years and has not been attending the meetings of the local body, but in spite of the fact that this was brought to the notice of the Government, the latter did not take any action. So there is no need to bring in this legislation when the Government can even now exercise its discretion in favour of a member who takes up war service and need not take any action against him in spite of the fact that he does not attend certain number of meetings.

If the Government were to examine how many applications they have received from members of local bodies who wish to join the army, I am sure there will not be any. To my knowledge only those members of local bodies have so far joined the army who were Reservists and who had to join according to the rules. Moreover the Government has got powers already ; they may take or may not take action against a particular person. For these reasons my submission is that there is no necessity for this Bill.

[S. Kapoor Singh.]

There is another objection against this Bill. This Bill offends certain provisions of the Municipal Act and the District Boards Act. There are certain rules regarding the constitution of local bodies and according to those rules certain number of members are elected while some quota is fixed for the nominated members who are appointed by the Government. Government have themselves fixed that so many members shall be elected and so many shall be nominated. Further there are two categories of nominated members, that is, those who are whole time salaried officers of Government and non-official members. Now, Mr. Speaker, if non-official members are allowed to become whole time salaried officers of the Government that will naturally increase the number of such members and the quota that has been fixed will be disturbed. I know that the wording is such that it would not clearly be against the provisions but the spirit of the provisions will undoubtedly be offended. Take the case of Ludhiana District Board, for instance. There are 40 members, 30 are elected while 10 are nominated by the Government and of these ten some are whole time salaried officers of the Government. Now if some of the members accept offices under the Crown they become whole time salaried officers of the Government and thus the number of whole time salaried officers of the Government will increase which will be clearly against the provisions of the Act. Section 12 of the Punjab Municipal Act lays down—

Every such committee shall consist of members appointed by the Provincial Government either by name or by office, or of members elected from among the inhabitants in accordance with rules made under this Act, or partly of the one and partly of the other as the Provincial Government may, by notification, direct:

Provided that, unless the Provincial Government shall otherwise direct, the appointed members shall not exceed one-fourth of the whole committee.

Now the words are 'appointed members'. I know the honourable member in charge of the Bill will take shelter under these words. My submission is that if they accept offices under the Crown they become whole time salaried officers of the Government and it would clearly be contrary to the spirit of the provision. In the case of district boards also a provision exists which fixes a limit to the number of whole time Government servants. You will find under Section 11 (2), proviso (b)—

Of the appointed members, not more than one-half or six, whichever is less, shall be whole time salaried servants of the Crown....

There is a slight difference between the wordings of the Municipal Act and the District Boards Act so far as this particular subject is concerned. Now, if this Bill is passed and certain appointed members are allowed to join the army the number of Government servants will be increased in a district board. Supposing, for instance, a particular district board has 10 appointed members out of which 5 are non-officials and 5 are whole time salaried officers of the Government. After this Bill is passed, supposing two of the non-official members join the army they will also become whole time Government servants. So, the number of whole time salaried officers will exceed the fixed number, that is, 5. Clearly Section 11 of the District Boards Act will be offended. This is my second objection to the Bill.

The third objection that I have against the Bill is that this Bill is discriminatory in nature. You will find, Sir, that this Bill exempts certain members from disqualification from membership when they join the army to fight in the war which according to this Government is being fought for two sacred purposes, namely, peace and freedom. I do admit that this war is being fought against Fascism (*Hear, hear from the Ministerial benches*). My honourable friends say 'hear, hear', but I must tell them that there are some gentlemen—I will not take my personal case—but there are some men who are also fighting for a noble cause, the cause of freedom of their country, but instead of being exempted they are disqualified. This is the reason why I say that this Bill is discriminatory in its nature. The principle is the same; while in the one case some members are fighting in the

service of the Government, there are others who are fighting for the freedom of their country.

I see no reason why those members should be disqualified while they are fighting for the very cause in respect of their own country for which these soldiers are said to fight, while as a matter of fact these soldiers fight not for the freedom of their country but in order to enable the foreigners to have their hold on this country and keep the people under their subjection. For that reason I say that this Bill is discriminatory. There should be equality of treatment. I ask the Minister in charge of the Bill whether he is prepared to exempt those persons also who are being detained in jails for fighting for the cause of their country from such disqualification if they do not attend the requisite number of meetings. (*An honourable member*: No). Here is the mentality of discrimination. I would, therefore, request the House not to allow the Bill to proceed any further. That is so far as the consideration of the Bill is concerned.

I shall now give reasons why the Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. I suggest that the verdict of the voters should be obtained as to whether those who have joined the army should be exempted from the disqualification or not. That would be an acid test to find out whether the public is with this Government or with those members of local bodies who are now detained in jails. When I say this, it is not at random that I make this suggestion. The procedure laid down in the Local Bodies Act justifies my contention. Among the various circumstances under which a member may be disqualified to sit in a local body there is one whereby if the majority of the voters require that a certain member should vacate his seat Government *should*, and not *may*, ask that member to vacate his seat. In the case of the present Bill the Government has not yet ascertained from the public whether they want it or not. Let the Government adopt the procedure contained in the District Boards Act and the Municipal Act. Instead of passing this Bill immediately by the voting strength behind it, let the Government refer this Bill for public opinion. Let the Government at least put this matter before the voters of district boards and municipalities and ascertain from them whether they want the people who have joined the army to be exempted from the disqualification which is sought to be removed by this Bill. At the same time they may ask of the voters whether those members of local bodies who are now detained in jails should be exempted or not from similar disqualification. There are two sets of members who do not attend the meetings of the local bodies, those who are detained in jails and those who are serving in the army. Let us put the case of these two classes of members before the voters and obtain their verdict. We will then be able to find out with whom the country now is. I do not see any immediate hurry to pass this Bill at once. The war has been going on for the last three years and no necessity has so far been felt for this measure. The Government can, therefore, afford to wait for a few months more to elicit the opinion of the public on this question. On these grounds I would request the House to support the motion for the circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion.

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan): I thought that the statement of objects and reasons attached to this Bill was so clear that it needed no explanation. Apparently it is not so or perhaps it has not been properly understood. All that we have been trying to do is to seek the permission of the House to pass the Bill to remove any disqualifications which may arise or which may be invoked against the members and office holders of local authorities in Punjab who have joined the army. This is not a new measure. This very Assembly has passed a measure of a similar nature exempting the members of this House who have accepted war service from any disqualification. I am not prepared to go into the discussion of the original Bill itself. It had been thrashed out here in this Assembly and the honourable members had decided that it was the



[Minister for Public Works.]

best course that the Punjab could take during the war. This measure, as I have just stated, is a natural corollary of the Bill which this House passed in 1942. Now we are going to apply it to local bodies, and all this Bill seeks is to get the support of the House to the ordinance which has already been passed in 1942. The Punjab, as you are aware, has repeatedly declared its attitude towards the war effort. In this House Government has so often got the verdict of the House that where the war effort of the Punjab is concerned, we shall carry out a total war against the powers which are fighting the democracies, to defend our motherland as a duty to those valiant soldiers who are fighting in various battlefields abroad. It has been made clear in this House that we are all out to win this war and that we shall pass all possible measures to help the local bodies in this province to assist the war effort. That is the reason why we have brought forward this measure. The honourable member opposite has gone into the details of the Municipal Act. If I may be permitted to say so, there is no need to go into the details. The war is being fought outside. If we try to decide the war in this House, I am afraid we shall lose it. We are trying to help those soldiers who are fighting outside and trying to make these gentlemen here who are serving under local bodies to go and assist those soldiers to win the war. As for the motion for circulation of the Bill, I beg to submit that the best public opinion of the province is enshrined in this House in the electorates of the Punjab, and it is the elected representatives of the Punjab that we have asked to pass this Bill allowing the office holders of local bodies to help the war effort.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab Local Authorities (War Service) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st June 1943.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab Local Authorities (War Service) Bill be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause. The question is—

That sub-clauses (2), (3) and (4) of clause 1 be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clauses 2, 3 and 4 be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Local Authorities (War Service) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

## URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TAX (VALIDATION OF LISTS) BILL.

**Finance Minister (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) :** Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Immovable Property Tax (Validation of Lists) Bill. I also beg to move—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Validation of Lists) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Validation of Lists) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): I rise to oppose the consideration of this Bill. As you will see, the Statement of Objects and Reasons says :—

It has been noticed that in certain rating areas in some cases draft valuation lists were prepared under section 8 (1) of the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940, before the expiration of the full period of thirty days allowed for the delivery of returns. This is a mere irregularity which has not acted harshly, because under section 8 (2) any person aggrieved by any entry in a draft valuation list or by the insertion therein or omission therefrom of any matter has a right to lodge an objection. Doubts, have, however, arisen whether section 21 can cure such irregularities. This legislation is being promoted with the object of terminating those doubts and of validating the lists already prepared.

So it is clear that the object of bringing in this measure is just to legalise the illegalities committed in the making of valuation lists even before the expiry of the full period of thirty days allowed for the delivery of returns. This is not an immaterial irregularity; it is a material irregularity and should not be condoned in this manner. I do not think it is the business of this House to help Government to rectify the sins of omission and commission of their officers. If any lists are not legally prepared Government must stand by the consequences. It is not the business of this House to help Government in rectifying it. Why should there have been such a hurry? Why were not the officers taken to task? If any illegality has been committed, it is not the function of this House to help those people by legalising the irregularities that have been committed deliberately. I say it is a deliberate and very material irregularity. As we all know the only sensible thing which this Government did in the case of the Sales Tax Act was that after the judgment of Mr. Hearn, they did not approach this House for changing the Act and giving it a retrospective effect. I should have thought that under like circumstances they would keep quiet and not bring in this measure which I consider unnecessary. They should have stood by what they or their officers had done.

One other thing. The greatest objection lies in the fact that certain findings appear to have been already given by the courts and this measure seeks to set at naught all those findings arbitrarily. This objection should be given due attention that its importance deserves, and nothing should be done to interfere with the judicial verdicts, lawfully given.

Considering all the *pros* and *cons* of the situation, I should think that the Government is ill advised in proceeding with this Bill. They should leave things as they are and take the consequences. With these words I oppose this motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is —

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Validation of Lists) 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.

Question is—

That clause 1 (2) stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 1 (1) stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Validation of Lists) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

### URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill. I also beg to move—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill be taken in to consideration at once.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I oppose the consideration of this Bill on the ground that the Act as it stands at present does not make it possible for the Government to realise the tax at certain places, and I do ask, why should this House make itself responsible for giving this new measure a retrospective effect? If the law officers of the Government have erred in any way the fault is theirs. Why should people be made to suffer for their sake? If there is any defect in the Act, let it be remedied by all means. I do not object to that. Government has the right to levy this tax at all stations that it may notify. But if under the Act as it stands, certain people and certain places cannot be legally brought within the purview of this Act, I do not see why this House should go out of its way and make itself responsible for giving retrospective effect to this legislation. I raise my voice against this, and I oppose this Bill on the ground that retrospective effect should not be given to it.

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : It is wholly incorrect to think that if a mistake were really made it should not be rectified. I am not aware of any such principle of administration or legislation. All mistakes should be set right as early as they are discovered. But further, may I say that this measure is really out of the abundance of caution. If the honourable member will refer to section 2 (8) of the Punjab General Clauses Act, as has been pointed out in the statement of objects and reasons, he will find that the definition of local authority runs thus—

Local authority shall mean a municipal committee, district board, body of port commissioners or other authority legally entitled to, or entrusted by the Government with, the control or management of a municipal or local fund.

It will be readily recognised that the authority which in these superseded municipalities exercises their powers, is legally entitled to or entrusted by the Government with the control or management of a municipal or local fund. It is because doubts have arisen in some minds, that will hark on to any kind of doubt whatever it may be, that we thought it worthwhile to place the law beyond all controversy.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (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. Question is—

That clause 1 (2) stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 1 (1) stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Title be the title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister of Finance :** I beg to move—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

### URBAN RENT RESTRICTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Public Works (The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat Khan) :** I beg to introduce the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill. I also beg to move—

That the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (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. Question is—

That clauses 1 (2) and 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 1 (1) stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the long title be the title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister of Public Works :** I move—

That the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

### RESTITUTION OF MORTGAGED LANDS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) :** I beg to introduce the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands (Amendment) Bill. I also beg to move—

That the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause 3.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : I want to oppose this clause. Certain rights which were already given to the people are sought to be taken away. Formerly there were two appeals, one lay to the Commissioner and the other from his decision to the Financial Commissioner. It is now provided that if the Collector and the Commissioner agree, then there will be no right of appeal to the Financial Commissioner. In other words, only a restrictive right remains now with the people to put in their appeals before the Commissioner only and as I have said, if the Collector and the Commissioner agree, then there is nothing further to be said about it. The jurisdiction of civil courts has already been taken away and now it is sought that the jurisdiction of the Financial Commissioners should also be taken away. I do not know whether with the majority that the Government has got at its back it will listen to the voice of reason; it may not listen to argument; still in its own interest I ask it to allow some fairplay to those whom destiny has placed under it. No case has been made out for taking away the right of appeal to the Financial Commissioner. I think the Government, in the fair name of administration, should not take away this right which exists. Let it continue as it was before. With these words I oppose this clause.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister of Revenue :** I move—

That the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

### LAND PRESERVATION (CHOS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh) : I beg to introduce the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill. I also beg to move—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan,  
Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan,  
Sardar Moola Singh,  
Rana Nasrullah Khan,

Sardar Indar Singh,  
Chaudhri Anant Ram,  
Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma, and  
Sardar Sohan Singh Josh,

and that the quorum of the select committee be five.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan,  
Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan,  
Sardar Moola Singh,  
Rana Nasrullah Khan,

Sardar Indar Singh,  
Chaudhri Anant Ram,  
Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma,  
Sardar Sohan Singh Josh,

and that the quorum of the select committee be five.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. I want to point out that this particular Bill, which is being brought as an amending Bill, is not in fact an amendment of the Act of 1900 and, therefore, it cannot be taken as an amendment. It is a substantive Bill.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** How does the honourable member substantiate that ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I will. I refer the honourable member to Clause 2 (a) of the Bill which is as follows :—

“(a) in sub-section (1), the brackets and word “(chos)” shall be omitted.

The definition of the word “chos” in the Act of 1900 refers to streams and rivulets only in the Shiwalik area, that is, a particular specified area. The effect of eliminating the word “chos” from subsection (1) will be that this particular Act becomes the Punjab Land Preservation Act. It radically changes the standing law. It is not an amending Bill but it extends that Act to all parts of the Punjab. The previous Act refers to chos only but the amending Bill refers to all the areas irrespective of the fact whether there are any chos or not.

**Mr. Speaker :** If a piece of legislation imposed on a country is to be extended to certain localities of that country or province other than those which were under the original Act or law, cannot this be done by an amending Act ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That is not my point. The original Act refers to chos.

**Mr. Speaker :** The application of the original Act is restricted to certain areas and certain classes of persons. The amending Bill intends to extend the application of that Act to a larger area and to some other classes of persons, not covered by the original Act. So, the Bill is clearly an amending Bill.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural) : Very Well, Sir. I move my amendment—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st May 1943.

(Urdu) : The original Chos Act was passed in 1900 with a view to saving the lands in the Doaba area which were being damaged by the chos from the Shiwalak Range. The Shiwalak Range which extends from Ambala to Hoshiarpur and some part of Kangra is mainly composed of sand stones and due to erosion the sand was washed down to the lands and the zamindars suffered a great loss. A year ago the Government felt that in winter the amount of water in the Uhl river decreases to such an extent that the work of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme suffers. Now to keep the Hydro-Electric Scheme going it was essential to devise means whereby the supply of water in the Uhl river should be maintained at the summer level. With this end in view they closed the Shamlat areas of Kothi Kohar and Kothi Swar in the Uhl valley to the people of that ilaqa who used to graze their sheep, etc., there. An Act was passed subsequently and it was stated therein that the object was to sponge the area of the Uhl valley so that the supply of water sufficient for the working of the Mandi Scheme may be available even in winter. After the passage of this Act it was found that it has not had the effect desired in the interest of the Hydro-Electric Scheme. So, the Government devised other methods. Last year a revenue officer was sent to the Kothi Kohar and Kothi Swar area who asked the zamindars to give their lands to the Government.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I draw the honourable member's attention to Rule 86 ? It runs as follows :—

86. (1) On the day on which any of the motions referred to in Rule 84 is made or on any subsequent day to which the discussion thereof is postponed, the principle of the Bill and its general provisions may be discussed but the details of the Bill must not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principle.

So the honourable member should not go into the details of the Bill but should discuss only its principle.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am discussing its back-ground. I want to know what has prompted the Government to bring forward this Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please discuss its principle only.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am only discussing the back-ground. What is the purpose? The purpose is that the Punjab Government wishes to usurp certain lands from certain people in order to run the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme which is a commercial concern. I am only giving these facts just to enlighten the House as to the motive of this Bill.

Sir, as I submitted before, the possibility of closing down the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme obliged the Government to acquire the feeding area of the Uhl river.

That is the reason why revenue and forest officers were sent for bargaining with the zamindars. They said that the Government was prepared to open a hospital and a school for their benefit if they closed this area for the Hydro-Electric Scheme. The zamindars naturally refused, which brought the wrath of the Government upon them. Cases were started against 21 of them. This compelled the zamindars to institute a civil case against the Government praying that the Government had no right to usurp their lands or to deprive them of their grazing rights. Now this amending Bill has been moved with the object of depriving these zamindars of their rights to graze their sheep and goats in the common lands which is the only means of their subsistence.

So far as the principle of this Bill is concerned I am opposed to it, because there are already such Acts in existence which can be successfully invoked in the present case. There is the Indian Forests Act, for instance; under sections 29 and 30 of that Act the rotational closure scheme can be used to create a sponge and the area can be closed. This should fulfill the Government's object. If, however, the rotational closure scheme does not serve the purpose, the Land Acquisition Act can be applied. You require water for the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme which is a commercial concern. After all you do not supply the current free of charge that you should acquire these lands without making any payment. If you require the land, pay for it. The Government is trying to finish that civil suit which is being heard against it but I may assure the Government that it cannot be finished in this manner. Why should the Government bring such meaningless Bills when they can come straight to the point and say to these zamindars that they want to acquire their lands. Again, even if they want to move such a Bill they should, in fairness to the zamindars, give them an opportunity to make their objections against it. What is the hurry about it? You have a majority at your back and you can get it passed easily whenever you want.

Before the Bill is referred to a select committee, I would request the Government to circulate it for eliciting public opinion, so that those who are going to be affected by it may be able to give their point of view.

With these words, I would urge the Government to circulate this Bill for eliciting public opinion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion under consideration, amendment moved is—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Choa) (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st May 1943.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural) :** Mr. Speaker, I find from the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill that the Government's chief object in amending the original Act is that the unchecked evil, which is likely to do incalculable harm to the people of the province, might be dealt with. According to the Government it seems that they want certain powers against the landowners and other persons. They are under the impression that at present Government require certain powers to regulate, restrict and prohibit certain acts which are being committed by the landowners or certain other persons and in this way they would be able to take measures against erosion. May I know from the honourable Minister in charge of the Forest Department as to what his department is doing these days? Are the landlords responsible for this erosion or his own department? I expect the Minister in charge of the Forest Department to tell me how much area of the forests has been cut during

the last three years since the war began. Mr. Speaker, I may say that at present these landowners cannot do so much harm in the matter of erosion as his own department is doing. A few days ago you might have seen in the supplementary Budget a big item of expenditure, so many lakhs were required because the Government had to use a machinery for having those forests cut because in these days they could sell timber at profitable rates. The Government itself is doing the greatest harm rather than those poor landowners against whom the Minister in charge of the Forest Department wants to have certain powers. First of all he should nip the evil in the bud in his own department. He must know that if the forests on the Himalaya Range, as is going on for the last 3 or 4 years, are cut what will be the result.

**Minister of Education :** What about your forest ?

**Sardar K. poor Singh :** You should care for yourself. If you want to know of my forest I will show you. The Honourable Minister must know that the greatest harm is being done in these days by his own department. Supposing this unplanned felling of trees continues in the Himalaya Range, as it is going on on account of war, what will be the result ? There shall be no catchment areas in these mountains, with the result that there will be no rains and there will be no floods and in this way he will be doing a disservice. If by cutting these forests and felling the trees his object is that there should be no rains I bless him. If that is not his object, if he wants that the poor landowners should get a regular supply of water in canals and regular supply of water by rains, then it is extremely necessary that instead of getting these powers against the poor landowners he must look at his own department and see that a check is put to the greatest harm that is being done by his own department. We know that if such powers are given to this Government, they are not used for the purpose for which they are sought. They are arbitrarily abused for certain other purposes as has happened in the past and the same shall happen in the present case. In these days when Government has powers under the Defence of India Rules you find that those powers are used not only against political or civil disobedience members but against anybody who commits an offence even under sections 498, 376 or 377. In the same way if the power sought by this Bill is given to the Government it will misuse the power. I would ask the House not to give this power to the Government. Our past experience shows that where discretion is vested in the Government that discretion is used to crush the opponents of Government. May I know from the Minister as to why certain members of this House are in jail ? They have been sent to jail not because they are members of the Congress but because, if those people are here, they might oust the Ministry from office. The Government use their powers not in the way in which they should be used but for crushing their opponents. For these reasons I support the amendment which has been moved.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st May 1943.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following—

Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan,  
Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan,  
Sardar Mool Singh,  
Rana Narrullah Khan,

Sardar Indar Singh,  
Chaudhri Anant Ram,  
Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma,  
Sardar Sultan Singh Josh.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the quorum of the select committee be five.

*The motion was carried.*



## MATERNITY BENEFIT BILL

**Minister for Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal): I introduce the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill. I also move—

That the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Sheikh Sadiq Hassan,  
Chandhri Ram Sarup,  
Sardar Gurbaksh Singh,  
Chandhri Abdul Rahim (Shakargarh),  
Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh,

Mr. E. Few,  
Khan Haibat Khan Daba,  
Bibi Raghbir Kaur,  
Sardar Ajit Singh,

and that the quorum of the committee be five.

*The motion was carried.*

## TRADES EMPLOYEES (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal): I introduce the Punjab Trades Employees (Amendment) Bill. I also move—

That the Punjab Trades Employees (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Khan Bahadur Sheikh Karamat Ali,  
Rai Sahib Chandhri Suraj Mal,  
Sardar Tara Singh,  
Lala Harnam Das,  
Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh,

Khan Sahib Chandhri Shafi Ali Khan,  
Khan Sahib Mian Amir-ud-Din,  
Sardar Santokh Singh,  
Lala Sita Ram,  
Mr. P. H. Guest

and that quorum of the committee be five.

*The motion was carried.*

## COURT OF WARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister for Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh): I introduce the Punjab Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill. I also move—

That the Punjab Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Pir Akbar Ali,  
Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi,  
Chandhri Muhammad Yasin Khan,  
Chandhri Sumer Singh,  
Chandhri Abdul Rahim (Shakargarh)

Khan Bahadur Chandhri Riasat Ali,  
Chandhri Faqir Chand,  
Malik Barkat Ali,  
Chandhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber

and that the quorum of the committee be five.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Pir Akbar Ali,  
Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi,  
Chandhri Muhammad Yasin Khan,  
Chandhri Sumer Singh,  
Chandhri Abdul Rahim, (Shakargarh)

Khan Bahadur Chandhri Riasat Ali,  
Chandhri Faqir Chand,  
Malik Barkat Ali,  
Chandhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber

and that the quorum of the committee be five.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural): I move—

That the Punjab Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st October 1943.

In making this motion I submit that the practice of the Punjab Government hitherto has been to find out the interpretation given to their Acts by courts of law and then to come forward with amending Bills so that those interpretations do not hold good. In this case, however, an amending Bill has been brought forward for the benefit of the court of wards and against those individuals who might have certain claims against the court of wards. The question relates to a legal matter and it will be very helpful if it is circulated for eliciting public opinion so that able lawyers may get an opportunity to give their valuable advice for facilitating the work of the select committee. With these words I move my motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Punjab Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st October 1943.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Punjab Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Pir Akbar Ali,

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi,

Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan,

Chaudhri Sumar Singh,

Chaudhri Abdul Rahim, Shakargarh,

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riazat Ali,

Chaudhri Faqir Chand,

Malik Barkat Ali,

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the quorum of the select committee be five.

*The motion was carried.*

### THE SUGARCANE (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister for Development :** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh) : I move—

That the Sugarcane (Punjab Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Sugarcane (Punjab Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** I would request that the consideration of this Bill be postponed to the next session.

**Minister for Development :** Motion for the consideration of this Bill was moved during the last session and on the suggestion of my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Nerang it was postponed, but up till now we have heard nothing from him in this connection. We are prepared to postpone it till the next session, but if no suggestions are given by that time we will have to proceed with the Bill.

**Premier :** In continuation of what has been said by my honourable colleague, I have to point out that I have no objection to this Bill being postponed but the position of the sugarcane growers is such that either we will have to call an early session for its consideration or we may be compelled to issue an ordinance. Any way we will try to arrive at an agreed solution.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Premier :** I move—

That the Assembly be adjourned *sine die*

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly accordingly adjourned sine die.*

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